

KRIYA

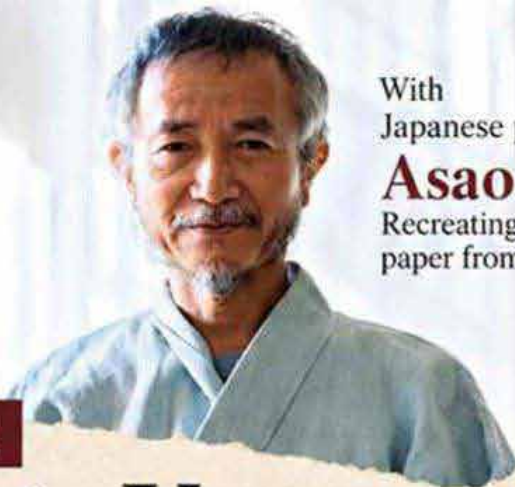
Terakoya Kami Santiniketan

Japanese Papermaking Research Project

Tradition and new possibilities

CIMA
CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL MODERN ARTS

With
Japanese papermaker
Asao Shimura
Recreating washi-quality
paper from local fibers



TALK & EXCHANGE

Paper Connects Us Japan – Santiniketan – Shared Futures



Friday, 28 August 2026



17:00 – 18:30



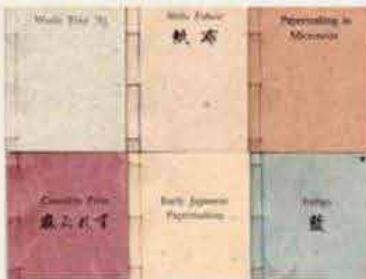
CIMA Gallery

2nd Floor, Sunny Towers
43, Ashutosh Chowdhury Ave, Ballygunge
West Bengal 700019

An evening talk, presentation and exchange
with Japanese papermaker Asao Shimura and
the project team.

Discover the story of Japanese washi through
his handmade papers, books and works, and
explore how this JSPS research project
connects Japan and Bengal through
papermaking traditions and local fibers.

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS



1 Works by Asao Shimura

Original pieces, small handmade
books & konnyaku works

2 Outcomes from Workshop

Reviving Bengali Papermaking
Works created during JSPS
Santiniketan program

3 Washi Paper & Samples

Japanese washi and
various paper samples

4 KRIYA Paper Works

Paper art and hybrid
papers from KRIYA ART
Collective

PROJECT MEMBERS



Asao Shimura

Japanese washi specialist, director
of Asa (CP) Press. In his youth, he
studied gampi-shi - the "king of
washi" - at Naruko Washi Studio,
then gained extensive experience
at papermaking centers across
Japan. Since the 1980s, he has
organized international
papermaking conferences and
taught by invitation around the
world. He was selected as one of
the Papermaking Champions by
North American Hand
Papermakers in 2023.



Midori Yamamoto

Associate Professor,
Higashiosaka College, Japan.
Specializing in South Asian art and
cultural studies and international
cooperation. Alongside her
research, she teaches Japanese
language and culture to
international students and
develops practical educational
programs in Japanese art and
craft. She conceived this program
in Santiniketan as part of her JSPS
Grant-in-Aid for Scientific
Research project.



Kingshuk Sarkar

Studied painting at Visva Bharati
University and mastered Japanese
paper, ink and gold leaf techniques
at Kyoto University of Art and
Design. His work combines
Japanese and Indian materials and
ideas, and as co-founder of KRIYA
and BONDHU. He practices
sustainable papermaking and
community art in rural Bengal.
Recipient of the Anandabazar.com
Bochhorer Best 2026 Award in Art
for fostering artistic dialogue
between Bengal and Japan.



**Rashmi Bagchi
Sarkar**

Studied painting at Visva Bharati
University and Japanese painting
and calligraphy at Kyoto Saga
University of Arts. She has
participated in national and
international exhibitions with
expressions that explore the links
between tradition and the
contemporary, and as co-founder
of KRIYA and BONDHU, she is
committed to rural women's
empowerment and paper-
mediated artistic practice.



Riti Sarkar

Studied painting at Visva Bharati
University and received an MFA in
2025. She has been involved in
papermaking since childhood
and has developed her
expression in collaboration with
the environment, women and the
community; as a founding
member of Atmasanjog, she
brings tradition and sensitivity to
papermaking and is the
coordinator of sustainable
community practices in KRIYA
and BONDHU.

Part of the ongoing
JSPS KAKENHI Research Project
"Transmission of Japanese Washi Paper
Techniques and Social Contribution in India"
Grant No. 25K03740, 2025–2027
Principal Investigator
Midori Yamamoto
(Higashiosaka College, Japan)

Organized by

KRIYA

KRIYA ART COLLECTIVE

Led by Kingshuk Sarkar,
Rashmi Bagchi Sarkar & Riti Sarkar

Kriya works at the intersection of three strands:
the discipline of Japanese papermaking, the presence
of local fibers, and the ethos of Santiniketan and its
village community. Here, old methods are not preserved.
They are reopened.
By working with hand, fiber, and place together, Kriya and
the Japanese collaborators treat making as a shared act —
where tradition is adapted, materials speak for their land,
and practice is built collectively.