

Curriculum Vitae

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Date of Birth: 17 (Seventeen) February 1977

Introduction

I am a documentary filmmaker, visual communication designer, conservationist and part-time anthropologist based in Mumbai and consultant to various communication design projects ranging from ethnographic and wildlife films, websites, graphic design projects etc. Clients range from Central and State Governments agencies, international and national corporates and NGO's. Also active as visiting faculty taking for courses in video, multimedia, photography and graphics at various national institutes of higher learning.

Recipient of the prestigious **The Scientific Exploration Society Neville Shulman Film Award 2017** as well as **Panda Award (Green Oscar)** for natural history documentary at Wildscreen 2012 and **British Film Institute (BAFTA) Award (Documentary Category)** in 2006 [As part of production team].

Professional Experience

- **Founding Partner, Runaway Planet** - a film production agency registered in Mumbai. *(2013-current)*
- **Core Design Team Member** with Andaman & Nicobar Tribal Research Institute, Port Blair. *(2013-current)*
- **Executive Director & Head of Design** for '7 Cities Theme Park', Mumbai. *(2012- 2018)*
- **Founder-Director, The Ark Foundation** - a registered conservation organisation, Mumbai. *(2012- 2018)*
- Consultant to various government, non-government projects and independent projects. *(2001 - current)*
- Involved in wildlife conservation work. *(2003 - current)*
- **Associate Professor** in the **Multimedia Design Program (Masters)** at DA-IICT, India. *(2004 - 2007)*
- **Design Associate**, National Institute of Design, India. *(2003)*
- **Artist in Residence**, Fabrice Communication Research Center, Italy. *(2001 - 2003)*
- **Internship** with Tata Interactive Systems, India. *(2002)*

In total 12 (Twelve) years of teaching experience and 16 (Sixteen) years of work experience.

Education Record

- Graduate in Visual Communication Design from National Institute of Design (www.nid.edu), Ahmedabad, India with specialisation in Filmmaking & Communication Design. Year of graduation - 2003.
- Two year Artist-in-Residency scholarship at Fabrice (www.fabrice.it), the Benetton Group Communication Design and Research Institute in Treviso, Italy. Area of Work - integrating New Media with Video. Years - 2001 - 2002
- Two years of BSc Zoology from Hindu College, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India.
- High School Final (Class XII) GCE University of London 'A' Level Examination, Science Group: Aggregate 95%
- School Final (Class X) WBSE State Examination: Aggregate - 90%

Professional Projects

The following is a list of professional and other consultancy work done over the past few years. The work has been distributed as film work, multimedia projects and projects over multiple mediums.

Selected Cross-Media Projects

1. Andaman & Nicobar Tribal Research Institute (ANTRI)

Sponsor: Andaman & Nicobar Administration & ANTRI, 2013 - current

Associated with ANTRI to document the material culture of the Indigenous communities of the Andaman Islands.

2. 7 Cities Theme Park & Themed Entertainment Destination

Client: Kingdom Entertainment Private Limited, 2012 - 2018

Head of Design for the entire project that envisages the construction of a theme park celebrating 5000 years of Indian history, civilisation and culture.

3. Lesser Florican Conservation Project

Sponsor: Conservation Leadership Program, 2008 - 2016

Co-Project leader for the design and implementation of a comprehensive communication strategy for the conservation and protection of the Lesser Florican (*Sypheotides indica*) in Madhya Pradesh.

4. Onge Aboriginal Group Shelter Design Project

Client: AAJVS, A&N Admin. & Ministry of Tribal Welfare, Govt. of India, 2005 - 2009

Design of post-tsunami shelters based on Onge vernacular architecture and cultural needs for the tsunami affected hunter-gatherer tribal community of Little Andaman.

5. Establishing the Masters Program in Multimedia Design

Client: DA-IICT, India, 2005 - 2007

To design, plan and execute a two-year post-graduate program in multimedia design.

Filmography

1. 'Amongst the Angs - Working Title' (Documentary, 4K, 25 minutes, 2019)

Direction and Cinematography for documentary on pig hunting practice amongst the Jarawa hunter-gatherer community of Andaman Islands.

Client: Oil & Natural Gas Commission and ANTRI, India

2. 'Uneyholo: Searching' (Documentary, HD, 15 minutes, 2018)

Direction and Cinematography for documentary on honey-collection practice amongst the Jarawa hunter gatherer community of Andaman Islands.

Client: The Scientific Exploration Society, UK

3. 'Waterdogs of Moyar & The Frog Chronicles' (2 Documentaries, HD, 10 minutes, 2016)

Direction and Cinematography for this set of documentaries that explore two CLP sponsored project on the otters in Moyar river and the Toad Skin Frog in Munnar.

Client: Conservation Leadership Programme, UK & USA

4. 'Shared History: Indian Diaspora in France and Reunion' (Documentary, HD, 45 minutes, 2015)

Direction and Cinematography for this film which explores the history of the Indian diaspora in France and French Overseas Territories.

