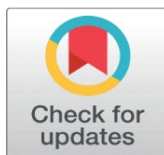
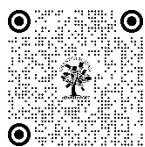


BRIDGING CULTURES AND CREATIVE PRACTICES: THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION OF ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMS IN THE INDIAN CONTEXT

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DOI

[10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.i1.2024.3691](https://doi.org/10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.i1.2024.3691)

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Funding: This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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ABSTRACT

Artist-in-residence exchange programs are essential for linking local art practices with the global community. They serve as a bridge between various cultures, disciplines, and geographies. These programs provide artists with dedicated time, space, and resources to immerse themselves in new cultural environments, promoting creative growth and professional development. Artist residencies allow participants to experiment with new techniques, materials, and ideas through cultural exchanges and interdisciplinary collaborations. Additionally, they help forge meaningful connections with other creatives and local communities. These programs foster cultural diversity, promote mutual understanding, and allow artists to explore and connect with global art trends. Organizations such as Khoj International Artists Association, Sanskriti Foundation, Pro Helvetia, Craft Village, Garhi Artists' Studios, and Kriti Gallery exemplify the transformative power of these residencies, offering platforms for experimentation, exploration, and community engagement. This paper examines the emergence and contribution of artist-in-residence programs in the Indian context while exploring the multifaceted benefits these programs offer to individual practitioners and their host communities. It discusses how these programs cultivate cultural immersion, skill acquisition, and career growth for artists while contributing to the evolution of contemporary art on a global scale. The paper further highlights how these residencies nurture an environment for artistic exchange, collaboration, and innovation, underscoring their significance in fostering a vibrant and interconnected global art ecosystem.

Keywords: Artist-in-Residence Programs, Cultural Exchange, Artistic Development, Collaboration, Community Engagement, Globalization



1. INTRODUCTION

In the rapidly evolving global art ecosystem, artist residencies are positioned as essential for contemporary art practice, providing artists with opportunities to create in unique environments. Artist residencies are evolving into spaces that allow artists to escape their routines and explore new creative areas, reflecting a shift towards mobility and hybrid identities in the globalized world. These platforms are essential for fostering creativity, cultural dialogue, and international collaboration. They offer unique opportunities for artists to transcend geographical and cultural boundaries, immerse themselves in diverse environments, and enhance their artistic practices. Artist residencies empower artists to experiment with new materials, techniques, and ideas while building connections with global art communities by offering dedicated time, space, and resources. These programs provide accommodation, mentorship, production support, and presentation facilities. Artist-in-residence (AIR) programs connect artists with intellectual

peers, curators, and other creative individuals. During their stay, artists hold exhibitions, engage in dialogues, and participate in artistic exchanges with fellow artists and local communities. Residencies encourage collaboration among artists from diverse backgrounds, leading to exciting artistic exchanges and dialogues.

Artist-in-residence programs are organized by a diverse range of entities, each driven by specific goals, resources, and areas of focus. These include cultural and art organizations such as non-profits dedicated to supporting artists and fostering creativity, exemplified by Khoj International Artists' Association and Serendipity Arts Foundation. Government institutions, including art councils, ministries of culture, and national bodies like the Lalit Kala Akademi, also play a pivotal role in nurturing artistic talent through residencies. Artist-run spaces and alternative art platforms often host residencies to facilitate collaboration and innovation. Private institutions, galleries, and museums frequently collaborate to organize such programs. On a larger scale, international art exhibitions, fairs, and biennales incorporate artist residencies as part of their programming. In the contemporary context, many artist residency programs rely on grants and sponsorships, with foreign cultural institutions, embassies, and patrons playing a significant role in funding and organizing these initiatives on a broader scale.

