



राष्ट्रीय आधुनिक
कला संग्रहालय
NATIONAL GALLERY
OF MODERN ART

National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru (Ministry of Culture, Government of India)

and Jitendra Arya Foundation

Cordially invites you to the inauguration of the exhibition

Arundhati Nag

has kindly consented to inaugurate the exhibition

M S Sathyu

will be the Guest of Honor

Navroze Contractor

will be the Chief Guest

Sudhakar Rao

Chairman,
Advisory Committee,
NGMA Bengaluru
will preside over the
function

on Saturday, 21st July, 2018 at 6.00 p.m.

at

National Gallery of Modern Art

#49, Manikyavelu Mansion, Palace Road, Bengaluru - 560052

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[facebook.com/NGMABengaluru](https://www.facebook.com/NGMABengaluru), twitter.com/NGMABengaluru

The Exhibition will be on view till 21st August, 2018, Daily from 11.00 am to 6.30 pm

(Mondays and National Holidays closed) | RSVP : 080-22342338, 22201027 | ngma.bengaluru@gmail.com

Jitendra Arya, whose family had migrated to Kenya and settled in Nairobi, was born in Shahdara, Delhi, when his mother came to India for a holiday. Largely self-taught, his photograph of Jomo Kenyatta, the Kenyan anti-colonial activist was published in The Colonial Times when he was only fifteen years old. During this time he photographed the unfolding of many political events in Kenya. In 1948, he went to England to chase his dream of becoming a photographer. Arya began his career as an apprentice and started using his home in Chiswick, West London as a studio. In 1951 he accompanied the Hungarian-British photojournalist Michael Peto to shoot the making of Sir Alexander Korda's documentary on Jawaharlal Nehru. When they arrived, Nehru was leaving on his first holiday after becoming Prime Minister and had expressed his desire to be left alone with his family. The determined team persisted in following him to Kashmir where Arya took candid photographs of Nehru playing with his grandchildren. These pictures were published in the front pages of The Sunday Times catapulting Arya to

instant fame.

In 1956 he set up the Arya Studio on Kensington High Street. He was now represented by Camera Press London having received recognition and acclaim for his portraits of British and Indian personalities which included Clement Attlee, Harold Wilson, Bertrand Russell, Lord and Lady Mountbatten, Antony Eden and Maharani Gayatri Devi. As his staged portraits gained in popularity, he became known as "India's Yousuf Karsh" after the legendary Armenian-Canadian portraitist. Arya had the distinction of being one of the few photographers of Asian origin who was made a member of the Royal Society of Arts and the Institute of British photographers.

In 1959, Arya married the radio-artist Chhaya Dikshit. The couple relocated to India in 1960 because Chhaya signed a three film contract with Guru Dutt which included the role of playing 'Choti Bahu' in Sahib, Bibi Aur

Light Jitendra Arya a Retrospective

curated by Sabeena Gadihoke

Ghulam. The contract never worked out but the couple stayed back. In 1961, Arya was hired as the Chief Photo Editor of Times of India (TOI) at a salary that was normally reserved for only editors. Here he worked till 1983 during which time he photographed hundreds of covers across all TOI publications. He received a mention in the Limca Book of Records for shooting 330 cover images just for Femina. At a time when glamour photography did not have currency it does today, photographers like Arya were bringing to life other worlds than those chronicled by photo journalism.

In 1983, at the age of 51, Arya resigned from TOI to pursue an independent career. After a short break in Oxford, he returned to India in 1985 and continued to photograph young aspiring models and film stars. At the start of the new millennium, after a career that had spanned almost half a century, Jitendra Arya decided to quit photography.