Client: Ministry of External Affairs, India

5. 'On Road to Recovery: One year after the Himalayan Tsunami' (Documentary, HD, 25 minutes, 2014)

Direction and Cinematography for this film which explores amazing recovery the state of Uttarakhand had made after the devastating 2013 'Himalayan Tsunami'.

Client: UNDP, India

6. **'Bridging Worlds Series'** (4 part Documentary Series, HD, 45 minutes, 2010 - 2013)
Cinematography & Direction for this 4 part documentary series that explores the history of the Indian diaspora in the Caribbean and South East Asia
Client: Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, India
7. **'Museum of their Own'** (Ethnographic Documentary, HD, 25 minutes, 2013)
Cinematography & Direction for this ethnographic documentary that explores through dialogues the ideas of memories and preservation of cultures of the various indigenous communities of Andman & Nicobar Islands.
Client: AAJVS, India
8. **'Ganga: The Ribbon of Life'** (Natural History Documentary, HDV, 44 minutes, 2010) ^{[1][2]}
Direction and Cinematography for this natural history film which explores the exploitation and misuse of the culturally important river Ganga.
Client: Ministry of Environment & Forest & National Geographic Channel, India
9. **'Man VS Animal'** (Natural History Documentary, HDV, 44 minutes, 2011)
Cinematography for this natural history film which explores human-animal conflict.
Client: Ministry of Environment & Forest & National Geographic Channel, India
10. **'Seven Hours after Boxing Day'** (Documentary, DigiBeta/MiniDV, 90 minutes, 2005) ^[3]
Associate Director/Cinematography for the India/Sri Lanka section for this BBC commissioned film.
Client: FBC Media Pvt Ltd., India and Diverse TV Ltd. & BBC One, UK
11. **'Diary on Man.Monkey'** (Documentary, DV, 25 minutes, 2001) ^[4]
Direction & Cinematography for this natural history documentary on the life and travails of the Hanuman Langurs.
Client: NID, India
12. **'In search of the Florican'** (Wildlife Documentary, MiniDV, 15 minutes, 2009)
Direction and Cinematography for this wildlife film which explores the demise of this bustard like bird and the attempts by the forestry department to save it.
Client: Center for Environment Education & MP Biodiversity Conservation Board, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, India
13. **'Geobeats: Ladakh & Pals of Ahmedabad'** (Travel Documentary, MiniDV, 11 X 5 minutes, 2006)
Direction and Cinematography for a series of travel documentaries on Leh and Ladakh and the Pals of Ahmedabad.
Client: Geobeats International, USA [www.geobeats.com]
14. **'Portrait of a Living City'** (Documentary, MiniDV, 21 minutes, 2006)
Direction and Cinematography for a film on the lives of 'Pol' residents of Ahmedabad.
Client: French Embassy in India/Alliance Francaise d'Ahmedabad, India and Government of France
15. **'Writing on the Wall-Pithoro: Painting of the Rathwas'** (Documentary, MiniDV, 27 minutes, 2005)
Direction, Cinematography and Editing. This documentary looks at the Rathwa tradition of painting a pithoro on the wall of their house and its interpretations.
Client: MMD Cinema, India
16. **Doordarshan (National TV) Sports Promo** (Promo, Beta, 30 sec X 2, 2000)
Direction and visualization for this promotional channel identity spot.
Client: Doordarshan Sports, India

[1] Winner of Panda Award at Wildscreen 2012, Bristol, UK

[2] Nominated for competitive section of Vatavaran Film Festival, 2011 and MIFF 2012

[3] Winner of BAFTA 2006 and nominated for Emmy for Best International Documentary Film, 2006

[4] Screened in Wildscreen 2002, Bristol; Planet in Focus, Toronto; Cineco 2002, Lisbon; Vatavaran 2005, New Delhi

[5] Screened in World Social Forum, Mumbai, 2004

[6] Screened and exhibited in Swiss Museum of Modern Art, Berne, Switzerland

New Media Projects

1. Pumpkin Design Studio - (www.pumpkindesign.co), 2017
2. Samaya Jewels E-Commerce Website - (www.jewelsbysamaya.com), 2016
3. Farah Khan Fine Jewellery Website - (www.farahkhanfinejewellery.com), 2013
4. Tata Institute of Social Science website - (www.tiss.edu), 2010
5. Global Fund (India Chapter) website - (www.tissgfatmr7.com), 2010
6. Farah Khan website - (www.farahkhan.net), 2008
7. Sama Jewellery website - (www.samajewellery.com), 2007
8. Project Tiger Resource website - (www.tigerindia.org), 2005-06
9. Kanha Tiger Reserve website for Govt.of India - (www.kanhatigerreserve.com), 2004
10. Bird Calls of Haryana CD Rom for Ministry of Forestry, Govt. of Haryana, 2003
11. Fabrica SPA, Italy website - (www.fabrica.it), 2002
12. The Hip Site website - (www.thehipsite.com), 2002
13. Colors Magazine website no.47-52 - (www.colorsmagazine.com/archive), 2001-2002 ^{[1][2]}
14. Information Architecture for the Benetton (Italy) corporate site (www.benetton.com), 2001

[1] Colors 48 'School' finalist in FlashForward 2002 San Francisco

[2] Colors 49 'Tours' winner in FlashForward 2002 New York

Selected Photography Projects

1. 'Uhuu' (2019)

Photoshoot for a coffee-table book on unique honey collecting by the Jarawa hunter gatherer community.

