

Gaj Yatra

to create awareness about the Asian elephant and its need for corridors

Workshops conducted by Dr. Katharina Kakar and volunteers of Tara Trust
in April 2018 with 60 migrant and tribal children from South Goa



101 artists across India were asked by curator Dr. Alka Pande to contribute an elephant sculpture for the nationwide campaign of Wildlife Trust, India, to promote the creation of elephant corridors.



interactive
elephant
sculpture by
K. Kakar, 2018
Mixed media,
2,30 m x 1,90 m
x 1.50 m

Katharina involved 60 children in the process. Together with volunteers of her Goa based NGO Tara Trust, she prepared art based elephant workshops.



Three elephant awareness camps for migrant and tribal children from deprived communities in South Goa were conducted in April 2018.





Children of the age group 5 to 14 participated in the daily activities.

They painted the most outstanding pictures of elephants and the difficulties they face.



Knowledge was built through movies and discussions. The children learnt about the ecosystem, the environment of elephants and their needs. They learnt about conflicts between humans and elephants and the problems elephants face today.



We started the days with yoga and Tai Chi...





....and ended the days with games and dance.



We built music instruments...





...imitating the sounds of elephants.





The children felt sad about the terrible accidents elephants encounter on railway tracks and wanted to contribute to solutions.





Katharina created collages, integrating photos and results of the workshops. The collaged wooden boxes, that can be opened and closed...



... became part of her interactive elephant sculpture.



The children painted the elephant's search for water on hot summer days...



They illustrated their understanding of conflicts: elephants crossing into human habitat, at times threatening people and destroying crops ...



... and they understood that elephants have been a target for poaching.



The disappearing jungle and thus shrinking environment of the elephant moved them.



They painted elephants in a habitat with polluted water bodies and cut trees, ...





...with railway tracks, fences, cars and roads blocking their movement to other parts of the remaining jungle.



They imagined elephants passing human settlements that are taking away space for the animals to live and find food and shelter.



They understood the need for elephant corridors.



But the children also imagined the elephant with its friends...



A guided jungle meditation, where the kids imagined to be elephants, meeting their friends in the forest, was part of the process.





They imagined elephants living in a friendly environment...





... wishing for friendship with human beings and better solutions to solve the conflicts between man and elephant.



There were quizzes and discussions for the children to process the information...





They were eager to express their ideas ...





... in paintings ...









... and craft activities...







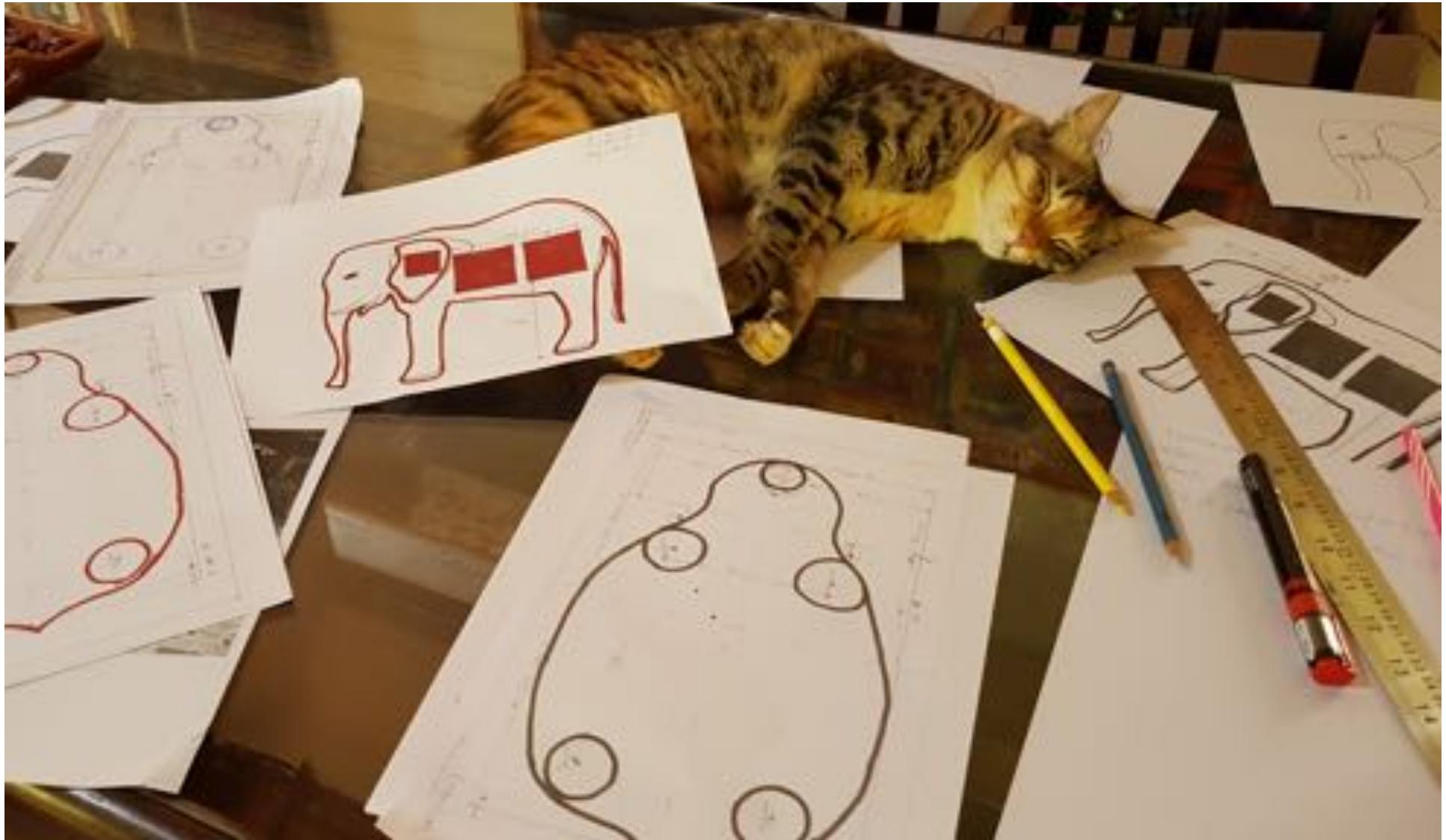








Following the camps, the elephant sculpture was taking shape...



...to be exhibited in August 2018,
at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi ...



... during the Gaj Mahotsav of Wildlife Trust, India.







Thanking...

Chandrakant Jathan and his welder
Rambarose for the construction of the
elephant frame.






Thanking...

...all the participating children from Mae dos Pobres, High School, Nuvem and Betalbatim Government Primary School...for being part of our workshops...

...as well as Antonia Fassnacht, Priscilla D'Silva, Nora Muenich, Nancy Mascarenhas and Geeta Jamuni from Tara Trust for their help and support.



Thanking... Dr. Alka Pande and Wildlife Trust, India for the opportunity to contribute a sculpture for their elephant campaign...



WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
&
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE INAUGURATION OF

GAJA YATRA

A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF ELEPHANT JOURNEYS

INAUGURATED BY
Anjolie Ela Menon, Eminent Artist
Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister For Culture
Dr. Harshvardhan, Hon'ble Minister For Environment,
Forest & Climate Change

August 12th, 2018 At 10:45 am
Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

Thanking...

our partner
Faber Castell, India
for sponsoring all
materials for the
elephant project 2018





The success of the elephant workshops has motivated Katharina to continue with elephant camps in remote villages across India in the coming years. You can help with a donation to finance these camps.

CONNECT WITH US

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