

DESIGNING PARTICIPATION

Community, Visual Communication & Social Practice

Chaitanya Modak | 2013–2024

Goondool

Bhitti Chitra

Comics Epidemic

Saturday Comix

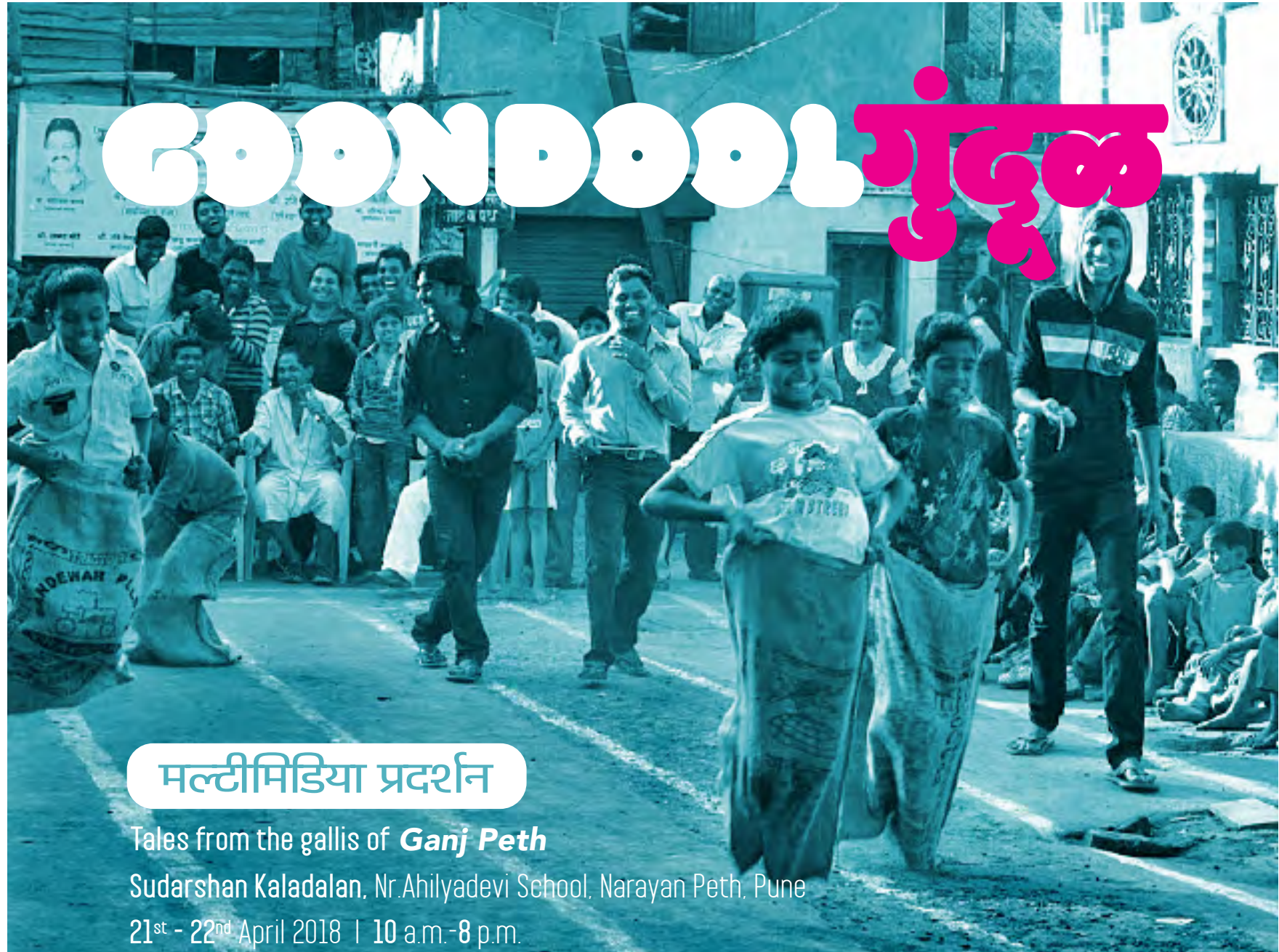
How can a neighbourhood
represent itself rather than be
represented by others?

Goondool is a culture and anthropology research project that culminated in an audio-visual exhibition highlighting the stories of language, people, and their lives in an alley in Ganj Peth, Pune.

