

Siddhartha Das

Siddhartha Das Studio, New Delhi

www.siddharthadas.com

Vice Chairman, JD Centre of Art, Bhubaneswar

www.jdcentreofart.org

Siddhartha Das: Short Biography

Siddhartha Das has worked on cultural projects across the world for over 20 years. He has both conceived and implemented them across various disciplines of- design, architecture, art and crafts.

Das is an alumni of Rishi Valley School, Hindu College, University of Delhi and subsequently the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, specializing in exhibition design.

He is an Asia Society, Charles Wallace and Nehru Trust Fellow and has received various international fellowships for study tours to Japan, France, Poland and Scotland. Siddhartha was awarded the British Council's International Young Design Entrepreneur in 2009 and Indian Young Design Entrepreneur in 2008.

In 2002, he founded the multi-disciplinary Siddhartha Das Studio that works on responsible design and cultural spaces across the world. They lead or collaborate on different aspects of strategy, curation and design for cultural institutions, museum complexes, thematic exhibitions; art projects and installations; and livelihood programmes rooted in crafts communities.

They offer a wide variety of in-house design expertise and their team includes architects, industrial and graphic designers, art historians and cultural professionals.

Some of the Studio's projects include the award-winning curation and design of the 80year-old Sardar Govt. Museum, Jodhpur; the interiors for the historic Jal Mahal, Jaipur, and flagship stores for GVK's Airports in Bangalore and Mumbai; exhibitions at IGNCA and the Crafts Museum, Delhi and has designed the Indian Institute of Art and Design campus, New Delhi. He is the Vice-Chairman of the JD Centre of Art and has organised its Film Festivals on Art and Artists, among other art activities. Das has designed various books, scenography for plays and credit titles in films. He has worked with over 2,500 craftspeople in 15 states of India.

Das has extensively worked in Europe and other parts of the world. He has been part of art residencies in Canada and Japan.

He is the Vice-Chairman of the JD Centre of Art, Bhubaneswar and has overseen all its work across disciplines from construction, interiors, programming to

conservation. He has also organised its International Film Festivals on Art and Artists, among other art programmes.

A featured speaker in India and around the world, he is a visiting faculty at various institutions including Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) and National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad; Central Saint Martins, London and Willem de Kooning Academie (WdKA), Rotterdam. He has been a contributor to the Arts Illustrated magazine for three years until recently.

Detailed Resumé

Key Projects

Museums + Interpretation

- Curation, design and execution of Interpretation Centres and Museums for the sacred sites of Puri Jagannath Temple and Lingaraj Temples, Odisha, ongoing
- Interpreting Temples, Curation, design and execution of the thematic exhibition, India International Centre, New Delhi, 2019
- Curation and design of the Jodhpur State Museum, 2018. The project was awarded for its design with a IIID Design Excellence Award for North India, 2019 and a commendation for Institutional and Public Spaces.
- Project head, curator, and designer of an art museum to house the artist, Jatin Das' collection, for JD Centre of Art, designed by Pritzker winning architect, BV Doshi, Bhubaneswar. Ongoing
- Masterplan and commissioned concept for proposed art museum, Dhoomimal Gallery, Delhi 2017
- Design of Amarushataka, Amorous delights, palm leaf manuscripts, curated by Dr Eberhard Fischer and Dinanath Pathy, Museum Rietberg, Zurich, Switzerland, 2006
- Design, curation and execution of the exhibition of Indian Hand fans from the Collection of Jatin Das, at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi 2018 and Museum Rietberg, Zurich, Switzerland, 2005-6.
- One of nine museum designers and architects from across the world shortlisted and commissioned to create a concept design to redesign the museum for the International Red Cross Museum (MICR), Geneva, Switzerland, 2010
- Curation and design of Memorial Museum and Experience Centre for Cadila Pharmaceuticals, Ahmedabad, ongoing
- Co-designer of Encounters: Meeting of Asia and Europe, as a part of the Design Dept., Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK, 2003-4

Cultural + Public Spaces

- Landscape Design of the 23-acre Ummed Bagh and a 2-acre formal garden, Jodhpur, Govt. of Rajasthan, ongoing
- Scenography of Interior Space and conceiving all in-situ art for the 18th century historic building, Jal Mahal, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 2011
- Curation, Design and Execution of 40,000 sft event and performances in Mumbai at Taj Mahal Hotel (2018) and Nehru Centre (2019) for Xynteo, Norway, 2018-19

- Masterplan and design of College Campus for India Institute of Art and Design, Delhi, 2017
- Concept Design of a public space in Monterrey, Mexico and in Chiba, Japan.
- Golden Jubilee Exhibition: Form and Spirit, IIC at 50. Curation, design and execution, India International Centre, New Delhi: 2012
- Khalsa Heritage Centre, signage and way-finding for architects, Moshe Safdie and Ashok Dhawan. Anandpur Sahib, Punjab, 2010
- Set Design for *Between the Lines*, Play by Nandita Das, 2010
- Set Design for *Guide*, Play by Sanjoy Roy, Teamwork Arts, 2010

Art + Craft Installation

- Narrative Geometrics, centre-piece Installation, Southbank Centre, London, UK, 2015
- *Kaal*: a memory of time, centre-piece Installation, Southbank Centre, London, UK, 2014
- *Ashtamangala* {Welcoming Icons} and Eco Heritage, installations celebrating southern Indian heritage for Bangalore International Airport, 2014
- Art programme and conception of site specific installations for the Adani Residence, Ahmedabad, 2014

