

Bangalore International Centre – Lecture Series

Report on the Lecture by Dr. Sangeetha Menon

Date: Friday, 29th July 2016,

Venue: Bangalore International Centre

The Arts, the Artist and Consciousness

“The eye sees only what the mind is prepared to comprehend” - Henri Bergson

When we look at beautiful works of art, listen to music, read poetry or watch movies, there are messages being communicated to us. If we feel a strong emotional response, a sense of connection, love, fear or aversion, it means our consciousness has been affected in some way, our hearts and minds have been influenced.

Experiences with cultural creations (media, education systems and the arts) have a direct impact upon our consciousness, they have the power to shape the way we think and feel. They help us construct our value systems, priorities and beliefs about life. They “educate” and inspire us, tell us who we are, what is important, what to enjoy and prioritize, what to pay attention to and what to ignore.

We participate in the life of a Creative Universe, surrounded by masterpieces of rivers, stars, children and flowers. All of us are both works of art *and* artists by nature. The great poetry, music and painting of masters down through time have tried to communicate that to us.

Dr. Sengeetha Menon threw a great deal of light on the Binaries such as subject-object, brain-mind, me-other are central to understanding consciousness in the context of interdisciplinary discussions that pose exciting questions about what is the nature of experience itself. One of the central puzzles in consciousness studies is how does discrete neural information bind together to give rise to the seamless “I” experience.

During the lecture Dr. Menon also attempted to present examples from instances of the Indian arts and argue that the concepts of space and movement play a central role in creating aesthetic experience for the spectator, and transcendence for the Artist. The aesthetic process in its wholesomeness transforms our split cognitions and points to a unitary experience where the subject-object binary melts into one *rasa* experience.





