‘Spirit Of India- throught Arts’
Exhibition of Artists with Indian connections
and Champaign county Indian community kids.
Artists’ info

Mohan Kaur Tracy has a B.A. in History from the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur and M.A., also in History, from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.
She was born to a Sikh family in Malaysia. Her grandfather migrated to Malaysia after World War I from Gujranwala in Punjab.
In 1967, she married David Tracy, a Peace Corps volunteer, and moved to the United States.
She has worked as a school teacher in Malaysia and England. She closed her travel agency in Connecticut about 5 years ago and moved to Champaign to be closer to her granddaughters.
Mohan’s love for craft started in the 1950s when her mother taught her how to sew on a Singer treadle sewing machine.
Over the years, she adopted several hobbies like- embroidery, knitting, stained glasswork, pottery, jewelry making, scrapbooking, woodworking and welding but after moving to Champaign, she discovered most the joy of fabric art quilting. She also enjoys reading, hiking and gardening.
This show includes her Shisha embroidery. Shisha (meaning glass, mirror) work is a traditional Indian embroidery technique which attaches various mirror sizes to fabric using a variety of embroidery stitches. These displays reflect her passion for working with fabric.
Combining traditional and contemporary techniques and emphasizing personal input, she finds the versatility of fabric design amazing in its ability to portray all aspects of human life, color and design in myriad ways.

Rashmi Kapoor was born and raised in India. She earned a master’s degree in Biology.
After her marriage, she moved to United States of America in 1980.
For the past 20 years she has been actively involved in promoting Indian culture by way of teaching Hindi, the National language of India, to kids residing in Champaign county.
She has served as President of Indian Cultural Society of Urbana-Champaign. During this time, she has encouraged members to carry on the rich teachings of Indian philosophy by being an example. She has volunteered generously at the Hindu Cultural Society, Champaign, IL.
For the past few years she has been pursuing a Fine Arts degree at Parkland College and has also participated in Champaign Park District’s ceramic program.
Her current visual work involves photography and painting in various media. She has shown her works in Parkland College Student Exhibition, Springer Cultural Center and Asian American Cultural Center at the University of Illinois.
She resides in Champaign and continues to guide her peers and students to strengthen their cultural roots.
Neeta Bobdey sums up her life purpose in her first name-

N- Natural,
E- Eco-friendly
E- Earning
T- Tact's through
A- Arts.

Mrs. Neeta completed her Bachelor’s degree in Chemistry from Pune university. After education, she was interested in taking up a job which was discouraged by her family. But this did not stop her. She turned her love for Nature and new found Creative inclination into philanthropic activities in her region.

She is an Artistic Innovator finding ways to transform Plant waste into Jewelery, Artifacts, Functional arts etc. These r sold through her Non-profit, ‘Nisarg’ at Khamgaon. Its motto is to help strengthen economic growth of farmers with low income while raising awareness about decreasing pollution. She has exhibited at several places throughout Maharashtra, India. She is recipient of Awards like- Manav Seva Award, Ahilyabai Holkar Award, Patrakar mitra Award from her state.

Mrs Neeta likes Travelling, Poetry, Cooking, apart from her art activities.
She can be reached on- Phone- +919422882555, email- nita.bobdey@gmail.com

Sucheta Thakur:

Born in Thane, India, Mrs Sucheta Thakur got her G.D. Art and ‘Masters in Art’ from Mumbai University. She combined her passion for teaching kids and excellence in art to work as Drawing Teacher for over 35 years with the Mumbai Municipal Corporation schools that make grade I to VII education accessible to children from lower income groups.

As an Art teacher, her emphasis has been on developing creativity in child rather then just teaching how to draw. Over the years her students have been awarded prizes on district, state, national level and some nominated for international level competitions. Many of her students have successfully graduated in fields like Commercial arts, Architecture, Engineering, Photography. As a good Teacher she has let her students’ success define her.

She is still active in organizing art events and providing guidance to numerous students. She also enjoys travelling around the world and teaching art to her 7 year grand-daughter.
Pushpa Sharma was born in Bihar, India. She did her schooling in village of Bihar and in Kolkata city. She was mainly raised in Saharan, Madhubani region where ladies typically make this Art and so is named after this region.

Madhubani paintings are made with all natural products from paper to brushes to colors are all local products found in that region. Colors are derived from flowers/ leaf juice and from powder of grounded stones, etc.

Mrs Pushpa was surrounded by creative arts since her childhood. She was also introduced to stitching fabrics in different ways in her early years.

She has been making Madhubani art since many years and gifting it to friends and family never yearning to make money out of it. Apart from her traditional art, she has explored into different natural mediums and created her own modern designs in wooden furniture, metal arts, fabric doll making etc.

She is Artistically active even when she visits her family in Champaign by sharing her art with family and community around.