An outcome of visual research, interviews, and writing by the Galli's young residents 'Goondool' showcased spaces and lives that are rarely perceived in the dominant imagination as Pune or Puneri.

Conceptualised and co-curated with anthropologist Madhura Lohokare, this project and exhibition was supported by the "Engaged Anthropologist Grant" sponsored by the Wenner Gren Foundation, New York.

[Click here to read a feature on the Exhibition in The Times of India, Pune Mirror](#)



“गुंदूल” or ‘Goondool’ literally translates into mesmerizing chaos.



The narrow alleys of Ganj Peth are like a beehive. Bidis, receipt books, tin trunks, wooden toys, garlands and veni, shirts and ...



All the sweeping, stitching, stringing, baking, hammering, and cutting metal, wood, and cloth that keep the city running.



The range of eateries in the alleys of Ganj Peth reflects the cosmopolitan mix of communities that make up the eastern part of the city.



Food from Telugu-speaking Padmashalis, Matang community from Solapur, Muslims in Mominpura and so on....



There are 26 words unique to the language of Ganj Peth. Visitors listened to recordings of native speakers pronouncing these unique words along with their meaning and usage in sentences



Food Corner, wooden toys,
visitors at the exhibit

C R E D I T S

Stories - Research, Photography, Recording

Angarki Thorat, Ashwini Kadam, Pranita Kamble,
Priya Kamble, Rekha Thorat, Surekha Shinde, Mayur
Thorat, Pawan Jadhav, Rakesh Mali, Rupesh Shinde

Concept and Curation

Madhura Lohokare, Chaitanya Modak

Exhibition Design

Chaitanya Modak

Translation

Anagha Bhat

Technical Assistance

Chris Mary Kurian



This project and exhibition was supported by the
"Engaged Anthropologist Grant" sponsored by the
Wenner Gren Foundation, New York.

We are deeply grateful to Laxman Keru Jadhav
(Dada) and family, without whose support this
exhibition would not have been possible.

Our heartfelt gratitude to Aarti Nanaware,
All the residents of 586 Ganj Peth,
Sandhya and Arun Lohokare.

We also thank Maharashtra Cultural Centre,
Anannya Dasgupta, Shivani Kapoor and
Shubhasree Bhattacharya (Centre for
Writing Studies, JGU)

Goondool

Bhitti Chitra

How can people encounter
and participate in art outside
cultural institutions?

Comics Epidemic

Saturday Comix

How do you convert a street into an art gallery that people can interact with as they walk past? How do you reclaim a Hussain, Souza, Raza, Kahlo, or Miro from the inaccessible space it has disappeared into and put it back to where it belongs, among people, life-size?

To find answers to these questions, I teamed up with the Rotary Club of Bombay—Seacoast to plan and make the Bhatti Chitra | 'Movements in Art' wall painting. On the sidewalk of the Lokhandwala back road in Mumbai, the project recreates works by great artists from different ages and continents.

I led a group of 60 people—residents of the neighborhood, students from J.J. School of Art, Rachana Sansad, Reliance AIMS Digital, and children from local schools—in the creation of a 1500-square-foot mural featuring chosen works of art from the 18th century to the 20th.