The structure of artist-in-residence programs varies widely, from short-term workshops to long-term residencies, site-specific residencies, and community engagement residencies, encompassing government initiatives, non-profit ventures, and private organizations. Despite these differences, the underlying goal remains consistent: facilitating artistic growth and cultural exchange. These programs play an instrumental role in promoting cross-cultural understanding by enabling artists to share their perspectives and narratives with new audiences. For example, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Artist-in-Residence Program under the Ministry of External Affairs highlights India's commitment to global cultural dialogue. Established in 1976, Garhi Artist's Studio, a key initiative of the Lalit Kala Akademi, provides artists with well-equipped, dedicated studio spaces. While it does not function as a traditional artist-in-residence program, it shares similar traits and occasionally serves as a residency for selected international artists. Programs by organizations such as Khoj International Artists Association, Sanskriti Foundation, Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art, Serendipity Arts Foundation, India Art Fair, Piramal Art Residency, Space 118, Craft Village, NIV Art Centre, Start India Foundation, Pepper House Residency, ONKAF Gallery, and Kala Sakshi Memorial Trust exemplify the diversity and inclusivity of such initiatives. These programs accommodate artists from various disciplines and cultural backgrounds, preserving and promoting traditional art forms while supporting emerging and contemporary artists in exploring innovative practices. By bridging local traditions with global artistic trends, these initiatives significantly contribute to the growth of individual artists and the broader creative community.

Government-backed initiatives, such as The President's House (Rashtrapati Bhavan) Artist-in-Residence Program, are distinctive in India, offering artists, writers, and scholars the opportunity to stay and work at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official residence of the President of India. Select participants create works inspired by the heritage and ethos of Rashtrapati Bhavan, with their outcomes often showcased through public exhibitions, lectures, or workshops, engaging a wider audience. Another notable initiative, the Scheme for Promotion of Culture and Artistic Creation by the Ministry of Culture, underscores the growing recognition of artist-in-residence programs as vital instruments of cultural diplomacy. These efforts enable Indian artists to showcase their work internationally, gain exposure to diverse artistic methodologies, and connect with global networks. Similarly, foreign artists participating in Indian residencies experience immersive interactions with the country's rich cultural heritage, often leading to groundbreaking collaborative projects that merge traditional and contemporary art practices. The significance of these programs extends beyond individual artistic growth; they actively shape a more inclusive and interconnected global art community. By fostering collaboration, breaking cultural barriers, and promoting mutual understanding, artist-in-residence programs create a dynamic space for experimentation and innovation. As a result, they have become indispensable in cultivating cultural diversity and fostering creative connections in a globalized world.

Over the past two decades, the increase in artist residencies has led to diverse forms and practices, emphasizing social engagement and community interaction. Artist residencies play a crucial role in the contemporary art scene by connecting local artists with global networks and providing resources for artistic development. This paper examines the multifaceted impact of artist-in-residence programs, focusing on their role in supporting cultural exchange, skill acquisition, and professional development. Through an analysis of the transformative experiences of artists and the broader socio-cultural implications of these residencies, the study explores how such programs contribute to the growth of the global art ecosystem. Examples from leading Indian and international residency programs will illustrate their significance in nurturing an inclusive and vibrant cultural dialogue across borders.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study explores the importance and impact of artist-in-residence exchange programs in connecting local artists with the global art world. These programs offer artists a chance to engage in cultural exchange, collaborate with others, and develop their skills professionally. The study will look at how these programs help link local art practices to global art communities, encourage collaboration across different cultures and disciplines, and allow artists to experiment with new materials and techniques. It will also examine how these programs contribute to cultural diversity, foster mutual understanding, and support the growth of contemporary art. Internationally, renowned authors have conducted numerous scholarly studies on artist-in-residence programs. Significant information is also available on platforms such as TransArtists, ResArtis, Residency Unlimited, and the Alliance of Artists Communities, which discuss artist residencies globally. However, there is a noticeable lack of research focusing specifically on artist residencies in India. This study addresses this gap by highlighting the significant role of artist residencies within the Indian art ecosystem.

