KANIKA PARWAL

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Arts educator, researcher and programme manager with 7+ years of experience across India and UK, specialising in curriculum research and development, facilitation, and community driven programming.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE | *MPhil in Education (Arts, Creativity and Education)* 2022 – 2023

- **Secured a Distinction with Note** & **Homerton College Master's Prize** for thesis proposing knots as a framework of knowledge making in artistic works across performance, visual and material practices.

ASHOKA UNIVERSITY | *Young India Fellowship (PG Diploma in Liberal Studies)* 2017 – 2018

- **Secured 3.55/4 CGPA; Awarded the** Rosy Blue Foundation Scholarship for partial tuition funding
- Interdisciplinary coursework in *Art Appreciation*; *Heritage Studies*; *History; Gender & Society*; *Innovation Design*; *Foundations of Leadership; Group Dynamics*, and *Critical Writing*

JESUS & MARY COLLEGE, DELHI UNIVERSITY | *Bachelor of Commerce (with Honors)* 2014 – 2017

- Secured First Division; Project Head, Enactus- Founded Project Dhara to tackle local waste management issues through community-run vermicomposting pits, training women from an urban slum to run and create sustainable income, supported by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

WORK EXPERIENCE

ANANT FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS | *Programme Associate* *March'26- Ongoing*

- Developing institutional programmes including the Anant Curatorial Forum (ACF'27), the JK Paper Awards, and new interdisciplinary initiatives across publications, residencies and public programmes.

SRISHTI MANIPAL INSTITUTE OF ART, DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY | *Visiting Faculty* Feb'26

- Taught a studio course titled *Body-as-Poetry* to 10 BFA students, exploring the body as a site of language, memory, and imagination through movement, writing, performance analysis, and theoretical inquiry. The course concluded with the students producing an 8-minute durational performance at a public site on campus, responding to it, the rhythms of it and their own individual and collective bodies as traversing it.

NAUGHTY (K)NOTS | *Lead Arts Educator & Workshop Facilitator* April'24 – Ongoing

- Designed and facilitated participatory workshops, proposing knots as a pedagogical framework for exploring movement, relationality and entanglement across artistic practices and knowledge making.
- Hosted 150+ participants across the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge Homerton College, Azim Premji University, Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art, Lagori Collective, etc.

ART EDUCATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AERI)| *Research & Program Assistant* June – Nov'24

- Co-curated AERI 2024 Symposium held at the University of Cambridge, hosting 120+ international scholars in arts education, featuring presentations, panel discussions, and book chats across 3 days.
- Liaised with the chairs, steering committee, presenters, attendees, vendors, and volunteers to manage end-to-end logistics for registration, programming, accommodation, F&B and hybrid setup.

BLUEBRIDGE EDUCATION SUMMER PROGRAMS | *Teaching Assistant* *(*July- Aug) 2024 & 2023

- Facilitated interdisciplinary modules on culture studies, language, leadership, entrepreneurship and critical thinking for 150+ international students visiting from Japan, China, India & USA at Cambridge.

INDIA ART FAIR'24 | *VIP Collectors- Program Assistant* Jan – Feb'24

- Led a team of 18 volunteers to manage high profile art events like gallery walk-throughs, auctions and networking sessions for national and international VIP patrons at the 15th IAF edition in Delhi.

SLAM OUT LOUD | *Curriculum Advisor (2022-23); Arts Facilitator (2021-22)* Sep'21 – July'23

- Reviewed and advised on SEL-integrated visual and performing arts curricula across three age groups on themes of gender, identity, climate change and social responsibility. Contributed insights to monthly advisory meetings with a global team of 12 researchers, artists, educators, and SOL alumni.
- Facilitated weekly virtual and radio-based arts workshops in 2021-22 for 30 children aged 10–15 years from low-income communities in Pune & Delhi, sustaining learning continuity post COVID-19.

9.9 EDUCATION | *Program Associate* June'19 – July'20

- Oversaw end-to-end programming and admin for the launch year of LSEF-UMass Scholarship, a dual international master's initiative between JK Lakshmipat University, India and UMass Amherst, USA.
- Managed outreach, coordinated interviews and application review for 200+ applicants, and liaised with both domestic and international faculty. Facilitated onboarding, course scheduling, student affairs, and wellbeing across in-person and hybrid learning models post the onset of COVID-19.

SERENDIPITY ARTS FOUNDATION | *Editorial Assistant* Aug'18 – Jan'19

- Developed print, digital, and radio content including guidebooks, website, social media campaigns and PR kits for Serendipity Arts Festival 2018, an 8-day festival in Goa, welcoming 400,000+ visitors.
- Edited concept notes for 93 projects across performing, visual & culinary arts, involving 1500+ artists.

ARTS-BASED RESEARCH & COMMUNITY PROJECTS

PROJECT EDU ACCESS | *Mentor* Nov'25- Ongoing

- Supporting access to international higher education for learners from marginalised communities in the Global South, through application mentoring, guidance and capacity building initiatives.

ENTANGLED EXPLORATIONS | *Artists' Collective Founder* Aug'24 – Ongoing

- Establishing an intra-disciplinary artists' collective in Delhi NCR bringing together practitioners across disciplines for experimental gatherings to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange, and co-creation.
- Shortlisted among top 6 of 150+ applicants for *Arts Platform'25* grant by India Foundation for the Arts.

DECOLONISE CAMBRIDGE MUSEUMS (DCM) | *Fitzwilliam Museum Co-Representative* Jan'23 – Jun'23

- Co-hosted a Spotify podcast episode offering an alternative, interactive walk-through of the South & East Asian galleries at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. Developed and facilitated an intuitive, visitor-friendly lens, focusing on accessibility, critical observation, and decolonial storytelling.

CAMBRIDGE VR/AR SOCIETY | *Member* Jan'23 – Jun'23

- Designed a jigsaw puzzle experiment on Unity to study the impact of unrestricted movement and piece spawning in how free-movement thinking can foster a critical approach to problem-solving.
- Participated in weekly learning and training sessions on Unity, developing skills in VR/AR technology.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING MODULE, ASHOKA UNIVERSITY | *Book Research Assistant* Sep'17 – June'18

- Co-designed arts-based activities for the book *A Trickster's Guide to Happy Living* (Rupa Publications, 2019) by Simran Bhui, aimed at fostering creative and critical thinking among children and young adults through prompts grounded in aesthetics and design thinking.

PUBLICATIONS

POSSIBILITIES STUDIES & SOCIETY| *Special Issue Book by Palgrave Macmillan* Upcoming (2026)

- Contributed a chapter to the special issue book- *Possibility Studies in Action: Creative and Inclusive Workshop Practices,* based on the *Naughty (K)nots* workshop facilitated at PSN'24, Cambridge, UK.

GRANTS, AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

- Global Forum Education Conference Grant, Azim Premji University, Bangalore - $350 2025
- Alumnus Artist-in-Residence, Homerton Changemakers Annual Residential, Cambridge 2024
- Homerton College Master's Prize, University of Cambridge 2024
- Homerton College Postgraduate Research & Training Grant, University of Cambridge - £300 2023
- Delegate, UNESCO World Heritage Volunteer Program, Champaner-Pavagadh, Gujarat 2018