

A Report on a Creative Writing Workshop

Under the aegis of the Nibs & Brushes, the creative wing of Aryabhata College, a Creative Writing Workshop was organized for the students with the twin aim of nurturing their creative talent as well for their academic benefit who incidentally also have a paper on Creative Writing as part of their Skill Enhancement Course. The workshop was conducted by an award winning author and a poet Janice Pariat, in the seminar room on 29th March 2019.

Janice Pariat is an alumnae of St. Stephen's College and School of Oriental and African Studies, London. She also teaches Creative Writing and History of Art at the Ashoka University. Among other awards and recognition for her literary works, she has won the 2013 Sahitya Akademi Young Writer Award for a work in English and the 2013 Crossword Book Award for her book work *Boats on Land*. Her works have also been shortlisted and long listed for numerous other prestigious awards including The Hindu Literary Prize and the Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize and Tata Literature Live. Her other works include *Sea Horse*: a novel, *The Nine-Chambered Heart*, and collections of poetry namely *The Yellow Nib Modern English Poetry* and *Kavi Kala: The Visual Poetry Project*.

Attended by students from across disciplines, the workshop began with Pariat shedding light on the creative processes involved in fiction writing. As part of the workshop, students were exposed to reading and writing strategies focusing on how to read like a writer, and the importance of careful poetic choices and literary constructions and such. The aim being to allow them to explore their own imaginative potential and literary flair for creative writing. The students responded well by actively participating in the activities. The session also had discussions on other facets of writing, publishing and the future of creative writing in the present age of digital media and artificial intelligence- all of which made the whole experience an enriching one. The invigorating workshop continued with the author being trailed for more answers and deliberations even after the workshop had technically ended with inquisitive participants following her down the staircase and along the beautiful corridors painted in Madhubani style thus making it both a fulfilling and a rewarding day.



Convenor: Binoy Bhushan Agarwal