1. THE GLOBAL EVOLUTION OF ARTIST RESIDENCIES

The concept of artist residencies has deep roots in Western culture, evolving from the Renaissance period when patrons supported artists to develop their craft. Historical examples include the Academy of Arts and Design establishment in Florence and the Prix de Rome, which allowed artists to study and create in significant cultural locations ([Trans Artists., 2012](#)). The contemporary concept of artist colonies emerged in the early 19th century in Europe and America alongside Romanticism, where artists sought to escape societal constraints and immerse themselves in nature ([Wiseman & Acocella, 2007](#); [Kenins, 2013](#); [Berthoin Antal, 2015](#); [Andriotis & Paraskevaidis, 2022](#)). Early artist colonies were established as utopias and the MacDowell Colony (1908) is a prominent example of an artist-in-residence program, that allowed artists to focus on experiencing natural beauty and creative production ([Goler, 2005](#)). ([Lübbren, 2001](#)) discusses the establishment of various artists' colonies, which served as informal artist residencies where artists gathered to create and exchange ideas. The colonies attracted artists from numerous nationalities, fostering a multicultural environment. Lübbren further highlights that many artists returned to these colonies year after year, indicating that these environments contributed to their artistic development.

The concept of artist residencies has evolved since the 1990s, transitioning from informal grassroots opportunities to more structured programs ([Taylor, 2022b](#)). The evolution of these programs reflects a shift from traditional workshops to more structured residency models that support artistic mobility and collaboration ([Gardner, 2013](#); [Berthoin Antal, 2015](#)) and community-engaged practices reflect a broader social turn in contemporary art ([La Rosa, 2017](#)) that values process and interaction over individualism, tracing back to avant-garde movements such as Futurism and Dada ([Hewlett, 2007](#)). ([Lithgow & Wall, 2018](#)) emphasizes that artist residencies have evolved as a response to the changing dynamics of support for arts and culture, particularly in neoliberal retreats by state/public agencies.

International residencies today focus less on supporting the solitary practice of artists and more on fostering collective artistic responses to the global challenges of our time ([Trans Artists., 2012](#); [Eernstman, et al., 2021](#)). Residencies encourage artistic exchange by placing artists in new cultural contexts, fostering relationships between artists and the local community, and promoting collaborative projects ([Badham, n.d.](#)). Artist residencies now serve as vital spaces for experimentation and risk-taking, particularly for collectives that address significant social issues through their work. The environment provided by residencies is conducive to alternative models of social interaction and creative practices ([Hewlett, 2007](#); [Gardner, 2013](#)). This historical context highlights the evolution of artist residencies as a form of cultural mobility and exchange.

2. THE EMERGENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF ARTIST RESIDENCIES IN INDIA

Around 80 to 85 artist residency spaces have emerged across India, supporting various artistic practices and disciplines, from visual and performing arts to new media and design. Historically, residencies were initiated by artists for artists, focusing on creation, exchange, and training; alternatively, contemporary residencies are often organized by private patrons with varying motivations ([Kakkar, 2011](#)). Indian art has a rich history from ancient to contemporary periods, with significant influences from various cultures and religions. The transition from traditional forms to modern expressions reflects broader socio-political changes and the impact of colonialism ([Pandya Dhar, 2011](#)). Understanding the emergence of artist residencies and similar spaces necessitates exploring the ongoing evolution and development of Indian art. The late 19th and early 20th centuries marked an evolutionary period in Indian art, as traditional values clashed with modern influences under British colonial rule. This period saw the emergence of a new class of educated, westernized Indians who

were often alienated from traditional Indian society. Western techniques and styles introduced in art schools popularized Naturalism, heavily influenced by artists like Raja Ravi Varma. This style emerged as a dominant form, blending indigenous themes with Western artistic practices (Parimoo, 2009). During this time, Shantiniketan emerged as a center for the revivalist movement, where artists celebrated Indian heritage, folklore, and spirituality, sparking a renaissance in Indian art forms (Parimoo, 2009). Shantiniketan served as an artist residency for both Indian and international artists, providing a nurturing environment for artistic development. Many international artists were influenced by the artistic environment created by Rabindranath Tagore and his followers. The presence of international artists and scholars at Shantiniketan contributed to a global exchange of ideas. This interaction influenced the local art scene and allowed Indian artists to gain exposure to global trends and practices. The Bengal School, led by artists like Abanindranath Tagore, played a vital role in reviving Indian art during the colonial period and laid the groundwork for a nationalistic approach to art. It emphasized indigenous themes, techniques, and materials, breaking away from Western academic styles.

