

## APRIL JVF NEWSLETTER

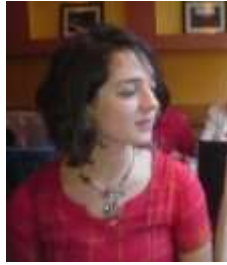
### New addition to JVF Office



#### Renu Bhagwat

Architect – Urban Planner by profession, she has experience of urban management. She has worked with urban local bodies of Rajasthan. Her other key specializations are Heritage conservation, Training and Capacity Building of ULBs, Urban Management, Municipal Finance, Budgeting and Accounting Reforms, Housing Design, Housing Finance, Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Educational Planning & Child Upliftment. She was a guest faculty in MNIT, Interior Design institutions in Jaipur.

Georgie has gone back to at which point she will be



the UK on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month and will be back on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August working with Divya on the Jodhpur Festival (October 2009)

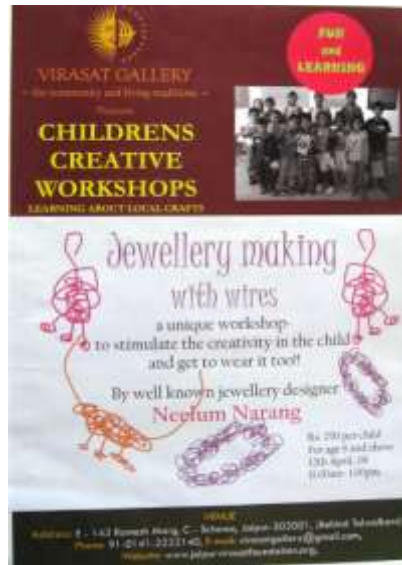
### WORKSHOPS

There were three very successful workshops/exhibitions conducted this month – all at full capacity.

### JEWELRY WORKSHOP

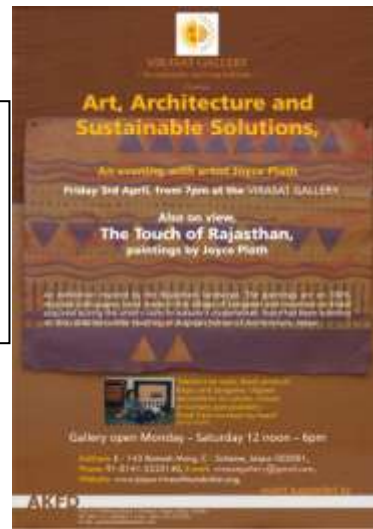


A very successful workshop conducted by a well known jewelry designer Neelum Narang





Block Printing Workshop sponsored by Anokhi the design director from Anokhi – Rachel Singh was present to conduct this.



An exhibition, talk and photo exhibition by Joyce Plath

### TRIP TO BALOTRA AND BARMER

BALOTRA – the organisation that JVF works with in Balotra for almost 7 years now were embarking on a new venture. The community of Malis have an annual get together at this time of year and go through various ceremonies through which they decide when and how good the rainfall is likely to be and which month it would start. Doongerji decided to include the Ger dancing as part of this function, since everybody in the community was going to be present. We found the whole ceremony fascinating. The organisation has been holding an annual Ger festival for years and the area that they hired was running small in space – this year they decided to buy land where apart from their annual Ger festival – they would have a craft bazaar. We were taken to the land and shown the plans that they had drawn up. JVF should and will provide them with some good ideas on the use of this – their present plans are really quite ordinary and dull and like any other place dotted around Rajasthan – a Govt like building totally incongruous...



BARMER – We had asked some of the people we knew (Gaffoor Khan ) in this area to gather together musicians who lived close by – in particular artists that we have not seen before. About 50-60 artists came – some uninvited that got to know we were coming! Most of them knew who we were, which made it easier to communicate.

We got there around 10am and we did not leave till 6pm – non stop music. It was an incredible experience and we got to meet so many wonderful and talented artists with different backgrounds and genre of music. 12 Dhol drummers!! We had no idea that there were that many in Rajasthan leave alone one area. A volunteer from Canada working in this area joined us – having heard the sound of drums !! This is the first time that I have run out of battery power – both the ones I had ran out and eventually I had to take movies on my still camera!!

Manganiyars, Kalbelias, Bhopas, Meghwals and a few others



Male *Bhopi* dancer

Devotional singer



Nad player

Algoza player

Male Bhopi



Meghwal  
Devotional song  
singer

Kalbelia community



The countryside

JAITARAN – We stopped at the home of Sumitra and Baba Sajjan Das – this was to be an extremely brief 5-10 minute halt – it seemed improper to be passing through their town and not calling on them. Sumitra decided that she had to sing for us – and she sang the most amazing blues I have heard her sing – she is going through a very rough time with the family and wanted very much to sing her pain – we were totally spellbound, having never heard her sing with such emotion.



Sajjan Das



Sumitra

**Visit of Ms. Jaime Grosse** – a freelance journalist working on an article with New York Times Style magazine (the article will come out in mid May). She was taken to various parts of the city and met with some of the leading people in the field of craft and design etc

- Anokhi Museum - Focus Textiles and Art: Opening and Inauguration of prestigious contemporary art exhibit (artist sculptor *Suhasini Kejriwal* – curated by *Dr Alka Pande* of Habitat Gallery New Delhi) in the Anokhi Museum courtyard space
- To Amber with (*Rima Hooja* our Trustee and famed historian.
- She met *S. Ahmed*, Principal Secty Government for Art & Culture & Heritage and a passionate historian, key site visits where he has supervised restoration of the historic environment and is working towards State wise protection and legislation (Govt and PPP initiatives) WMF Amber Bihari Ji Temple project, Old Town Hall to become Jaipur Museum, restoring Amber Fort, Ghat ki Guni
- Visit to Raj Kanwar for Wonderful Workshops - Mud resist textile printing
- She met Babu Khan possibly the most famous kite maker with *Vinod Joshi* (social anthropologist and JVF Community Director
- Her trip included meeting Mr Munnu Kasliwal of Gem Palace
- Meeting Shikha Jain national conservation architect working with the Govt on several restoration projects in the City.
- Timmie Kumar of Clarks Hotel and a leading promoter of cultural activities in Jaipur.
- A walk through the walled city for a JVF Heritage Walk with *Vinod Joshi* (and Aurore for Cultural Mapping project) *Walled City Face to Face* to see the local culture and metal crafts (*Ayush & the thaterans artisans he works with*) in process.
- Met one of the JVF City Fathers – Dr Kalanath Shastri – repository of traditional knowledge, renowned vedic and Sanskrit authority.
- Amrapali silver and other forms of local jewellery revival

FAITH & DIVYA have been working very hard with the Govt of Rajasthan and India and several departments in both to get the concept of Vikas and Virasat adopted by the Govt. If it comes through it will be truly groundbreaking