Rotary



Club of Bombay Seacoast
RID 3140

facebook.com/RotarySeaCoast

— In Collaboration with —

Bhitti Chitra presents

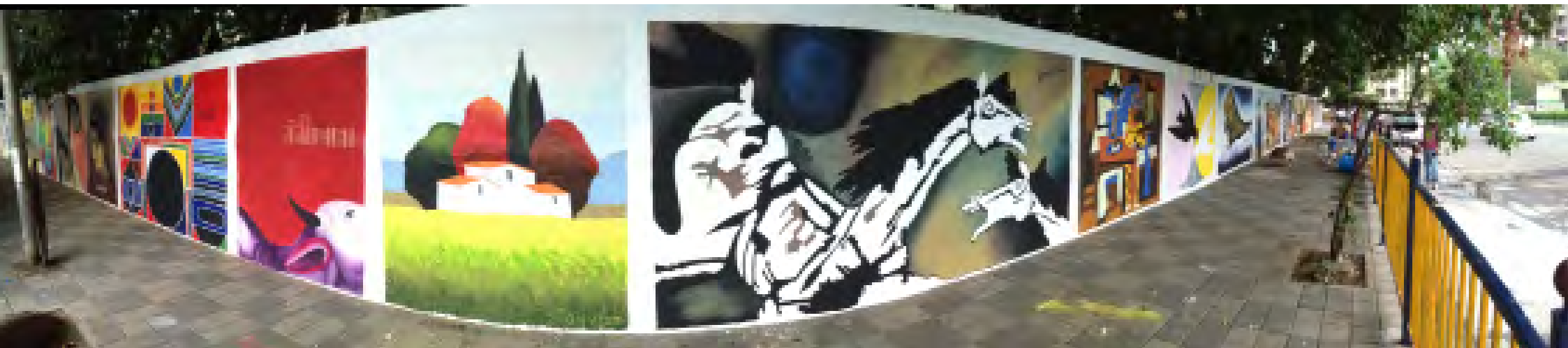
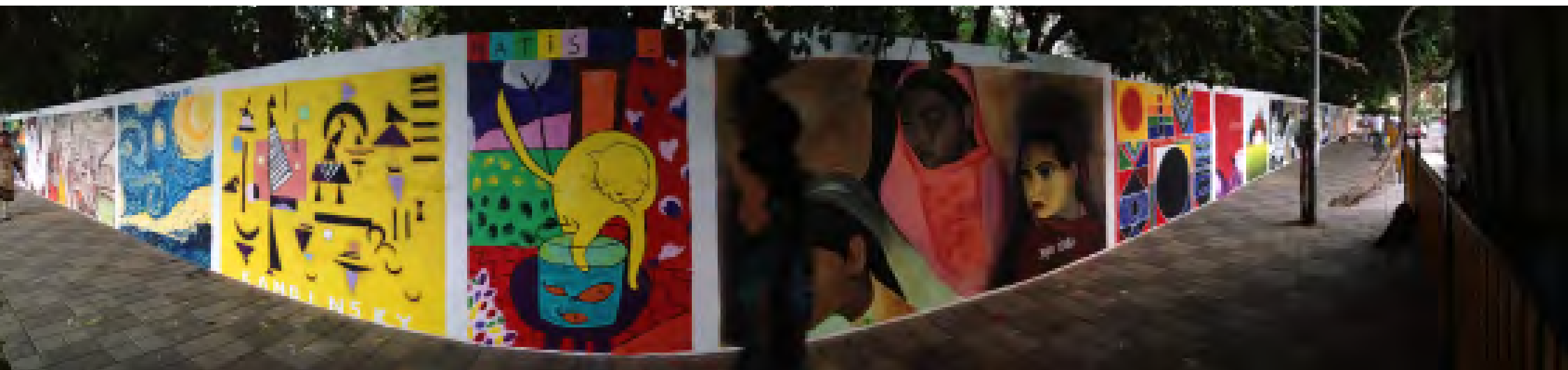
Movements

in **Art**

facebook.com/bhittichitra







This activity was then carried forward in the form of workshops in low-income group areas in the city. The youth centers of ngo SNEHA, in their program areas in Kalwa, Kandivali were given a fresh look. The young adults and children - who would use the center to study and indulge in cultural and extra-curricular activities like music, singing, and theatre and dance classes – painted the youth activity centers in the neighborhood using themes of education, gender and slices of everyday life.



Bhitti Chitra | SNEHA Community Center, Kalwa (West), Thane | November 2016



Bhitti Chitra | SNEHA Community Center, Kalwa (East), Thane | January 2017



Bhitti Chitra | "Painting wishes and dreams", SNEHA Community Center Kandivali (West), Mumbai | June 2017



Bhitti Chitra | "Migration Stories", SNEHA Wadala, Mumbai | October- November 2019

WATCH THE
BHITTICHITRA | MOVEMENTS IN ART
VIDEO ON YOUTUBE

FEATURED IN THE PRESS:

The Daily Eye: An Artclass on the Footpath
The Local Press : MF Hussain adorns back road

Follow @BhittiChitra on facebook | instagram

Goondool

Bhitti Chitra

Comics Epidemic

How can community residents research, interpret and author their own narratives around health and social issues?

Saturday Comix

As a mentor artist, I led a series of graphic narrative workshops with people in Dharavi over the course of two years (2013-2015) as part of the Dharavi Biennale. These workshops led to the release of **Comics Epidemic - an anthology of tales from Dharavi.**

The book has 43 stories by 65 people from Dharavi, who are between the ages of 14 and 60. Under the main topic of health, they cover a vast range of subheadings such as the body, injuries, nutrition, depression, suicides, puberty, adolescent relationships, and so on.