Exhibitions of Western artists, such as the Bauhaus exhibition in Calcutta in 1922, sparked the introduction of modernist art in India. This marked the start of an avant-garde movement that used artistic expression to resist colonial rule. The 1920s and 1930s witnessed the rise of primitivism as a response to global modernism (Mitter, 2007). Indian artists began to explore indigenous styles and themes, often contrasting them with Western academic traditions (Kapur, 2020). This period also witnessed a shift from naturalism to more abstract and expressive art forms. Artists began seeking alternative spaces to exhibit their work, moving away from traditional galleries and institutions. This included artist-run spaces that fostered community and collaboration, encouraging more experimental and avant-garde practices.

After independence in 1947, various artist groups and collectives began to form, reflecting diverse artistic practices and ideologies. These groups provided a platform for collaboration and experimentation, allowing artists to explore new themes and techniques in a post-colonial context. The Progressive Artists' Group (PAG), founded in Mumbai in 1947 by F.N. Souza, M.F. Husain, and others, spearheaded modernist experimentation in Indian art. They rejected colonial academic styles and embraced global influences, incorporating Indian themes into modern techniques (Clark, 2010; Kapur, 2020). Institutions like the National Gallery of Modern Art and the Lalit Kala Akademi supported artists, helping legitimize and promote modern Indian art on national and international stages (Kapur, 2020).

In this period, the mobility of artists became increasingly significant, with many travelling abroad to study and engage with international art movements. This cross-pollination enriched the Indian art scene, allowing for diverse interpretations of modernism and the incorporation of various cultural influences (Mitter, 2007). The mobility of people, money, or assets is one of the most influential facets of the globalized world and the driving force behind its systems. (D'Andrea, 2006) insist that mobility and the search for alternative lifestyles can enhance creative practices, as artists often seek new experiences and environments to inspire their work. Increased mobility of Indian artists facilitated cross-cultural exchanges and collaborations, allowing artists to travel, exhibit, and participate in global dialogues. Exposure to global trends influenced their work, enriching it with diverse perspectives. The globalization of art led to greater exposure to international trends and movements, which has profoundly impacted Indian art, blending local and global narratives. Artists increasingly address universal themes while staying connected to their cultural identities, creating a unique fusion that reflects local and global contexts. This interaction often resulted in a hybridization of styles and themes (Kapur, 2020). The rise of alternative spaces, non-profit organizations, and artist-run initiatives played a crucial role in supporting contemporary art practices. It provided platforms for experimentation and dialogue outside traditional galleries and institutions. These spaces often prioritize inclusivity and experimentation, allowing diverse voices and practices to flourish outside mainstream galleries and institutions. These spaces offered alternative paths for artists seeking to challenge conventions and pursue their work in a supportive community. These entities provided funding, resources, and exhibition opportunities, helping to promote a diverse range of artistic expressions and facilitating dialogue within the art community. These grassroots movements allowed artists to take control of their own narratives and spaces, creating platforms for alternative art practices and fostering a sense of authority within the artistic community. Such initiatives often focused on social issues, community engagement, and experimental art forms. Many artists have established their own spaces to exhibit their work and collaborate with others. These artist-run initiatives encourage self-organization and provide opportunities for dialogue and experimentation outside the commercial gallery system.

In the second half of the 20th century, prominent alternative art spaces such as studios, artist-run initiatives, collectives, camps and artist villages emerged across India. Initially providing studio spaces for artists, many gradually introduced and adapted traditional residency models. Notable examples include the Bhulabhai Desai Memorial Institute, Mumbai (1946), Sarabhai Foundation (1959), Chola Mandal Artists' Village (1966), Vision Exchange Workshop (VIEW) (1969), Garhi Artists' Studios under Lalit Kala Akademi (1976), Kasauli Art Centre (1976), Sanskriti Foundation (1978), The

Collective Studio Baroda (1984), Kanoria Centre for Arts (1984), Khoj International Artists' Association (1997), Kashi Art Residency (1997), CHHAAP (1999), and SITE (1999). These spaces provided a haven for creative exploration and experimentation, hosting numerous renowned Indian and international artists.

The late 20th century saw a rise in contemporary art practices, with artists experimenting with various media, including installation, performance, and digital art. Artists are increasingly exploring themes of identity, gender, and social issues, often challenging traditional narratives and aesthetics (Clark, 2010; Pandya Dhar, 2011; Kapur, 2020). Collaborations and partnerships with global art institutions have become more common, leading to greater visibility for Indian artists on the international stage.