Client: ANTRI, India

2. 'Italics' (2016)

Experimental series of travel photographs from Tanzania .

Client: Self Initiated

3. 'Bangalore/Bengaluru' (2012)

Photoshoot on Bangalore for upcoming international hotel in Bangalore.

Client: Mantri Realty, India

4. 'Desert Jaali & Mughal Splendour' (2010 & 2011)

Photoshoot of traditional Marwari architecture of Rajasthan for Opulence Diamond Jewellery.

Client: Opulence Diamond Jewellery, India

5. 'Africa: See You, See Me' (2008)

Selection of images showcased in a curated traveling exhibition on changing perception of the African continent.

Client: AfricaCont

6. 'On the Edge of Silence' (2008)

Solo exhibition of images from Ladakh, India held in Mumbai.

Client: Sama Jewellery, India

7. 'Handmade in India - West Bengal' (2005)

Photoshoot of handicraft of West Bengal for the DC(Handicraft) & NID Project 'Handmade in India'.

Client: National Institute of India, India

8. 'Unusual view of Italy' (2001-2002)

Series of photoshoots for Colors Magazine on hidden stories in Italy.

Client: Colors Magazine, Italy

9. 'Alang' (2000)

Photoshoot on the Alang Shipbreaking yard in Alang, Gujarat.

Client: Gujarat Maritime Board

Other Projects

1. World Social Forum Mumbai 2004, Gujarat Exhibition and Film (2004)

Visualisation and execution of a exhibition and film showcasing the two faces of Gujarat - the 2002 riots and the 2001 earthquake at the World Social Forum. Sponsored by Gujarat Social Forum and Citizens Initiative.

2. School for Children, Gujarat Earthquake (2001 - 2004)

Rebuilt, restarted and sustained, as part of reconstruction efforts, the primary school at Moti Chirai, Kutchh for children immediately after the earthquake of January 2001 with the help of the Army and Citizens Initiative. Part of NID Student volunteers initiative.

3. King Cobra & Water Monitor Lizard Breeding Programme, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust (2000)

Worked on redesigning enclosures and breeding programme setup for captive breeding and management of King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*) and Water Monitor Lizard (*Varanus salvator*). Also designed and developed a new communication campaign for MCBT.

4. UNDP International Bamboo Craft and Handicraft Project (1998 - 2001)

Field research in Wyanad, Kerala and associated design development of bamboo craft and handicraft products based on this field work.

Other Qualifications

1. Recipient of The Scientific Exploration Society Neville Shulman Film Award (2017)

Recipient of the prestigious 'The Scientific Exploration Society Neville Shulman Film Award 2017' for project to document honey collecting practice of the Jarawa community of Andaman & Nicobar Island. The award is also known as the 'Oscar for Exploration'.

2. Winner of Panda Award, Wildscreen, Bristol, UK (2012)

Winner of the prestigious Panda Award for the film 'Ganga: Ribbon of life' at Wildscreen 2012, world's premiere wildlife and natural history film festival. The award is also known as the 'Green Oscar'.

3. The Ark Foundation (2012 - 2018)

Founder-Director of a registered conservation NGO 'The Ark Foundation'. Focus of this organisation is to conduct in-situ conservation of endangered species in collaboration with local communities.

4. Recipient of Conservation Leadership Program (CLP) Grant (2008 - 2013)

This grant has been given for the ongoing Lesser Florican Conservation project currently in Madhya Pradesh. Grant partners are Wildlife Conservation Society, USA; Birdlife International, UK and Flora & Fauna International, UK.

5. Recipient of the Benetton Scholarship (2001-2003)

A scholarship given by Benetton Group to pursue research in Communication and New Media Design for the period 2001-2003 at Fabrica Communication Research Institute in Treviso, Italy.

6. Recipient of the National Scholarship in Photography (2000-2001)

Government of India scholarship for experimentation in the field of Photography.

7. Indian Academy of Science Research Fellow (1999)

Research work at the Center for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India under the guidance of Dr.Raghavendra Gadagkar. Investigated the ecological behaviour of *Lycosa* Spider (*Aranea: Lycosidae*).

8. National Institute of Mountaineering Degree (1998)

Professional Grade A qualification in mountaineering (rock, snow, ice-craft) from the National Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, India. Maximum hieght gain at 17000 feet.

9. Assistant Zookeeper, Delhi Zoo & Kamala Nehru Zoological Gardens (1997 - 2008)

Assistant Keeper of the Avian and Small Mammals section.