Kathmandu Contemporary Arts Centre, KCAC, was established in 2007 to act as a catalyst for contemporary artists in Nepal and to promote their work abroad.

In 2008 KCAC was voted by Asian Art in London as their charity of the year and staged an exhibition at the Royal Over-Seas League with 108 artists. Fifteen artists were represented from Nepal and the remaining 93 international artists donated their work to raise funds.

Three aims underpin our vision and mission:
1. To encourage Nepali artists to fulfill their creative potential by offering help to emerging artists with studios and bursaries.
2. To increase participation in the arts through exhibitions, workshops, symposia and cross-cultural dialogues.
3. To place the arts, culture and creativity at the heart of learning.

We officially open at the Patan Museum, one of the finest museums in the world, this March. Our inaugural exhibitions are Pepón Osorio’s Resting Stops: an alternative pilgrimage supported by the Bronx Museum and Antonio Nodar’s worldwide project ...from portrait to self-portrait ... in collaboration with more than 300 contemporary Nepali artists, supported by the Elsa Peretti Foundation.

In 2009 I was invited to join the Board of the Development Committee of Patan Museum with the objective of:

• Increasing footfall at the Museum,
• Engaging the local community,
• Increasing revenue opportunities, and
• Raising the profile of the Museum locally and globally.

I learnt that the Museum had always been keen to establish a public resource art library, but the plan was stalled due to budgetary constraints. Meanwhile KCAC had over 6,000 books, 3,000 donated by the Tate Gallery in London. In 2011 an agreement was reached between the Museum Board, the Secretary of Culture and KCAC to set up a joint public resource library: the Museum would provide the library space and we would lend our growing library of art books.

As part of our collaboration, the Museum Board rents studio space to KCAC for studios. The first five artists-in-residence came from Australia, Germany, The United States and Nepal. Their paintings and site specific installations drew a new and younger audience to the Museum. Fulbright Senior Research Scholar and artist, Maureen Drdak, worked with Rabindra Shakya, the acknowledged contemporary master of Newari repousse. Further space has been made available in the garden next to the library and was renovated in time for the arrival of American artist Pepón Osorio from the Bronx Museum. His collaborative project involved working with students from Kathmandu University Centre for Art & Design and artist Sujan Chitrakar as project co-ordinator.

The Spanish photographer Antonio Nodar’s ...from portrait to self-portrait... has been the most inclusive project undertaken in Nepal amongst contemporary artists. It involves over 300 from all over the country including contemporary painters, sculptors, cartoonists, traditional paubha painters and mithila artists from the plains of the Terai have been included in what will be a gargantuan exhibition of artists portraits and self portraits.

We are honoured to be working in collaboration with the Patan Museum with residencies, exchanges and exhibitions. We hope that our collaboration will help contribute to the growth of contemporary expression in Nepal. Once the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust completes the renovations of Sundari Chowk and Mulchowk courtyards and becomes integrated with the Museum, the city of Lalitpur will once again rise to prominence as the city of the Arts.

Celia Washington
Founder Director
March 2012

Sangeeta Thapa
Founder Director
March 2012
Patrons

FOUNDER DIRECTORS
Sangeeta Thapa
Celia Washington

HONORARY PATRONS
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Mary Burkett OBE
Mr & Mrs Keith Bloomfield
Catherine Goodman
Mr & Mrs Andrew Hall
Professor Michael Hult
Reinhold Messner
Rebecca Stephens MBE
David Verey CBE
Aidan Warlow

FOUNDER PATRONS
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Hermione Hasell-Mccosh
Marlies Kornfeld
Ann Stroyan
Sangeeta Thapa
David Verey CBE
Celia Washington
Viscountess Whitelaw
KCAC Nepal

Since opening in January 2010 we have showcased the work of numerous artists with 14 exhibitions, hosting eleven international artists-in-residence and awarding four scholarships to young Nepali artists.