The early 21st century witnessed a rapid proliferation of similar initiatives, with new spaces emerging simultaneously, many of which adopted pure residency models. These include Bar1 (2001), Sandarbh (2003), 1ShantiRoad (2003), Uttarayan Foundation (2005), Space Studios (2006), Kriti Gallery (2006), Periferry (2007), NIV Art Centre (2008), SPACE 118 (2009), Jaaga (2009), SSVAD (2010), LAMO (2010), Basu Foundation for the Arts (2011), CONA (2012), Utsha Foundation (2012), Pepper House (2013), Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art (2014), St+art India Foundation (2014), Studio Goppo (2015), Craft Village (2015), TIFA Working Studios (2015), URU Art Harbour (2016), Piramal Art Residency (2016), Clark House Initiative (2016), and Serendipity Arts Foundation (2016), among many others. These platforms have played an integral role in fostering creativity, experimentation, and collaboration, significantly contributing to the dynamic evolution of the Indian art ecosystem.

In the contemporary scenario, many organizations, such as Khoj International Artists' Association, Sanskriti Foundation, Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art, Serendipity Arts Foundation, and Start India Foundation, continue to evolve and energize the Indian art landscape actively.

3. CONTRIBUTION OF ARTIST RESIDENCIES TO ARTISTIC ECOSYSTEMS

Artist residencies play a vital role in nurturing creativity, fostering collaboration, and enhancing the cultural fabric of communities. They act as incubators for innovation, enabling artists to focus on their work without external distractions. Their contributions to the arts ecosystem are multifaceted, impacting artists, audiences, and the broader society. Residencies often provide opportunities for emerging artists to gain visibility and recognition. By supporting new talent, residencies help to sustain the arts ecosystem and ensure its continued evolution. Many artist residencies focus on documenting the artistic process and outcomes, contributing to the historical record of contemporary art practices. This documentation can serve as a valuable resource for future artists and researchers. By experimenting with different residency models and funding structures, residencies can explore sustainable practices that benefit artists and communities. This innovation is essential for the long-term health of the arts ecosystem. Figure 1 provides a visual representation of the contributions of artist residency programs to the art ecosystem.

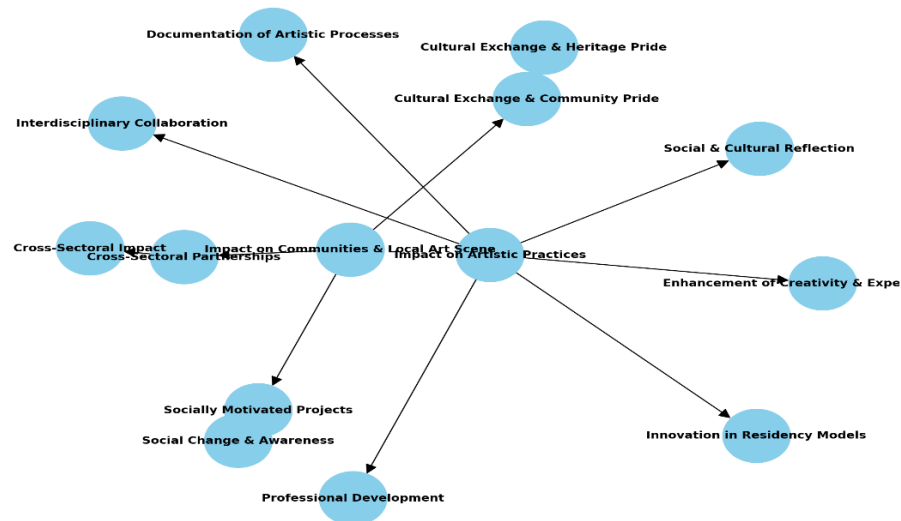


Figure 1: Contribution of Artist Residencies to Artistic Ecosystems

- a) **IMPACT ON ARTISTIC PRACTICES** : Residencies are seen as opportunities for artistic growth, offering resources, mentorship, open talk, and a supportive environment that encourages experimentation and the