The initiative was organised a part of the Dharavi Biennale, in association with SNEHA (Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action), and financially supported by the Wellcome Trust.

AN ANTHOLOGY OF TALES FROM DHARAVI

A DHARAVI BIENNALE PUBLICATION

SUPPORTED BY SNEHA (SOCIETY FOR NUTRITION,
EDUCATION AND HEALTH ACTION)

EDITED & CURATED BY WON-TOLLA



Comix making - sketching, writing, subject inputs, feedback at SNEHA UHC, Sion Hospital



Comix Epidemic | Comix making at KEM Hospital, Byculla and at the Colour Box, 60 feet road, Dharavi



Comix Epidemic | Display and dissemination



Comix Epidemic | Group -3 after a day of display and dissemination

ALCOHOL



Alcohol Fight. Kavi Vishwakarma

FIGHT



Kavi Vishwakarma. Alcohol Fight 9

BAS PYAR HO CHAHA



Bas Pyar Ho Gaya. Saravant Bhadani



Saravant Bhadani. Bas Pyar Ho Gaya. 11

प्यार करी तो एक सै करी और सौच के करी

नास-मुडिया राजेन्द्र पाण्डे



DREAM FALL



I AM NORMAL

- Tushar Kamble

दोस्तों क्या देव उन्हें दो? मुझे भी दिया वो please..., मुझे भी देना है।

अरे जा दिले मे तेरे काम का मही... दूरो खिंचे मदे देखे हैं तेरे जैसे दिले नही चाल निकल... 8P के 8P...

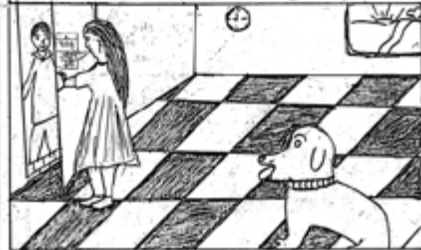
अरे छोड़ो चार दिया देने हैं...



14 I Am Normal - Tushar Kamble



वा ? ? ? ?



Sudha Sarker ki

 SNEHA CHAKRABARTY...

SNEHA

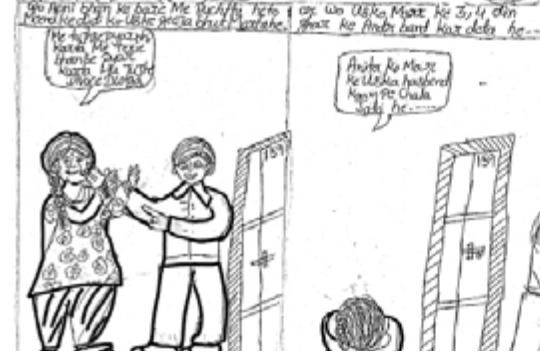


Delshad ...
Shad.

Heart Na Maano Kabhi

{Aarti Kari}

Kabhi Kesi ke Upar Viswas Nhi Karana Chaiye..... Chaiye Wo Koi
bi ho..... Hame Kisi ko bi Itna Trust Nhi Karana Chaiye...