For further details please visit www.kathmanduarts.org

Details of the Silver Ghost Film Club schedule can be viewed on our website

KCAC International

Royal Over-Seas League
In 2008 the Royal Over-Seas League (RoSL) generously supported our first international exhibition with the work of 108 artists during Asian Art in London.

In 2011 the RoSL, in collaboration with KCAC, offered Sunil Sigdel an international visual arts scholarship. As a winner of one of the RoSL’s five annual Scholarships Sigdel spent six weeks in the UK and has been invited to return to London later this year to exhibit his work, with the other four scholarship artists, in the gallery at the Oxo Tower on London’s South Bank.

Sunil Sigdel is one of Nepal’s exciting contemporary artists whose powerful images depict the angst of a society undergoing social and political transformation. He exhibited at KCAC in April 2010.

We hope to collaborate with the RoSL with their international visual arts scholarship by sending a Nepali artist to the UK every four years.

In 2011 we began the process to achieve charitable status in the USA. When this comes through we will start running events.

Vermont Studio Center
Founded by artists in 1984, the Vermont Studio Center is the largest international artists’ and writers’ Residency Program in the United States, hosting 55 visual artists and writers each month from across the country and around the world.

The Studio Center provides 4-12 week studio residencies (with private studio, private room and 3 meals per day) in an ideal creative world community, on an historic 30-building campus in Johnson, Vermont, a village in the heart of the scenic Green Mountains. VSC has been hosting artists from the Himalayan region, for the past 4 years, through a program sponsored by the Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art in New York, and after a visit to Kathmandu in January by VSC Founder Jon Gregg, and meetings with KCAC co-founder Sangeeta Thapa, VSC is keen to collaborate with KCAC to offer VSC Residencies to Nepalese artists.

In a joint effort, KCAC and VSC are seeking sponsors to provide financial support to artists interested in this U.S. Residency opportunity who are not able to cover the Residency fee. www.vermontstudiocenter.org

Art: 21 - Art in the Twenty-First Century
Over the past decade, Art: 21 has established itself as the preeminent chronicler of contemporary art and artists through its Peabody Award-winning biennial television series, Art in the Twenty-First Century. The nonprofit organization has used the power of digital media to introduce millions of people of all ages to contemporary art and artists and has created a new paradigm for teaching and learning about the creative process.

As an international partner of Art:21, we have been invited to screen Season Six this April.
International Artists in Residence. Running in parallel with our Nepali artists-in-residence scholarships, eleven international artists have rented studios with us on a short-term residency, running workshops and exhibiting. They have come from Italy, France, Australia, Spain, Switzerland, Holland & the United States: Pepon Osorio, Antonio Nodar, Maureen Drdak, James Johnson-Perkins, Roswitha Steinkopf, Michelle Hall, Adam Swart, Emma Ponsart, Catherine Biocca, Wies Olde Riekerink & Jonas Wijtenburg.

Our next two international artists-in-residence will be Robert Cervera Amblar from Spain and Marrigje de Maar from Holland.

If you would be interested in doing a residency at KCAC please visit www.kathmanduarts.org for further information.
NEPALI ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE
We award up to four, six-month, studio residencies a year to recent Nepali art graduates, providing studio space and a bursary for materials. At the end of each residency, the work created will be exhibited in a catalogued scholarship exhibition.

The scholarship aims to help young artists by giving them the opportunity of working with a small group of carefully selected international artists to explore new ideas and extend the boundaries of their work. Our resources and the experience of our Directors provides emerging artists with support and access to the contemporary art world. Gaining a scholarship at KCAC creates a foundation for life long networks and career support.

