

Sulekhan Kala Pradarshani 2025: Guidelines for participants

Dear Artists,

The Calligraphy Foundation warmly invites you to be a part of **Sulekhan Kala Pradarshani**, an integral celebration within **Akshar Mohotsav** that brings together diverse voices of creativity and expression. This exhibition is a platform to showcase your art, share your vision, and contribute to a collective dialogue that honors both tradition and innovation. After **two successful online editions and three physical showcases**, 2025 marks the fourth physical edition of this exhibition.

This year, The Calligraphy Foundation is proud to **collaborate with the prestigious National Museum, New Delhi for a month long exhibition from 14 Nov - 14 Dec, 2025**. This collaboration marks a historic moment for the Indian calligraphy community—bringing handwritten letterforms into one of India's most revered cultural spaces.

"Aesthetically it combines the highest vision (Drishti) with perfect form (Rupa), emotion (Bhava), grace and charm (Lavanya) and likeliness to ideal (Sadrishya)." – National Museum, New Delhi

Theme & Curatorial Vision

Theme Title: अक्षर संस्कृति (Akshara-Sanskriti) — Letters as Pillars of Culture

This year's Sulekhan Kala Pradarshani invites us to explore how letters and scripts are not just writing tools — they are powerful carriers of our culture, memories, and traditions.

The word **"Akshara"** means both **"letter"** and **"something that never fades."** **"Sanskriti"** means **culture or civilization**. Together, Akshara-Sanskriti reminds us that our scripts have shaped how we think, record, remember, and express ourselves over centuries.

In this exhibition, we bring together two worlds:

- **Historical scripts and manuscripts from the National Museum's collection** — to show how people used to write and preserve knowledge in different parts of India.
- **Contemporary calligraphy artworks created by artists like you** — to show how today's creators are reimagining these scripts in new, artistic ways.

Exhibition Layout: Four Regions, Four Scriptscapes

- Each gallery section represents one part of India. Your artwork will be placed in a zone that aligns with your script's origin.

Gallery Segment	Featured Region	Script Inspiration Examples
North	Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh	Sharada, Gurmukhi, Kaithi, Nāgarī and others
East	Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim	Bengali, Assamese, Odia and others
West	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Modi, Gujarati, Devanagari and others
South	Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar	Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada and others

General Participation Guidelines

- Eligibility: Anyone of age 16+ is eligible to participate
- Participation in the exhibition is completely free of cost.
- This is a curated exhibition. All submitted work must go through a selection process.
- Final selection will be made by curators from both The Calligraphy Foundation and the National Museum.

What we are looking for?

- Authenticity:** Rooted in script heritage, not random stylization
- Creativity:** Reinterpret, don't just replicate
- Dialogue:** Think of your piece as a thread connecting the old and the new
- Accessibility:** Should connect with viewers even if they don't know the script

Artwork specification

- The artwork is to be made on **canvas ONLY**.
- Final artwork size must be in **imperial portrait format (2 ft x 3 ft)**
- Artwork must be mounted on **high-quality mount board**
- All art forms are accepted, **with calligraphy/letters at the core**.
- Artists may use vintage or classical design elements like borders, motifs, or symbolic imagery

Note:

- Digital artworks/printouts NOT allowed
- Old artworks aligning with the theme are welcome
- Collaborative artworks are welcome**

Steps to follow

Step 1

Carefully read this document and understand all guidelines

Step 2

Fill out the **participation form before 30th August** to mark your willingness to participate

- Participation Form: [Click here](#) (If you haven't already filled it)

Step 3

Attend the online **Interactive Q&A on 2nd September** to get your queries addressed (link will be shared with the email you provide in the above participation form)

Step 4

Fill out the final confirmation form of your participation which will be shared on your registered email ID after the Q&A session.

Step 5

Start working on your artwork

- **Choose a Script:** Pick a script connected to your culture or that inspires you
- **Research It:** Understand how it was used historically
- **Create Original Artwork:** Use letterforms that bridges tradition and creativity

Step 6

Submit a **maximum of two draft ideas** based on the exhibition theme

Step 7

Wait for curator review and selection message sent via email

Step 8

On selection, proceed to create the final artwork(s)

Step 9

Submit the final artwork(s) via the google form as per instructions before the deadline

Step 10

Ship the final mounted artwork by the deadline

Step 11

Artwork will be **exhibited from 14 November to 14 December 2025.**

Step 12

After the exhibition, **receive instructions for collection or return shipment.**

Staying Connected

- **All communication** regarding the exhibition **must be done only via email.** Our official email for all SKP communication is **aksharmahotsav@gmail.com**
- Kindly save the following mobile number in your mobile contacts for **WhatsApp broadcast messages.**
 - **Ekta Chahar (TCF, Program Manager): +91 8275777318**
- Queries sent via WhatsApp, Instagram or any other platforms will not be considered.
- **Acknowledgement of every communication is mandatory** (via email or WhatsApp broadcast). Failure to acknowledge may result in disqualification from participation.

Financial Responsibilities & Payment-Related Guidelines

- There is **no fee to participate** in Sulekhan Kala Pradarshani. Submission and exhibition of **selected artworks** are completely free of charge.
 - However, Exhibition Visit will be available through Museum Entry pass
 - Attending workshops, talks and activities of the event will be through separate tickets available on Akshar Mahotsav website.
- **Artists are responsible for the costs related to transportation and logistics** of their own artwork:
 - Delhi-based participants will drop off their artworks in person at their own expense.
 - Outstation participants must ship their mounted artwork to the venue at their own cost.
- If an outstation artist wishes to **send the artwork rolled** (to save the shipping cost and ensure that the artwork reaches us safely), The Calligraphy Foundation can help with professional mounting if the artist covers the cost of this mounting service.
- While every effort will be made to handle and display artworks with utmost care, The Calligraphy Foundation will not be responsible for any loss or damage to artworks during transit, handling, or display throughout the exhibition process.
- After the exhibition concludes, **return shipping will also be at the artist's expense.** Alternatively, artworks can be picked up in person.
- In the final submission form, artists **must clearly state whether their artwork is for sale.** If yes, the price must be mentioned.

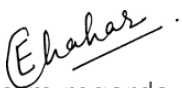
Interactive Q&A Meetings

To help you better understand the process and clarify any doubts, we are hosting an **online interactive Q&A meeting on 2nd Sep 2025** to help interested participants get clarity about the exhibition process. You are encouraged to attend the session live. The session will be recorded, if you are unable to attend live.

Note: The Zoom link will be shared via email with all registered participants.

We're happy to bring together a diverse and passionate group of artists for Sulekhan Kala Pradarshani 2025, and we're grateful for your interest. This exhibition is not just about showcasing beautiful scripts — it's about building a bridge between tradition and contemporary expression, and we can't wait to see what you bring to life.

Please make sure you've read this document thoroughly before proceeding and feel free to reach out in case of any query.



Warm regards,
Sulekhan Kala Pradarshani Team
The Calligraphy Foundation,
New Delhi