

2nd International Nature Art festival

on

“Water and Life” “(पानी र जिन्दगानी)”

Organized by - **Kalaawati Art Council**, Gaidakot Nawalparasi, Nepal

Background

Kalaawati Art Council (www.kalaawatiart.com.np), established in 2014 works towards promoting, collecting, selling the artworks, organizing the art events and facilitating linkage among the artists and art lovers. It also advocates on behalf of artists and their works. It's an individual initiative promoting artworks and facilitating the access of common people with the artists and artworks. Kalaawati Art Council has already organized over 20 art shows, art festivals, art workshops, interactions between art lovers and art producers, media advocacy and art educational sessions.

In 2017, Kalaawati Art Council successfully organized 1st International Nature Art Festival, with the theme of Nature and Wildlife. 3 days' art workshop, one day's exhibition started from the special occasion of “World Water Day” (22 March 2017) and seven day's exhibitions were part of the international festival. Prominent 32 artists from Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Germany and Austria participated the event and 145 artworks were displayed. Hence the 1st International Nature Art Festival was evidenced as one of the leading milestones in promoting nature and the conservation through art works.

Additional important part of the 1st International Nature Art festival was Multi Stakeholder's involvement. WWF (USAID funded Hariyo Ban Program), Nepal Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN), Zoological Society of London (ZSL), Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF), Nepal Government's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Embassy of Bangladesh, B.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation, Gaidakot Municipality, Rotary Club of Gaidakot, and local social development organizations contributed effectively from beginning to the end of the festival making the episode remarkable.

Rationale

In order to provide the continuation of the Nature Art Festival, **Kalaawati Art Council** has decided to organize the 2nd International Nature Art Festival in the World Water Day (March 22, 2020) with the theme of “Water and Life” in the natural conservation area around great Karnali and Bardiya National park and Tikapur area. Such International

level Nature Art Festival events are the main occasions of **KALAAWATI ART COUNCIL** to continue in every three years' time period.

There is a need of dedicated and innovative efforts to convince the community people and make them responsible in the direction to preserve environment. Once the community own the idea, positive changes will be visible. For this outcome, the men and women have to play a vital role to understand the mutual existence and take responsibility of preserving the nature and effective utilization of water.

In order to aware the people about the importance of watershed management and aquatic biodiversity conservation, innovative ideas like visual arts, literature and other effective gears will be effective. Therefore an event of nature art festival including art workshop, exhibition, poems creating in the water conservation areas, exhibiting the artworks and poems, publishing a pictorial handbook would be instrumental to meet the goal of nature and water conservation. It is expected that the event will narrow the knowledge gap and create a shared understanding of ecosystem health.

Many likeminded and interested organizations like WWF, NAFA, local Municipalities, private sector, community organizations, government and non-governmental institutions are expected to join hands in this movement of nature conservation, art promotion and sensitize the community people for nature conservation issue. Involvement of many local authorities and the public institutions will bring the concern stakeholders together to execute the project effectively and collectively. Finally this event will create a lasting impact towards this goal.

It is expected that International Art Festival will turn to an endless celebration every three years and give message on various issues of nature conservations in innovative ways.

The event

Around 40 senior and renowned artists from Germany, Bangladesh, USA, Mexico, Bhutan, India and Nepal will come and create the artworks and more than 15 poets will create poems related to the water and conservation issues. Finally a pictorial multicolored handbook will be published.

Kalaawati Art Council will be responsible for organizing the event and overall management.

In order to promote and exchange the cultural and mutual learning, Art Workshops, panel discussion, Art Exhibition of old and on the spot art works, nature safari, cultural shows etc will be organized during the project areas. With these efforts not only the nature conservation will be addressed but the local tourism and the abroad link also will be established. This will also give a strong message to visit Nepal for observing the natural beauties and also contributes towards the Visit Nepal 2020.

International and national delegates will stay in nearby hotels; workshop will be organized in and around the nature conservation areas. The Exhibition and the Celebration of World Water Day in March 22 will be organized in Surkhet and a detail show in Kathmandu in the third week of April, 2020.

Few extra activities like rafting on Karnali River, wildlife watching in conservation areas will also be managed, which is supposed to generate better understanding of water shed and aquatic biodiversity in around these river basins. This will be helpful to understand and create the artworks for the artists.

Objectives of the event

- Establish and strengthen the relationship among the nature lover artists and poets around the world
- Create awareness about the nature and water conservation for travelers and local people through nature related artworks and poems
- Promote and encourage local artists and poets and motivate them to create artworks/poems on the nature and water conservation.
- Spread out the popularity of handmade art works
- Widen the idea to save the water and nature
- Spread out the message about the excellent water resources of Nepal
- Celebrate Visit Nepal 2020 to support the national goal committed by the government of Nepal
- Publish a beautiful multicolored document including the created all artworks and poems during the 2nd Nature Art festival.

Partners

Paani Program is committed as one of the major contributing partners of this event. Besides WWF Nepal, NAFA, GIN, LWR, province and local government and other likeminded organizations are expected to join hands for making this concept wide-ranging. Book of account of this project will be kept in a standard format. Financial and program report will be submitted to all the contributors with proper acknowledgement of their contribution.

Few of the News coverage of the 1st International Nature Art Festival

<https://kathmandupost.com/art-entertainment/2017/03/21/nature-art-fest-kicks-off-in-nawalparasi>

<https://kathmandupost.com/art-entertainment/2017/03/23/creating-art-out-in-the-nature>

<https://kathmandupost.com/art-entertainment/2017/06/13/art-on-the-rise-in-chitwan>

<https://kathmandupost.com/art-entertainment/2017/08/25/nature-art-exhibit-a-way-forward-for-the-mofussil>