Please visit our website for details on how to apply www.kathmanduarts.org

We are looking for four annual sponsors for our scholarships. If you would like to support one of our artists please contact us at office@kathmanduarts.org

KCAC scholarship programme for young Nepali artist
Sunita Maharjan lives in Kirtipur, a small town in the Kathmandu Valley. Alongside Sanjeev Maharjan she was one of the first two artists chosen for our scholarship programme. The work made during her residency was about the urban sprawl and the new constructions that now consume the paddy fields. For Sunita, the iron rod frames, which form the skeleton of these buildings, with their geometric spaces and interlacing layers enclose, divide and redefine a new space creating a contradiction and contrast between the solid iron rods and the air between.
Sanjeev Maharjan

Sanjeev Maharjan studied art at Kathmandu University and in 2010 was chosen with Sunita Maharjan as one of our first two Nepali artists-in-residence. Sanjeev lives in the Kathmandu Valley, in the town of Khichapokhari, where each morning the carcasses of pigs are brought by rickshaw to the butchers’ shops that line the streets. During his residency with us, he worked on a series of paintings that focused on the disassociation of the death of an animal with the meal that is delivered to the table.

Soni Shakya

Soni Shakya studied art at Kathmandu University. During her residency with KCAC her work explored the explosion of traffic in Kathmandu and the ensuing chaos it causes in the day to day life of people. The eleven paintings in her scholarship exhibition “As it Happens” were almost impressionistic in style and presented the burgeoning anarchy of the traffic that spreads out through the city at all times and the lack of a solution to this imminent urban catastrophe.

Manish Harijan

Manish Harijan, our current artist-in-residence, is one of the exciting BFA art graduates from Kathmandu University. His graduation show “Pl” plural consisted of multiple portraits in thick impasto which reflected the harsh life of his subjects. During his residency at KCAC he is exploring a fusion of western and eastern culture through paintings of Gods and Super Heroes.

Manish’s residency was funded by the Margaret Washington Memorial Scholarship.
Pepón Osorio
Resting Stops by Pepón Osorio in collaboration with Anil Shahi, Bindu Gurung, Laxman B.Lama, Nabin Nalbo, Sapana Shah, Sujan Dangol and Sunil Pradhan from Kathmandu University, Centre for Art and Design (KUart) and Sujan Chitrakar as the project co-ordinator.

Resting Stops is a modular installation project conceived to travel from place to place around the Nepal region in 2012. The project invites community residents to participate in the sharing of life stories, personal experiences and neighborhood histories through food. The artwork was conceptually crafted through an inclusive collaborative process that represents the intersection of the histories, interests, and identities of many local participants, art students from KUart, individuals and families. Starting in March of 2012, the project will travel to each site where residents hosting the work become temporary owners or stewards of the artwork, organizing their own “openings” and talk back sessions.

Resting Stops aims to encourage conversations, curiosity, and shared efforts. It gives participants the critical opportunity to become stakeholders in redefining ideas of ownership, art-making, and social responsibility. Osorio’s idea is to involves entire communities in the making of art works and to collaborate with local master people.
Pepón Osorio

Pepón Osorio is best known for his large-scale art installations that merge conceptual art and community dynamics. He has worked with well over 25 communities across the U.S. and internationally, creating interventions based on real life experiences. For almost two decades he has been presenting work in unconventional places prior to exhibiting in a museum setting, exploring the subjectivity of meaning in art and the multiple readings that these installations achieve depending on their location. Osorio is the recipient of numerous distinctions including the 2008 Legacy Award in the Arts from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. 2001 Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture, the Whitney Biennial, 1993; an Alpert Award in the Arts-Visual Arts, 1999; and a John D. and Catherine T. McArthur Foundation Fellowship. Osorio was featured in the first series of PBS Art21, Artist of the 21st Century documentary.

smARTpower

smARTpower is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by The Bronx Museum of the Arts, sending fifteen U.S. artists abroad to work with local artists and young people around the world to create community-based art projects. The selected artists have been asked to design and implement programs within a 45 day period in cooperation with local arts organizations in China, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, India, Kosovo, Lebanon, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Turkey, and Venezuela.

http://artists.smartpower.bronxmuseum.org/

Bronx Museum

The Bronx Museum of the Arts in New York focuses on contemporary and 20th century works created by American artists, and it has hosted exhibitions of art and design from Latin America, Africa and Asia. Its permanent collection consists of more than 800 paintings, sculptures, photographs and works on paper.

Please contact Sujan Chitrakar on 9851063993 if you would like to schedule a home event.