development of new ideas (Badham, 2009; Arroyo, 2019; Pinto, et al., 2020). Residencies encourage innovative creative practices by giving artists the time and space to experiment and develop new ideas. They often focus on specific themes or disciplines, allowing for concentrated exploration of artistic concepts. They are crucial for artistic growth, allowing artists to develop their skills, receive feedback, and engage with new audiences. Artists often collaborate with non-artist professionals, enhancing the interdisciplinary nature of their projects (Hewlett, 2007; Trans Artists., 2012). The supportive environment of residencies often leads to significant advancements in an artist's practice. By participating in such programs artist gained visibility and recognition, they experienced significant growth during their time in the residencies, as they navigated new environments and challenges, which enriched their artistic repertoire (Berthoin Antal, 2015). (Ernstman, et al., 2021) emphasized the role of creative practices in these residencies, which allow participants to explore uncomfortable subjects through art-making, leading to meaningful dialogue and reflection.

Institutions have formalized artist residencies to enhance artists' profiles and working conditions while advancing their goals through social engagement and education. Participating in artist-in-residence programs is seen as a significant step in an artist's career, providing opportunities for personal and professional growth (Trans Artists., 2012) Today, residencies play a crucial role in the careers of both artists and curators, serving as a key factor for professional development, expanding networks, and fostering cultural mobility across countries (La Rosa, 2017).

- b) **IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL ART SCENE :** Artists are increasingly called upon to engage in diverse social contexts, often stepping in where politicians and social workers have fallen short. Artist residencies serve as modern solutions for artists to engage with local populations, addressing cultural content, education, and community-specific issues through their work. Many residencies now focus on socially and politically motivated projects, encouraging artists to develop site-responsive works that engage with local community members (Badham, n.d.). Residencies often involve cross-sectoral partnerships, where artists collaborate with various stakeholders, including health, justice, and international development sectors, to address local issues. To negotiate this engagement, residencies often encourage artists to work with local materials and engage with their surroundings (Kenins, 2013; Pinto, et al., 2020). This engagement enhances the social impact of art and fosters a sense of belonging (Arroyo, 2019). Such residency programs have become platforms for questioning and exploring various societal issues through art (Lazić, 2017), leading to social change, increased cultural awareness, and stronger community ties.

The engagement of artist collectives with local communities highlights the role of residencies in promoting cultural exchange. This engagement fosters a sense of ownership and pride in cultural heritage, leading to sustainable community development.

4. BRIDGING CULTURES THROUGH ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMS

The arts serve as a means of cultural diplomacy, fostering understanding and cooperation among diverse communities through shared artistic experiences (Arroyo, 2019). Artist residencies are increasingly recognized for their role in cultural diplomacy, promoting intercultural understanding and engagement through artistic exchange (Kakkar, 2011; Kenins, 2013; Pinto, et al., 2020). Artist residencies contribute to a global artistic dialogue by connecting artists from various countries and cultures. This dialogue is essential for addressing global issues through art and fostering international relationships. They act as bridges for cultural exchange, enabling artists to learn from and contribute to the local art scene. Residencies have evolved significantly, allowing artists to engage in various forms of artistic production and community interaction. Residencies provide artists with mobility and essential working conditions within a set timeframe (D'Andrea, 2006; Lazić, 2017). Indian artists have increasingly participated in international residencies, exhibitions, and biennales, enhancing their visibility and allowing for cross-cultural exchanges. The mobility of artists has facilitated the sharing of ideas and practices, leading to a more interconnected global art scene.

5. ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Artist residencies facilitate cultural exchange by bringing together diverse artists and communities, allowing for sharing ideas, techniques, and cultural practices, creating a 'glocal' academy environment where experiences and practices are

shared. This exchange enriches the artistic expertise and broadens the impact of art (Kakkar, 2011; Trans Artists., 2012; Berthoin Antal, 2015; La Rosa, 2015; Lazić, 2017; Arroyo, 2019; Pinto, et al., 2020; Earnstman, et al., 2021; Andriotis & Paraskevaidis, 2022). Many artist residency programs facilitate reciprocal exchanges, where artists from different countries participate in residencies in each other's countries, fostering international collaboration and understanding (Gardner, 2013; Murata, 2016), often producing new works and knowledge (La Rosa, 2015). Effective residency programs create structured plans for local and international artists to engage with each other, fostering community relationships and collaboration.

