

Hard Science and Soft Power

India Habitat Centre Amphitheatre

Monday 25th February – 7pm

Registration and Inquiries: visualartsgalleryevents@gmail.com

Join scientist Dr. Gitanjali Yadav and photojournalist Toby Smith as they explore the extraordinary power of photography as a medium to bring science to society. Yadav will talk about TIGR²ESS, a major international program on sustainable food production and resource use in India, while Smith will share compelling imagery and narratives from the both the research and field sites. Listen to an entertaining recount of anecdotes and ideas from two contrasting professionals, working together to reveal the true potential of images in catalysing lasting change.

‘TIGR²ESS’ (Transforming India’s Green Revolution by Research and Empowerment for Sustainable food Supplies) is a UKRI GCRF Grow award, led by the University of Cambridge, drawing together partners from research, industry, government and NGOs from across the UK and India to define a sustainable green revolution for India through research collaboration, exchanges and female empowerment.

Habitat Photosphere, an initiative by the India Habitat Centre, geared towards the sensitization of a sustainable environment and cultural sustainability through the medium of photography. The festival through its award, documentation, and mentorship program, inform people into thinking, engaging, and acting with the theme of photography and environment. We create a new language of photography by commissioning photographers to work with sustainability by documenting stories that educate and sensitize people; helping them to build an awareness towards the important task of protecting the environment.

The Artistic Director of Photosphere is Dr. Alka Pande, supported by a prestigious jury panel and the mentorship of Aditya Arya, Parthiv Shah, Bandeep Singh and Prabir Purkayastha.

Promotional Images

All web, print, instagram and twitter credits to be: Photo by Toby Smith/Tigr2ess/IHCPhotosphere
Photo by @tobysmithphoto / @tigr2ess / @IHCPhotosphere

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tNjgLjndK1NCq6LTowZaGuYegHkbH_4P

Bio Images

Dr. Gitanjali Yadav - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UeX0pcwL-IsK0UgTo_YmcTzII-9ogEC

Toby Smith - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1h1XRb8z92kA7PQ0aD_8RSGEX2ds4YfsZ

Biographies

Dr. Gitanjali Yadav - http://www.nipgr.res.in/research/dr_gyadav.php

Dr. Gitanjali Yadav is a Lecturer at the University of Cambridge, and a Scientist at the National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi. She is one of the first appointees of a Joint Deputation Program between India and the U.K, and divides her time between the two countries for teaching and research in agriculture and food security. She is an expert in Genomics with special emphasis on crops and invasive species. Her group is working towards sustainable agriculture through crop productivity by enhancing the efficiency of RuBisCO, the primary carbon fixing enzyme on earth. Dr. Yadav has received several awards, including the Hamied Fellowship from the University of Cambridge (2018), Exceptional Talent Award from the Royal Society of London (2017), the INSA Medal from the Indian National Science Academy (2011), and the Women Excellence Award from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt of India (2014). She has a diverse educational background with a Ph.D. in Immunology, Master's degree in Biomedical Research and a graduate degree with Honors in Botany, from the University of Delhi.

Dr. Yadav actively promotes science as a way of life to students in schools and colleges, specially from rural India, since she herself hails from one of the poorest states of India, in terms of girl child population and literacy. Over the past year, she has organized science camps for young children, been a mentor for Women in Science (WiS) at the British Ecological Society, as well as an ambassador of Indian Women Scientists, at the Indo-French WiS Seminar at CNRS, Paris. She has also represented India at the Middle Eastern South Asia (MESA) Conference for Sustainable and Safe Science, funded by the American National Academy of Science and Engineering (2018). Her passion and zeal at the interface of science & society often translate into unique outreach events; Very recently she brought together senior academicians and student community from both India and Cambridge to discuss, recognise and overcome Unconscious Bias (Jan 2019).

Toby Smith - www.tobysmith.com

Toby Smith is a photojournalist and communicator who works internationally on projects concerning landscape, environment, agriculture and science stories. Toby is an Associate Scholar of the University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute and in 2008 graduated with a Masters in Contemporary Photography from London College of Communication. His focus now lies on large-scale photography, communication and research projects for editorial publication, exhibition, research and advocacy. Toby was the Artist in Residence of the University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute for 2016. He continues to collaborate with the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, the Department of Geography, Department of Plant Sciences and was invited to join Wolfson College as a Senior Member.

His work is exhibited internationally and editorial clients include National Geographic, GEO, The Sunday Times Magazine, Times of India, The Hindustan Times, The Week, The Hindu, TIME, Fortune, The New York Times, Guardian, Intelligent Life and Stern. Broadcast credits include the BBC Natural History Unit, Al Jazeera, Sky News, BBC Radio 4 and BBC World Service. Notable exhibitions and awards include the V & A Gallery, The Barbican, nominations for the Prix Pictet and in 2018 he exhibited 'Pani, Pahar - Waters of the Himalayas' at the IHC Arts Centre. Exemplary long term projects include a study of hydroelectricity and landscape in Scotland, renewable energy technology across China and India, illegal logging and mining in Madagascar.