



***Shared Ecologies***, a  
programme by the Shyama  
Foundation

**Summary** of Grants and  
Programmes in 2023-24

## **Grants**

1. *Shared Ecologies Photo Grant 2024-26*
2. *Chennai Photo Biennale (CPB) Awards*
3. *Vitamin Bee by BERRI / Tenacious Bee Collective*
4. *BIOM Residency by Maze Collective Studio*

## **Other Activities**

1. *Shared Ecologies Biannual event: Artist Presentations & Public Lecture*
2. *Nature Writing Magazine: Writing Natures Issue 1*

## Shared Ecologies Photo Grant 2024-26: Aadithya S

The jury (Rishi Singhal, Sukanya Ghosh & Sudarshan Shetty) appreciated the link Aadithya is exploring between language, history, culture and landscape, towards an eclectic approach that doesn't treat artistic mediums as silos. The jury also appreciated his portfolio which they found evocative, besides being conceptually and visually strong.



L: Aadithya S; R: Dear Resident, courtesy of the artist

## CPB Photo Awards

The awards offer recognition and cash prizes to both freelance documentary practitioners as well as press photographers. Two cash prizes were given to photographers working with Climate, Environment and Conservation – Single image and Photo Story.



Surender Solanki | Climate, Environment and Conservation - Single Image



Harsha Vadlamani | Climate, Environment and Conservation - Photo Story

## **Vitamin Bee by BERRI Foundation / Tenacious Bee Collective**

Vitamin Bee is aimed at co-creating and sharing artistic responses to bees and their place in the ecology, as well as in the imagination. It involves a back and forth between the artist and the community of Badsar village through the entire making process. The project has involved illustrated stories, interactive workshops sharing indigenous knowledge around bees, and developing a play involving shadow puppets, to be made into a series of short films, that will later travel for screenings.



## **BIOM Residency by Maze Collective Studio**

During the one-month Residency Program, the selected residents had the opportunity to delve into the environmental aspect of urban cities. The Residency programme encouraged proposals that address immediate environmental concerns and invite residents to showcase their ideas through the utilisation of 19th-century photographic processes. While acknowledging the toxic nature of these processes, this residency will emphasise the importance of handling and disposing of materials responsibly.



## **Programmes: Shared Ecologies Event Artist Presentations & Public Lecture**

Shared Ecologies aims to invite and engage a network of practitioners and encourage thinking across singular art practices towards correlational work with the possibility for collaboration and exchange. In order to facilitate such sites for discussion, we aim to initiate and disseminate programs, talks and workshops that can engage a wide range of practitioners. Every six months, we organise in-person and hybrid events to initiate conversations within our immediate community and reach out to practitioners outside of our current cohort. This was the first event of its kind.

The internal round of presentations was followed by a [keynote lecture by Prof. Mukul Sharma](#) on ‘Dalit Ecologies’, in conversation with Premjish Achari.



## **Publications: Writing Natures**

### **Nature and its Speculations**

What does nature writing look like in India? Nature writing has historically grown out of industrial backdrops that reflect upon various anxieties around the development of cities and urban landscapes.

‘Nature and its Speculations’ is a developing proposition around how one experiences, acknowledges, resolves, relates with, creates connections and knowledge around nature in relation to one’s own situated context. Can you identify a distinct species (plant, animal, insects, fungi, microbes et al) or natural substance or location in your surroundings? What are the terminologies and vocabularies that we can excavate? Does nature haunt?

We received over 50 pitches, and commissioned 10 writers to produce works across genres.

### **OPEN CALL: Inviting Writers and Creative Practitioners**

Shared Ecologies invites pitches for essays and mixed media writings for its upcoming nature writing publication, on the theme of ***Nature and its Speculations***.

**Pitch deadline: 25 November 2023**