The exhibition and performance open on 24th March 2012 at 5.30pm with Slam Poetry by Word Warriors and a Musical Performance by Ashesh and Nekhvam.
... from portrait
to self-portrait...
In 1996 the photographer Antonio Nodar began work on his remarkable odyssey. This inspirational and unique idea...from portrait to self-portrait... began with three artists in Barcelona and spread by word of mouth until it included the active participation of 97 artists in Spain. The diptychs of portraits and self-portraits were first presented in 1997 at an exhibition in Barcelona that won the art critics’ award for the best gallery exhibition that year. Elsa Peretti, through her Foundation, recognised the power of the idea as a social documentary and its importance as an encyclopedia of modern art and began to fund it.

In 2011 Antonio launched Volume 1 of ...from portrait to self-portrait... in London and Barcelona with the diptychs of 242 artists, mainly from Europe.

In Autumn 2011 Antonio and I realized that with the launch of his book and KCAC’s move to the Patan Museum, the moment had arrived when the two projects could finally come together. One day I said to him “Why don’t you come to Nepal to photograph the artists for our inaugural exhibition?” and he answered “Why not?”

In the ten weeks between his arrival in Nepal on the 10th January and this exhibition on the 28th March, Antonio has photographed over 300 Nepali artists exposing the excellence and vitality of contemporary art in Nepal today.

Celia Washington
Set in one of the most beautiful squares in the world (a UNESCO World Heritage site) the Patan Museum was established in 1997 to showcase and preserve Nepal’s art, culture and the iconography of Hinduism and Buddhism. The building’s transformation from a royal palace to museum was made possible through the collaboration of the governments of Nepal and Austria. It now runs as the country’s first self-sustainable museum, displaying traditional and sacred arts for which Nepal, and in particular Patan, are famous.

Our library is the largest art reference library in Nepal containing over 6,000 books collected in the UK by Celia Washington from private donors and from Tate Gallery in London who donated over 3,000 books.

Library Patrons - people and organisations who have donated more than thirty books:

We are indebted to Gulf Air who helped us to bring our first shipment of books to Nepal in 2010 and to Geof Frew who helped us to bring the second shipment in 2012.
# The Team

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sangeeta Thapa</td>
<td>Founder Director</td>
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<td>Celia Washington</td>
<td>Founder Director</td>
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## NEPAL

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<td>Tulsi Joshi</td>
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<td>Arun Sharma</td>
<td>Computer Support</td>
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<td>Binod Adhikari</td>
<td>Gallery Assistant</td>
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<td>Binod Bhujel</td>
<td>Accounts Assistant</td>
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<td>Surendra Maharjan</td>
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<td>Sanjeev Maharjan</td>
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<td>Seetashma Thapa</td>
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<td>Zisimos Souflas</td>
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<td>Philippa Squire</td>
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## UK

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<td>Charles Miller</td>
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<td>Karen Swash</td>
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Earthy
Thank You

Binod Adhikari
Teresa Albor
The Art Loss Register
James Atlee
Greta Barber
Consuelo Barker
Carlos Barroso Garcia
Stephen Bailey
B.B. Bear
Alex Beard
Bridget Bel
Binod Bhujel
Chris Bonington
Antoine Bourbon-Parme
Antonia Bowen-Jones
Jane Bramwell
Mary Burket
Francis Carnwath
Mary Burkett
Jane Bramwell
Antonia Bowen-Jones

And all the artists who have donated their work to help raise funds for us:

And the artists who have participated in the project:

Antonio Nodar would like to thank:

Craigie Aitchison
John Allen
Terry Arpino
Suzanne Banerjee
William Balthazar Rose
Consuelo Barker
Julian Barrow
Loren Beven
Sahendra Bir Singh Tuladhar
Rodricken Booth-Jones
Antonia Bowen-Jones
David Burder
Laura Carew
Mark Cazalet
Julian Cooper
Peter Darach
Louise de la Hey
Katherine Dawson
William Ekersley
Simon Edmundson
Derek Eland
Luke Elwes