Craft + Livelihood Projects

- Bamboo Products, Tripura Bamboo Mission, Tripura, 2011-13
- Programme Consisting of Seven Workshops with Stone Artisans Held across India, Crafts Council of India, 2004-2012
- Handmade paper, livelihood project, Orchha, Madhya Pradesh, Development Alternatives, 2008

Retail + Corporate

- Flagship retail stores, Lotus House for Mumbai and Bangalore International Airports, GVK, 2016
- Incube Business Centre, Punj Essen, Delhi
- Naqsh Jewellery Store, Delhi

Graphics

- Publication design for *Manto and I*, by Nandita Das, Published by Aleph Book, 2019
- Publication design for Pankha catalogue, published by Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) and JD Centre of Art, 2018
- Credit titles for *Firaaq*, film by Nandita Das, 2008
- Printed souvenir for the Travelling Exhibition “Garden and Cosmos”, Mehrangarh Museum Trust, 2008
- Book cover design for UNWFP, Harper Collions, Mapin, Faber and Faber and Penguin Books

Fellowships, Awards and Recognition

- Certificate of commendation and awarded IIID Design Excellence Award for North India, 2019 for Institutional and Public Spaces for the design of the Jodhpur Govt Museum
- Training workshop by International Council of Museums (ICOM) on Museum Studies, Fuzhou, China, 2018
- Nominated for Inspired Leadership Award 2016 from The Performance Theatre, Xynteo London
- International Visitor's Programme grant by the Polish Institute, Poland, 2017
- International Visitor's Programme grant by the Dutch Culture Centre, Netherlands, 2016
- Short Term Travel Fellowship to design institutes in France, Embassy of France in India, 2013
- Part of a Think-tank for the Victoria and Albert Museum, for their forthcoming exhibition on India Design, 2012
- Museum advisor for Crafts Museum, Delhi, 2011-13
- Invited as the first international artist for an arts and design project as part of a larger geo-tourism project on Fogo Island, Shorefast Foundation, Canada, 2011
- Short Term Art Fellowship Program, 3 months, from Japan Foundation, Japan, 2010
- International Young Design Entrepreneur Award 2009, an Award instituted in 21 countries by the British Council, London, UK, 2009
- Young Design Entrepreneur Award, India for innovative entrepreneurship from the British Council, India 2008
- Asia 21 Young Leader Summit, Singapore. Organised by the Asia Society, New York 2007
- Participant in the month-long South Asia Future Forum organised by The Japan Foundation, for "Emerging leaders of South Asia", Tokyo, Japan, 2007
- Charles Wallace India Trust's Curatorship Award for the six month-long internship at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 2003
- UK Travel Award from the Nehru Trust for the Indian Collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 2003
- Scholarship from Zero, Italy, to participate in the Domus Academy Course on Workshop on Exhibition and Museum Design, 2000

Lectures and Jury Member at Institutions

- Avid Learning, Essar Group, 2020
- Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, 2020
- Piloo Mody College of Architecture, Cuttack, Odisha, 2020
- An illustrated talk at Wissenaire'19, IIT Bhubaneswar, 2019
- Centre for Environment and Planning Technology (CEPT) University, 2013-18
- Lecture in Sobole, Poland, 2017
- Lecture hosted by Dutch Culture Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2016
- Yale University and University of Pittsburgh, USA, March 2016
- Southbank Centre, London, UK, 2014-15

- Central Saint Martins, London, UK 2014-15
- Willem de Kooning Academie, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 2014-15
- Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Lucerne, Switzerland, 2015
- MSU, Baroda organised by CEPT, Ahmedabad, 2015
- Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Wellesley College, USA, 2014
- National Institute of Design, CEPT, 2012-13
- Indian Urban Conference in partnership with Yale University, Mysore, 2013
- The Lighthouse, Glasgow, Scotland, 2012
- Part of a series of Illustrated Talks by Architects and Designers, organised by the Alliance Française, Embassy of France in India, 2011
- Designing for Cultural Project, with a focus on collaborations and Crafts, Shorefast Foundation, Canada, 2010
- Designing for Crafts, an illustrated talk at Disseny (Design) Hub Barcelona, organised by 02 Spain, 2010
- Designing for Cultural Heritage and Crafts, at Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK, 2009
- Designing for Cultural Heritage: Built and Indigenous Crafts at Penang Heritage trust, Penang, Malaysia, 2009
- Designing for Public and Cultural Spaces, at National Institute of Design, 2009
- Designing in collaboration with Japanese counterparts at a meet organised by Japan Foundation, Waseda Hoshien University, Tokyo, Japan, 2007
- Designing for Crafts, for British Artists in Residency at the Sanskriti Foundation, New Delhi, 2007
- Crafts and Textile Traditions of India, at Institute Mode-Design (Department of Fashion Design), Basel, Switzerland, 2006
- Charles Wallace India Trust's Curatorship Award for the six month-long internship at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 2003
- Designing for a Museum, "Recreating the Indus- a challenge to the designer" Indian Museum. Kolkata, 2002

Publications

- Article, Photo Essay and Cover for forthcoming issue of India International Centre's Quarterly Journal, 2020
- A travel column with photographs and articles for three years for the bi-monthly arts magazine, Arts Illustrated, 2016-2019
- Photography for Crafting Nature by Jaya Jaitly, Wisdom Tree
- Photography for Threads and Voices, ed. Laila Tyabji, Marg Publishers
- Photography for Marg Magazine, Volume 58 Number, 2007

Education

- Exhibition Design, National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, 1996-2001
- Course on Exhibition and Museum Design, Domus Academy, Milan, Italy, 2000
- BA History, Hindu College, University of Delhi, 1991-1994
- Rishi Valley School (Krishnamurti Foundation), Andhra Pradesh, 1984-1991