



Heart of Matter is a series of reflective conversations that dwell on holistic living, wellness, history, philosophy, literature, art and culture. Presented by InKo Centre as quarterly editions, in association with partner organisations, these direct and inspirational conversations will focus on lived experience rather than theoretical abstractions.

We invite you to explore what lies at the heart of matter, what matters most and why.

India and Korea: A Conversation by Dr. Yoondho Ra

Dr. Yoondho Ra, Emeritus Professor of Konyang University in Daejeon, South Korea, who is a journalist and pedagogue with a special interest in Indo-Korean history will be in Chennai for an informed yet informal conversation on Indo-Korean relations. Dr Ra's interaction with the Chennai audience will be in two parts. He will begin by sharing his experiences as a journalist and historian. This will be followed by a conversation with visual artist/writer, Parvathi Nayar and performance maker/storyteller, Nayantara Nayar. These two Chennai-based artists are in the process of researching a performance+art project supported by InKo Centre, titled *Limits of Change*, based on the historical fact of Indian soldiers sent to Korea with the Indian Custodial Force in 1953, as a part of the United Nation Peace Keeping Forces, after the Korean War. The two artists have met Dr Ra, a rare specialist on this long overlooked episode of Indo-Korean history, and have been in correspondence with him over the past few months. The trio will share some of their preliminary conversations.

About the discussants:

Dr Yoondho Ra

Dr. Yoondho Ra, Emeritus Professor of Konyang University in Daejeon, South Korea, is a journalist and pedagogue with a special interest in Indo-Korean history. After a 20-year career in Journalism Dr Ra joined Konyang University as a professor in the Department of Military Studies. His major was International Relations, specially the conflicts between India and Pakistan. This spring he retired after 20 years as sitting professor to become emeritus professor - and is currently on a year-long engagement in India as visiting scholar at the Rajagiri College of Social Science in Cochin.

Nayantara Nayar: Nayantara Nayar is a performance maker, researcher and storyteller based out of Chennai. She has a back ground in theatre and education, documentary film making and sociology. Her practice looks at how to use performance and storytelling to explore larger historical time periods and socio-political issues from deeply personal perspectives. Nayantara also writes scripts. Her most recent works

have included *The Lottery*, long-listed for the Hindu Play Writing Award 2018, and *Amma, what is black pepper in Malayalam?* produced and performed for the University of Kent, UK. She currently works for Storytrails Chennai as a research associate and writer.

Parvathi Nayar: Chennai-based contemporary visual artist Parvathi Nayar is known for her multidisciplinary art, centred on complex drawing practices, video, installations and photography. Her black-and-white graphite drawings are multifaceted works that look at the internal/intimate spaces within our bodies, and the external/public spaces in which we live, often through the prism of science. Parvathi's art talks about different engagements with our environment, and the philosophies of inhabiting them. Among the venues, she presented an installation of drawings and sound titled *The Fluidity of Horizons* at the Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2014/15; she pioneered the form of "drawn sculpture" as in the seminal 20-foot high drawing *A Story of Flight* at the T2 Terminal, Mumbai international airport. For further information, visit www.parvathinayar.com

7 pm, Wednesday, 27 November 2019 at InKo Centre.