And the artists who have donated their work to help raise funds for us:

Co-ordinator: Freya Zinovieff
Assistants: Sanjeev Maharjan

Antonio Adhikari
Chin Bahadur Baniya
Goudina Pd. Baral
Samir Baral
Sangeeta Baral
Bijendra Basracharya
Binod Bhushal
Lila Dhar Shakya
Prabin Dhunghara
Jaleel James
Pratima Joshi
Sujan Joshi
Tuki Joshi
Masayo Kyota Dolan
Bhim Lai Shrestha
Mahendra Singh Limbu
Sawani Limbu
Gambir Maharjan

and

Sudha Maharjan
Sushma Maharjan
Lambi Joan Marti
Dhan Gopal Maharjan
Laxmi Narayan Maharjan
Sanu Bha Maharjan
Jumla Nani Maharjan
Satya Narayan Shershan
Kim Patrick James
Elisa Peretti
Santosh Pokhrel
Rama
Narayan & Heera Sah
Anil Shrestha
Samir Sherchan
Samriddhi Sherchan
Arun Sharma
Nischal Shrestha
Riddhi Thapa
Sangeeta Thapa
Siddhartha Thapa
Libert Tezdeo
Cela Washington

Jardine Lloyd Thompson
Sue Macartney-Snape
James MacEwen
Mr. Mayoo
Charles Miller
Mary Milner
The Nepalese Embassy, London
Antonio Nodar
Pratima & Prithivi Pandit
Zaklina Petrovic
Helen Pets
Henry Powell
Nick Powell
Tom Ponsorby
Kishor Rajbhandari
Himalay Shumsher Rana
Walter Reid
Roy Richards
Anthony & Jumbo Royds
Ballou Schofield
Doug & Trish Scott
The Serpentine Gallery, London
Dorothy Sharp
Carmell Shepherd
Yuki Shirou
Siddhartha Art Gallery
Vicky Sholund
Linda Stoss

Andrew Logan
Richard Long
Thomas Luntley
Sue Macartney-Snape
Malcolm Macgregor
Hilke MacIntyre
Ian MacIntyre
Antonia Manfred
Caroline Mcdam Clark
Sarah Medway
Elisene Milner
Mary Milner
Ben Moore
Phil Morrisan
John O’Carrol
Humphrey Ocean
Oly & Suzi
Shanti Pancal
Gloria Pereda
Nick Powell
Fergus Quinn

Guillem Ramos Poqui
Prem Rana
Adelaide Roberts
Fiona Robson
William Roper-Curzon
Derrick Sankini
Surendra Shrestha
John Swanell
Carolina Tolstoy
Wayne Warren
Steve Williams
Bill Woodrow
Freya Zinovev
Project co-ordinator: Sanjeev Maharjan

Assistants: Marsh Maharjan
Sunita Maharjan

Artstudio Nepal
The Base Top Lodge in Sarangkot
Earthly Image 6
Lovely Mount Hotel, Pokhara
Elsa Peretti Foundation
The PSM Art Gallery, Pokhara
The Sant Marti Vell Team
Siddhartha Art Gallery
Ideal Peace English School
Shraman Apparels

and all the artists who have participated in the project.

Anonymous wish to remain anonymous.
CONTEMPORARY ART

Contemporary art is the art of today, produced by artists who are living in the twenty-first century. It is both a mirror of contemporary society and a window through which we view and deepen our understanding of the world and ourselves. Contemporary artists work in a globally influenced, culturally diverse, and technologically advancing world. Their art is a dynamic combination of materials, methods, concepts, and subjects that challenge traditional boundaries and defy easy definition. Diverse and eclectic, contemporary art is distinguished by the very lack of a uniform, organizing principle, ideology, or “ism.” Contemporary artists give voice to the varied and changing landscape of identity, values and beliefs. Contemporary viewers play an active role in the process of constructing meaning in art. With contemporary art, it is often said that the viewer completes the artwork by bringing to it his or her personal reflections, experiences, and opinions. ART: 21, New York - http://www.pbs.org/art21/