मछिका रवाना



आ दिवशी मी कांतेन मध्ये गेलो तो दिसून



जेव्हा मी शाळातून मध्ये गेलो तेव्हा



मी कांतेन मध्ये गेलो तेव्हा मला ते दिसून

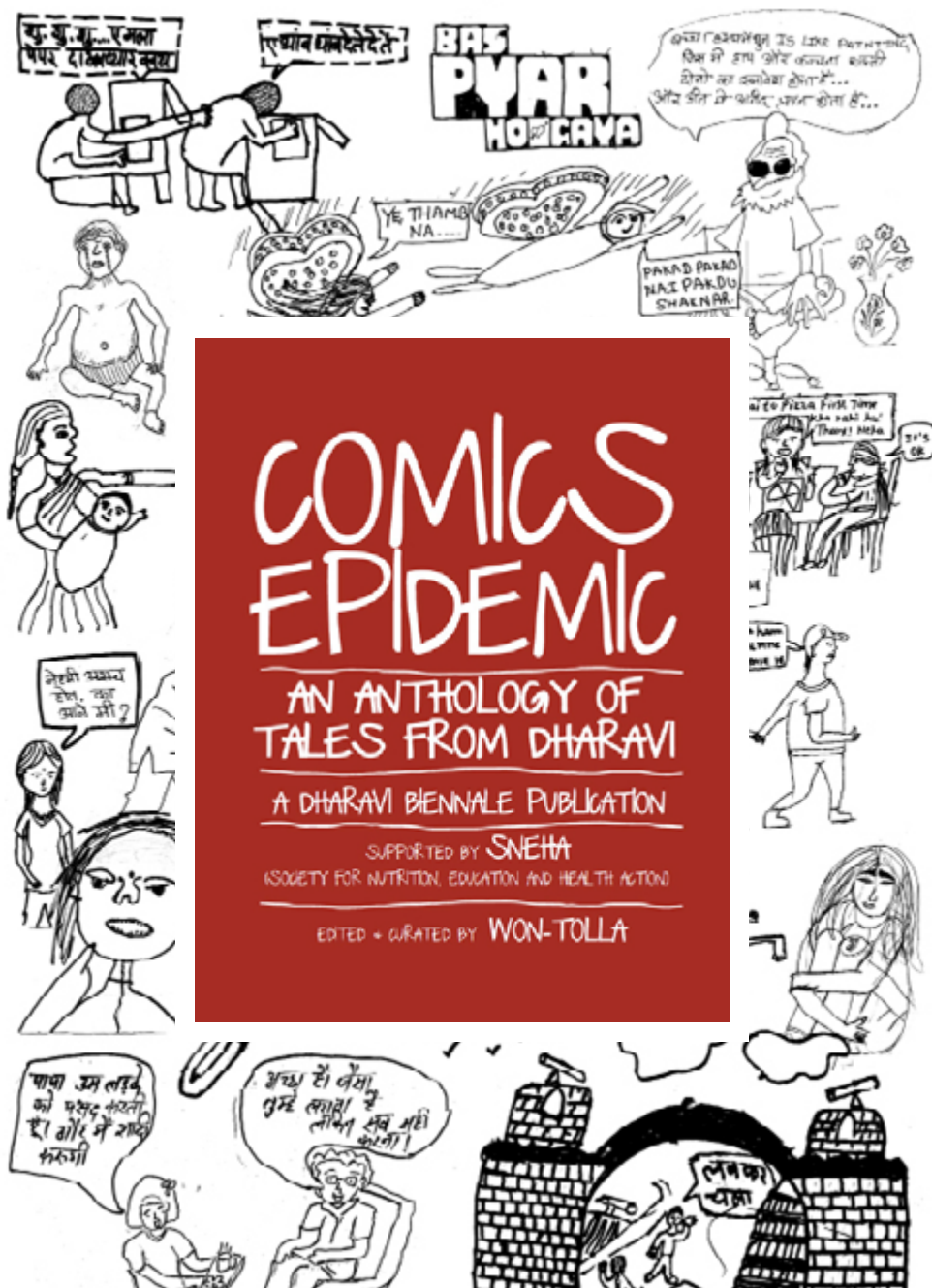


दिवशी कांतेन मध्ये गेलो तेव्हा मला ते दिसून



दिवशी कांतेन मध्ये गेलो तेव्हा मला ते दिसून





Comix Epidemic | Launch at the hands of advertising veteran Shri. Gopi Kukde

C R E D I T S

Comics Epidemic Participants from Dharavi :

Akhturnissa, Mangal Shinde, Suryamala, Komal Kale, Sita Waghmare, Komal Vhatkar, Ashwini, Shubhangi Sonawane, Surekha Tapase, Priyanka Tapase, Ganesh Joshi, Vaibhav, Pramod, Bhavesh Devaliya, Kaushik Devaliya, Sana Shaikh, Naina Sawardekar, Pooja Vhatkar, Sonali Sonawane, Sushma Shinde, Tinku Jha, Jyoti Katke, Misbah, Sachin Jaiswal, Sudhanshu Sharma, Pinku Jha, Akshay Shinde, Sudha Sadhaphule, Laxman Mane, Rupesh Sable, Raghvendra Pol, Nilesh Pendurkar, Manoj Jaiswar, Kisan Salbul, Kanchan Gore, Ravi Vishwakarma, Avinash Jadhav, Sunita Laxman, Pooja Vaish, Saraswati Bhandare, Naushad Sheikh, Sanjay Jaiswar, Aniket Bagde, Navita Chitkindi, Tushar Kamble, Reshma Shaikh, Suraj Kale, Saiba Shaikh, Gudiya Pandey, Aarti Kori, Swapnil Kadam, Bhagyashree, Komal Kale, Komal Vhatkar, Nirant Kondave, Santosh Vishwakarma, Manish Sonawane, Darshana Dhawale, Jyoti Yadav, Dilshad Shaikh

