

abhishek is a furniture design student who will work with smriti on curating and designing an exhibit on kabir's universe. their approach could be via questions, via metaphors, or via experience - all entryways that lead to the same core.

amaranta is a visual communication student who will work on a chapter of a proposed book on kabir, introducing and teasing the reader with kabir's ulatbansi (upside-down verse). kanyika is a visual communication student who will work on developing an overall theme for a website/CD-ROM on kabir, and develop one section in detail. kunal is a digital film

student who will work on creating animation sequences for the proposed set of 3 films on kabir that shabnam & tara are working on.

mrinalini is a visual communication student who will work with narayan on designing a print-media based campaign that will inspire people with the power and relevance of kabir's writings.

narayan is a visual communication student who will also work on the print campaign, as

well as set up an online wiki that could become a community hub for people around the world to learn, share and express themselves on kabir.

patience is a fine art student who will work on making kabir more vividly accessible to school children.

shashwati is a design student who will explore how the song is one of the most powerful and accessible means of conveying cultural knowledge..

smriti will work on curating and designing an exhibit on kabir with abhishek.

the pathways projects to the spirit

abhishek karmakar
amaranta nehru
kanyika kini
kunal sen
mrinalini tandon
narayan gopalan
patience rustomji
shashwati g
smriti chanchani

in the footsteps

of kabir



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as travellers, our bags are surprisingly empty, because when searching for the meaning of kabir, any baggage is best left behind.

our worldly logic is something kabir has exposed to us as being worthless, and yet we can't shed it altogether. we will therefore be carrying our disembodied intellect and analytical mindsets along.

our intuitive logic, the one that kabir says few can discover, is what we'll be seeking to nurture. elusive as it is, we have

found it consist

ently

accessibl

e to us through

music and

song, and

hence those

will be our

most valued

tools.

the most

difficult part is to

dissolve duality

and experien

ce simultan

eity. for this,

we will carry an assortment of

tricks - silence and conversation, motion and stasis, discourse and song, words and feeling.

this journey will involve far more internal travel than in the external world. as scholar kapil tiwari says, "if you're in touch with yourself, you will face no difficulties in accessing kabir. if you approach him as a scholar of words, you will find him dense and impenetrable."

on one hand,

the journeys

may involve

travellin

g to varanasi

, the city where

kabir lived

and worked,

or to malwa,

where the kabir panthis

seek to create a new

order based on his

teachings. on the other, they will

involve yoga,

meditation and

song, song, song -

in the attempt to get

under kabir's skin.

finally, there will be

the journeys with

ideas and materials -

in particular, the challenge of giving

shabnam virmani and tara kini are the main protagonists of this journey. what is common to both shabnam, a film maker and tara, an educator is their passion for music and their search for the sublime. their journey started with an intensive exploration into the poetry and music of kabir, the 15th century indian mystic saint-poet, and subsequently into the music of pandit kumar gandharva, sometimes called "the voice of kabir".

it kept evolving into a celebration of his thriving & vibrant legacy and ideas that continue to inspire and resound in large parts of the country even today - and overseas, in the form of several new-age religions and communities.

very early on, their journey led them to encounter

dr linda hess, professor of comparative religion

at stanford, and one of the most respected

scholars of kabir. this description fails to portray the witty, humorous and irreverent facets of linda's personality.

arvind lodaya is a designer who's fed up with design as a one-way road towards more wealth, more materialism, more consumption, and less and less inner richness. he's looking for strategies to subvert uncritical consumption.

the road map

external internal

bangalore, malwa, rajasthan, banaras, california, japan
self, mind, body, soul, spirit

intellect dispassionate
intuition passion
word passive
song active
travel motion
stasis emotion

the instruments

the travellers

shabnam virmani filmmaker
tara kini singer
linda hess scholar
arvind lodaya designer