ASHMI MRIDUL

Artist and Researcher

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Ashmi Mridul is a multidisciplinary artist, passionate about making art more accessible by bringing it into the public realm. Participation forms the core medium of her practice, through which she engages diverse communities in research, learning, and meaning-making. Her projects take the form of interactive installations, workshops, urban interventions, community art, and archives. Working across diverse local contexts in India, the UK, Germany, and the US, she has explored themes of cultural studies, creative placemaking, and arts education.

EDUCATION

MS IN ART, CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY (2021- 2023)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Awarded MIT International Science and Technology Initiative (MISTI) grant for research on Rajasthan's oral traditions
- Teaching Assistant on Intro to Artistic Experimentation course with Chucho O. Aguilar
- Awarded ACT Pilot Grant for a solo exhibition at MIT titled *Scented Memories and Marionetted Stories*
- Awarded Department of Architecture Graduate Fellowship 2021-2023

BA (HONS.) INTERACTION DESIGN ARTS (2014- 2018)
London College of Communication
- Awarded full scholarship for *Route Artlantique,* an art residency in Senegal

FOUNDATION DIPLOMA IN ART AND DESIGN (2013- 2014)
Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design
- Courses in Fine Arts Practice, 3D & Architecture, Graphic Design

EXHIBITIONS & RESIDENCIES

- *UN.MAKE. The Art of Gender*, residential workshop by Sher-Gil Sundaram Arts Foundation and reFrame Initiatives (2026)
- Solo Exhibition, *Scented Memories and Marionetted Stories*, ACT Gallery, MIT (2023)
- Group Exhibition, *Counteractions*, The Distillery, Boston (2023)
- Group Exhibition, *Counteractions*, MIT Museum, Boston (2023)
- Group Exhibition, *Gender Bender Festival*, Bangalore International Centre (2019)
- Group Exhibition, The Irregulars ArtFair, New Delhi, (2019)
- Group Exhibition, Kitaabo- The Blue City Children's Literature Festival, Jodhpur (2018)
- Group Exhibition, Science Museum Lates 2018, Science Museum, London (2018)

PUBLICATIONS

- Mridul, Ashmi. "Filling the Gaps – Exploring the Scope of Arts-Based Education in Jodhpur." M.S. in Art, Culture, and Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2023. https://hdl.handle.net/1721.1/154017

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

PROJECT LEAD (CONSULTANT) (08/2025- present)
St+Art India Foundation, New Delhi
- Leading the Blue Gully Intervention, a public art project in Jodhpur combining a 160 m stretch of blue-painted road with two murals, one along the road and the other inside an 80 m neighbourhood tunnel. Responsibilities include site selection through research and site visits; mural conceptualisation informed by oral history interviews and community meetings; muralist selection, negotiating permissions, project documentation and progress reporting for funders.

ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (11/2023- 10/2025)
Mandala Arts, Chicago
- Conceived the Red Line Jazz Project, bringing live jazz to Chicago train stations to connect the city's North and South Sides. Co-authored the proposals that secured Regional Transport Authority funding for a pilot and Paul Angell Foundation funding for a citywide expansion of five performances.
- Led the Red Line Jazz Project pilot at Morse station from design through reporting, managing production and documentation for two performances that reached ~200 commuters and drew spontaneous engagement, with people stopping to listen, interact, and dance.
- Conceived and wrote the proposal for Corporate Art Workshops, Mandala's initiative to bring arts education into workplaces, which received a Walder Foundation grant for its beta phase.

- Co-wrote and edited proposals for various programmatic and operational grants, contributing to $120,000+ in total grant funding across all projects.
- Designed and led *Our Shared Home*, a community mural in Naperville as the artist. Engaged 80+ residents in co-designing the artwork across a series of workshops, developed the final design, and facilitated participatory painting sessions.
- Led community outreach, communications, and marketing for the *Community Is...* mural in Devon, serving as the main liaison to community members and supporting participatory workshops and painting sessions with 20+ participants over two months.
- Managed operations and administration for Mandala's recurring and grant-supported programs, including the Mandala Makers Festivals, Mandala Academy, and Homeward. Handled marketing, communications, artist contracts, documentation, and reporting.
- Managed Mandala's day-to-day office work, supported recruitment and curation, built cross-sector partnerships, and directed 2-5 interns at a time.
- Part-time: delivered arts education for Chicago Public Schools introducing students to Indian culture through dance.

ART CONSULTANT & ORAL HISTORIAN (02/2020- 08/2021)
Mehrangarh Museum, Jodhpur
- Led *Marwar Oral Histories Archive*, enriching the museum's collection with women's histories through research design, interviews, and digital archival work.
- Co-curated and implemented capacity-building workshops for children of the *Langa* music community to advance their musical career.
- Co-designed "Art in the Everyday" online workshop series providing a platform for 12 local artists to share knowledge and expand their audience reach.

EDUCATOR, URBAN SCHOOL PROGRAMME (10/2020- 08/2021)
Paani Foundation, Mumbai (Remote)
- Conducted Planeteer's Workshop- online courses on climate change awareness, spanning 20 schools and 200 students across India.

DESIGN RESEARCHER (01/2019- 07/2019)
RaumlaborBerlin, Berlin
- Contributed to *A Festival of Creative Urban Living (AFCUL)*, Milton Keynes & *Floating University, Berlin (across research, construction, design and production)*
- Conducted participatory research with more than 200 residents at the Utopia Station at AFCUL, Milton Keynes translating their vision into illustrations and models to be submitted to the city council for further research.

DESIGNER & EDUCATOR (01/2017- 07/2017)
Public Art Lab, Berlin
- Led and designed the *Licht AG (Light Workshop)* project to provide hands-on education to middle school students on light culture and technologies. Expanded *Licht AG* to several cities in India, training 500+ people from underserved communities to build solar lamps and become self-sufficient.
- Key contributor in *Digital Calligraffiti*, a creative placemaking project. Led workshops with refugees & created ads that were screened at underground stations and public facades

SKILLS

- **Language:** Hindi, English
- **Software:** Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Premiere Pro, Audition, Microsoft Office
- **Physical Computing:** Arduino Programming, Circuit Assembly, Sensor Integration
- **Art & Research:** Public Art, Workshop Design, Participatory Research, Ethnography, Arts Education, Oral Histories

SELECTED ART & RESEARCH PROJECTS

- **Filling the Gaps (2022)**- A project innovating storytelling folk arts of Jodhpur through site-specific staging, public art, and educational interventions.
- **Kahi-Suni (2019)-** An archival project, recording women's stories on marriage migration- India's largest yet undocumented form of migration. The project received a grant by Sandbox Collective and Goethe Institute and was exhibited at the Gender Bender Festival in Bangalore.
- **How loyal are you to your genes? (2018)**- An immersive performance, disseminating the science of genetic food preferences. The project was exhibited at the Science Museum Lates in London, engaging 2000+ audience members.