Workshops Conducted at The Colour Box, Dharavi and the Urban Health Centre, Sion Hospital

Dharavi Biennale Project Directors

Nayreen Daruwalla, David Osrin

Mentor, Curator, Editor

Chaitanya Modak

Health Experts

Dr. Hemal Shroff, Sarika Salunkhe, Dr. Vineet Kumar, Pradeep Pawar, Sumit Pawar, Dr. Anil More, Sneha Kupekar, Reshma Jagtap

Logistics

Dipesh Thakker, Sitaram Kharat

Photo Documentation

Benita Fernando, Glyn Alcock

The Priya's Shakti Artbox

Ram Devineni, Tushar Prakash

Mozilla Foundation's Maker Party, Nashik chapter

Omkar Walimbe, Mayur Patil, Vishal Chavan

- **The Making of Comics Epidemic in Dharavi** was presented as a part of the CASP (Council for Arts and Social Practice) Conversations Series on 16th December 2017 at TIFA, Pune



- **Mohile Parikh Centre's Visual Arts forum:** Comics Epidemic was presented as a part of a panel discussion on the Dharavi Biennale at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai, on 4th February 2015. The discussion featured the Dharavi Biennale project co-directors, Dr Nayreen Daruwalla and Dr David Osrin, and comics epidemic curator Chaitanya Modak.

- **Priya's Shakti, 10th–13th September 2014:** A layered narrative project and augmented reality comic book, follows a mortal woman fighting gender-based sexual abuse in India with the help of the Goddess Parvati. Priya's Shakti worked with Dharavi teens to develop gender-based violence graphic narratives during the Comics Epidemic. Tech mentors from the Mozilla Foundation's Maker Party Nashik Chapter taught enthusiastic comics creators Popcorn Maker animation skills to bring sound and movement to 2D comics in Dharavi. The comics were exhibited at the IFP Made in NY Media Center, Brooklyn, NY, United States



- **Comics and Medicine: From Private Lives to Public Health:** Comics Epidemic was presented at an international workshop hosted by Graphic Medicine and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Department of Art as Applied to Medicine, 26th - 28th June, 2014.

This curation has led to a long term association with SNEHA that continues till date with a series of workshops planned every year across their program areas in Dharavi, Thane and Kandivali.



Coming full circle! Comix Making at KEM Hospital, Byculla where workshop participants from the comics epidemic taught doctors how to make their own comics...

Goondool

Bhitti Chitra

Comics Epidemic

Saturday Comix

How can children become
authors of communication
about their own lives?

PRESENTED BY SMILE FOUNDATION AND
THE POMEGRANATE WORKSHOP

SATURDAY CO-MIX

A COLLECTION OF TALES BY STUDENTS FROM
THE MAULANA AZAD SCHOOL, DHARAVI

PROGRAM DESIGN + CURATION + BOOK EDITED BY
CHAITANYA MODAK



Saturday Co-Mix is drawn, written, and imagined by students of Grades 6 to 8 at Maulana Azad School, Dharavi. Over three months, from January to March 2018, the classroom extended into the quiet hours of Saturday afternoons, as the students stayed back after school from 10 AM to 2 PM each week, and engaged with the language of the graphic novel as a space for storytelling, experimentation, and self-expression.



This anthology holds the traces of that process—its energy, its play, and its moments of discovery. Conceived and facilitated by Chaitanya Modak, the workshop became a site where images and words met, shifted, and took flight in unexpected ways.