Residencies facilitate artistic exchange by connecting artists with local communities and other artists, fostering collaboration and dialogue (Lazić, 2017). Many artist residencies emphasize cross-cultural collaboration, where artists from different backgrounds work together on projects that reflect their diverse perspectives. This collaboration enhances the richness of the artistic output and fosters mutual understanding (Badham, 2009; Berthoin Antal, 2015; Taylor, 2022b). (Styhre & Eriksson, 2007; Berthoin Antal, 2013) emphasizes the interactions between artists and organizational employees, highlighting how these exchanges lead to new ideas and perspectives. Employees reported that the presence of artists sparked conversations about work and creativity, facilitating a deeper understanding of art and their professional roles. This exchange was about art and personal and collective growth, which can enhance awareness and appreciation of diverse artistic practices.

6. TYPES OF ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Artist residencies have become commonplace, with numerous global opportunities, ranging from urban settings to remote natural environments. Artist residencies exist in various forms and functions, often reflecting a dichotomy between the 'artist as guest' and 'residency as host'. The duration of residencies varies significantly, ranging from two weeks to six months and sometimes even a year. One enduring traditional model provides artists with essentials such as studio space, food, and accommodation, supporting solitary artistic practices. Alongside this various residency models exist, including those that focus on specific artistic disciplines, interdisciplinary practices, community engagement, international exchange, and site-specific projects, each with unique structures and goals. Interdisciplinary residencies are increasingly popular, encouraging collaboration between artists and professionals from diverse fields. This model fosters innovative approaches to art-making and addresses complex societal issues through a multifaceted lens (Kenins, 2013; Lazić, 2017). Chart 1 illustrates the various types of artist residencies that exist across India. Several other residency models exist designed according to the requirement of the artist and host, including those focused on production, research, thematic exploration, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Each model serves different purposes and caters to the diverse needs of artists and communities.

Type of Artist-in-Residence Program	Description	Primary Focus
1. Traditional Residency Model	Offers artists time and space to focus on their artistic practice.	Provides a supportive environment for individual creative work.
2. International Exchange Residency Model	Encourages cross-cultural exchange and collaboration between artists from different countries.	Promotes global dialogue, cultural exchange, and international networking.
3. Production-Based Residency Model	Focuses on helping artists produce new work with access to facilities and materials.	Facilitates the creation and production of art, often with funding or sponsorship.
4. Thematic Residency Model	Centers around a specific theme, issue, or concept that artists are encouraged to explore.	Stimulates creativity through thematic exploration and specific subject matter.
5. Site-Specific Residency Model	Focuses on creating art in response to a particular site or location.	Encourages engagement with the environment, creating work directly influenced by the space.
6. Community Engagement Residency Model	Involves collaboration with local communities and public participation.	Promotes social inclusion and community-based art making, fostering dialogue between artist and community.
7. Interdisciplinary Collaboration Residency Model	Supports collaboration between artists from different disciplines (e.g., visual arts, performance, music, etc.).	Encourages innovation through cross-disciplinary exchanges and new collaborative approaches.

1. Chart 1: Types of Artist-in-Residence Programs

The funding structure of these artist residency programs varies significantly; some are publicly funded through government initiatives, while others operate on a fee-for-service basis, supported by participant contributions. Many are grant or award-based, offering financial support to selected artists, and others are sponsored by corporate entities,

private patrons, or cultural institutions. These diverse funding structures enable residencies to provide essential platforms for artistic growth, collaboration, and innovation while encouraging cultural exchange and global networking. As a result, these residencies play a crucial role in nurturing the artistic community, facilitating new creative practices, and strengthening the connection between India and the global art world.

The lack of consistent funding is the key challenge many artist-in-residence programs face, leading some organizations to discontinue their programs. Securing adequate funding and resources remains a significant hurdle, as many residencies rely on external sources of financial support. These funds can fluctuate with changes in economic conditions or political climates, making it difficult to sustain these initiatives in the long term. To ensure their continued impact, residencies must explore more sustainable models and diversify their funding sources to secure a more stable future for artists and their communities.

