

From Practice to Project

A Curatorial Lab for Creative Practitioners

Creative practice usually starts small. An observation you can't shake. A material you keep going back to for no clear reason. A question that won't let you finish the sentence without circling back to it.

Then the studio gives way to deadlines. The question gets buried under the need to produce something... a painting, a collection, an exhibition, whatever the next deliverable happens to be. From Practice to Project is a three-hour lab built to dig that question back out. So much, that you can actually build something around it.

By "Project", we mean a coherent line of enquiry with enough clarity to become an exhibition, a collection, a public intervention, a residency proposal, a design initiative, or something else entirely.

We'll work through exercises and conversation, and by the end you'll have started shaping your own practice into something with a spine: a project you can point to and explain, not just describe.

The starting point is one question:
"What are you trying to understand?"

Most work that matters starts there, whether or not the person making it could say so at the time.

In the session, you'll:

- Dig into the questions actually running under your practice
- Spot the ideas, materials and concerns that keep resurfacing
- Talk through context, audience, collaboration, intent
- Use curatorial thinking to develop your own project.
- Draft the beginnings of a framework you can keep developing after the session ends

You'll walk away with:

- A filled-out Practice-to-Project Canvas
- A project framework grounded in your actual practice, not a generic one
- Tools to keep developing it on your own
- Possibly a slightly different answer to "why do I make this" than you walked in with

Whether you're still a student, just started exhibiting, or have been at this for years... if you want to think harder about why you make what you make, this is for you.

About the facilitators

Nilanjan Chakravarty is an independent curator and cultural practitioner whose work explores the relationship between creative practice, public engagement and social enquiry.

Through his curatorial initiative LOUDR, he has developed exhibitions, participatory projects and public programmes exploring themes including sustainability, mental health, material culture and community engagement.

His recent professional development at the Royal College of Art, London, focused on curating contemporary art in public contexts and has informed the development of this lab.

Rekha Sameer is a UK-based site-specific conceptual artist, curator and educator whose practice explores contemporary social, political and environmental questions through research, place and lived experience. Originally from Mumbai, she studied Fine Art at Central Saint Martins, London, and has participated in exhibitions, residencies and public art projects across the UK, Europe and India. Her work is rooted in the belief that meaningful artistic projects emerge through sustained enquiry, engagement with context and responsiveness to site.

Session Details

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Date: 15 September 2026

Time: 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Venue: Joy of Drama, New Delhi

Limited to 15 participants to ensure an intimate, discussion-led experience.