NaJneer, Idnisi



I.C.U

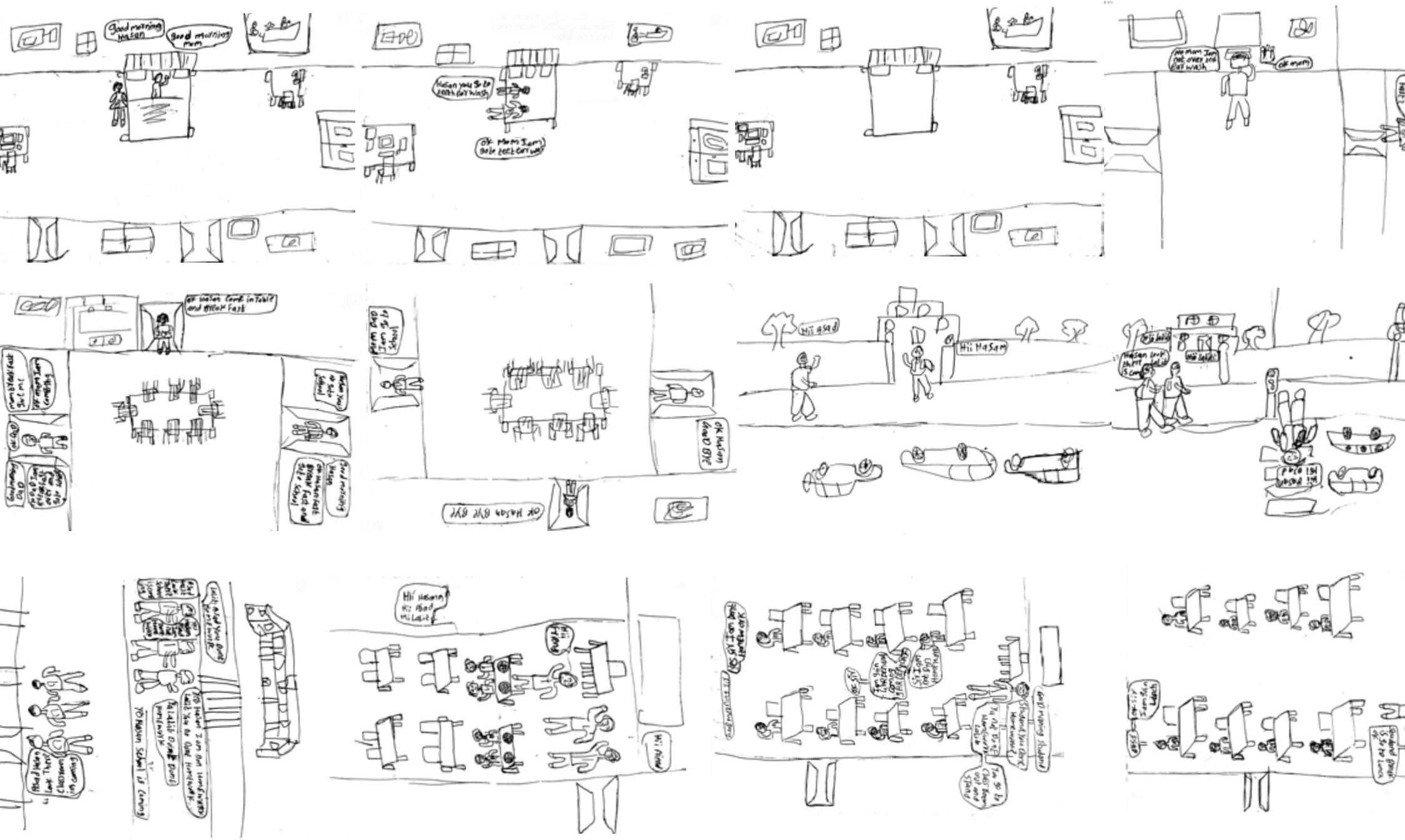
Kurula to GOVANDI

MURSHID RAZA

Kurula to Govandi . Murshid Raza



(Student, You Done) Homework? gayasuddin ♥



Saturday Co-Mix created by

**Gulnaaz Shaikh, Murshid Raza, Naznine Idrisi, Afreen Idrisi,
Roohulla Shaikh, Gayasuddin Shaikh, Yusuf Shaikh, Shahid
Raza, Asad, and Lalit Gupta**

Program designed and facilitated by **Chaitanya Modak**

Workshops conducted at **Maulana Azad School, Dharavi**

Programme Coordinator **Advaita Mane**

Workshop Coordination and Assistance **Lorelle Murzello**

Saturday Comix Layout and Design **Chaitanya Modak**

Thank you / धन्यवाद

chaitanya@inhousedesign.co.in

+91 98508 91581