3. DISCUSSION

In the contemporary scenario, artist residencies operate quite differently than traditional models, where residencies and camps were primarily seen as retreats, solitary practices, or escapes from regular life. In India, artist-in-residence programs are predominantly offered by non-profit and private organizations. The government has introduced a few initiatives, but they do not follow a proper residency model, except for the President's House In-Residence Program, which follows a traditional model and is primarily designed for established artists. Historically, these residencies and camps were predominantly intended for mid-career or established artists. In contrast, today's residencies emphasize experimentation, new media practices, and themes related to social, political, or environmental issues, self-identity, and psychological perspectives. Modern residencies focus heavily on supporting emerging young artists by offering proper mentorship, space, critical dialogue, exposure, and networking opportunities. Notable organizations like Khoj International Artists Association, the Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art, and the Serendipity Foundation design their artist-in-residence programs to meet the specific needs of selected participants, helping them flourish by connecting them with mentors, critics, wider audiences, and platforms to showcase their ideas and creations. Residencies today are thoughtfully structured to foster collaborations, interactions, dialogue exchange, and site-specific explorations. These engagements support artists' practices, growth, and professional development. Non-profit organizations frequently collaborate with prominent institutions, galleries, rural residencies, local communities, and, at times, foreign embassies and art institutions. Such collaborations enable artists to interact with local artisans, established artists, and other creators, explore artist studios, learn new techniques, and adapt fresh ideas to their practices.

Over the past decade, these residencies have played a significant role in helping emerging Indian artists evolve and connect with the global art world. Many of these programs also host international artists, creating a unique environment for Indian and international artists to engage in conversations, share ideas, and learn about new cultures and practices. This cultural and artistic exchange enhances and inspires their creative and critical abilities. Organizations like Pro Helvetia and the Prameya Art Foundation also support Indian artists by facilitating opportunities for international residencies, allowing them to experience diverse artistic environments abroad. Studies indicate that artist residencies play a crucial role in contemporary art, enabling artists to navigate the complexities of displacement and cultural integration.

Mobility and travel have long been essential for artists to experiment, learn, and refine their artistic expressions. Residencies, in particular, facilitate this mobility, fostering a global dialogue in the arts by blending and merging diverse artistic practices from various cultures. A prime example is Raja Ravi Varma, whose extensive travels across India profoundly enriched his art. His exposure to different regions' diverse cultural traditions and aesthetics enabled him to create a unique fusion of Indian themes and Western techniques, granting his works a universal appeal. Many notable Indian artists have travelled internationally, engaging with artists, galleries, museums, and institutions worldwide. These experiences have connected them to the global art world, exposed them to contemporary art practices, and broadened their perspectives. Artist residencies bridge the gap between global trends and local contexts, significantly influencing both individual artistic practices and community exposure to diverse creative expressions. As such, residencies have become a crucial entry point for artists seeking to connect with and establish themselves in the global art world.

(Törnqvist, 2004) analyze the argument of American sociologist Ray Oldenburg, who introduces the concept of "the third place" to describe spaces within urban settings that facilitate informal interactions. According to Oldenburg, the home serves as the first place, while the workplace is the second. The third place includes cafes, restaurants, and other public spaces near home or work. This concept suggests that specific environments can stimulate creativity more than others, fostering new ideas and practices. For artists, residencies act as a 'third place,' providing a space to rejuvenate their

creativity. The experiences gained through residencies often result in significant artistic development, as they expose artists to new ideas, techniques, and cultural contexts.

4. CONCLUSION

This study highlights the transformative role of artist-in-residence programs in bridging local art practices with global artistic discourse. These programs provide artists with time, space, and mentorship and foster cultural exchange, interdisciplinary collaboration, and community engagement. By examining the emergence and contribution of artist-in-residence programs in the Indian context, this research underscores their impact on artistic experimentation, skill development, and professional growth. Integrating global trends with local sensibilities through residencies enriches the cultural ecosystem and establishes a dynamic platform for dialogue and innovation. This paper reaffirms the significance of residencies in shaping contemporary art practices and connecting Indian artists with the global art world. As these programs essential for the evolution of artistic practices in today's cultural landscape, they must address challenges such as funding, inclusivity, and the integration of new digital formats to remain relevant and impactful in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

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