

**Kiran Nadar Museum of Art to host its first major cultural event in a public space**  
*Charishnu* - a dance production curated by Leela Samson



**New Delhi, 31 January 2023:** Kiran Nadar Museum of Art is pleased to announce its first major cultural event for the year 2023, dedicated to celebrating India's rich cultural heritage of dance and music, on Friday, February 10, 2023, 6:30 p.m. at Sunder Nursery Amphitheatre in New Delhi.

Titled *Charishnu*, the performance brings together some of India's most celebrated dancer-choreographers in a collaborative production, directed by Leela Samson and is the official collateral event of the upcoming edition of India Art Fair 2023.

Enhancing the already expansive range of events on offer at the museum, the performance at Sunder Nursery is part of new and extensive programming planned to celebrate art and culture. Through this, the museum aims to expand its reach and tap into new and diverse audiences and build on its mission to grow a museum-going culture and encourage viewers to explore different aspects of art, at the crossroads of culture and performance.

**Kiran Nadar, Chairperson, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art commented,** *"We are delighted to present Charishnu at Sunder Nursery as part of our efforts to celebrate inclusiveness in the cultural space and provide audiences with an enchanting experience showcasing some of the country's most talented dancers, as culture truly connects us."*

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Charishnu, directed by Leela Samson**

In 2007, Leela Samson was asked by the Government of India to create a production that would include several of India's dance forms. Charishnu, the production that was created subsequently, brings together some of India's most celebrated dancer-choreographers in a collaborative production, directed by Leela Samson. Priti Patel for Manipuri and her collaborator, Imocha Singh for Thang ta, Aruna Mohanty for Odissi, Sadanam Balkrishnan for Kathakali and Mohiniattam, Aditi Mangaldas for Kathak, Mahesh Vinayakaram for the drum ensemble and Leela Samson herself for Bharatanatyam, created short abstract pieces set to original music that represented their individual styles, which were then woven together into a seamless and flowing production.

Charishnu, meaning the desire to move, is enriched by the deep professionalism and discipline of the artists. Their belief in the richness of their art forms brings alive on stage all of the versatility, colour, rhythm and grace of India's performing arts in a grand spectacle.

The soundscape and lighting play an important part in a varied presentation such as this, which uses both live, and pre-recorded sound. Sai Shravanam of Resound India Studios, Chennai, seamlessly brings different levels of the music together. Different lighting designers have worked on this production and on this occasion, Milind Srivastava's lighting enhances further the dramatic aspects of this presentation.

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### **Note to Editors:**

#### **About Kiran Nadar Museum of Art:**

Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) opened its doors to the public in January 2010. It is a pioneering private museum of Modern and Contemporary art in South Asia, with two spaces located in New Delhi and Noida. It is a not-for-profit institution with an extensive and creative engagement with exhibition-making, educational and public-focused programs, and publications. Through its rigorous and multiple programs, KNMA emphasises its commitment to institutional collaborations and support-networks for artists and creative communities, while extending its reach to diverse audiences. The Museum houses a growing collection of more than 10,000 artworks from South Asia, with a focus on the historical trajectories of 20th century Indian art, alongside the experimental practices of young contemporaries. KNMA was established through the initiative of art collector and philanthropist Kiran Nadar and is supported by the Shiv Nadar Foundation.

KNMA is geared to open its new stand alone museum building designed by Sir David Adjaye in the NCR in 2025.

[www.knma.in](http://www.knma.in)

#### **Upcoming exhibitions at the Museum:**

##### **At KNMA, Noida**

##### ***Sitaare Zameen Par***

**Photographs of Bombay Cinestars from the Golden Era**

**By JH Thakker**

**Preview: Monday, 6th February 2023**

Curated by Roobina Karode

**At KNMA, Saket**

***Pop South Asia: Artistic Explorations in the Popular***  
**Preview: Wednesday, 8th February 2023**

Curated by Iftikhar Dadi, artist and John H. Burris Professor at Cornell University, and Roobina Karode, Director and Chief Curator of KNMA.

**Leela Samson**



Leela Samson is an alumna of Kalakshetra. Her seemingly understated delineation conceals a powerful and inspired inner source, which gradually unfolds before the viewer. She is a virtuoso performer and a sensitive interpreter of the nuances of bharamtanatyam.

Two significant documentary films have been made on Leela Samson – ‘*Sanchari*’ by Arun Khopkar and ‘*The Flowering Tree*’ by Ein Lall.

Leela is the recipient of the Sanskriti Award in 1982, the Padma Shri in 1990, the Nritya Choodamani in 1997 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2000.

She served as Director of the Kalakshetra Foundation from 2005 to 2012 and was Chairperson of the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi as well as the Central Board of Film Certification.

Since her debut in 2015, she has acted in several films including Mani Ratnam’s *O Kadhal Kanmani*  
[www.leelasamsondance.com](http://www.leelasamsondance.com)