

## Preface

IN OUR INTERCONNECTED YET FRAGMENTED WORLD, the arts serve as both a bridge and sanctuary, connecting disparate cultures while offering refuge from the turbulence of contemporary life. The Poorvam International Journal of Creative Arts and Cultural Expressions (PIJCACE) emerges from this recognition, born of the conviction that scholarly discourse in the creative arts must transcend traditional boundaries to address the complex realities of our time.

### The Need for New Dialogues

Recent global events have underscored the urgency of fostering meaningful cross-cultural dialogue through artistic expression. Political tensions, social upheavals, and technological disruptions continuously reshape the landscape in which artists and scholars operate. Within this dynamic environment, we witness the profound capacity of creative arts to transform conflict into understanding, isolation into connection, and uncertainty into possibility.

This transformative power is not new. Ancient Vedic traditions understood the relationship between *ranaranga* (the battlefield) and *rasaranga* (the aesthetic realm), recognising that the same energies that fuel conflict can be channelled into creative expression. Classical Indian aesthetics, through concepts like *rasa* and *dhvani*, developed sophisticated frameworks for understanding how art mediates between human experience and transcendent meaning. These insights remain profoundly relevant as we navigate contemporary challenges.

### Historical Foundations, Contemporary Needs

Throughout history, artistic practice has sustained itself through two primary pathways: institutional patronage and resistance to established power. From Bharata's *Natyashastra* to contemporary postcolonial art movements, creative expression has simultaneously served and challenged the structures that shape society. Today, as traditional patronage systems evolve and new forms of cultural resistance emerge, artists and scholars require fresh platforms for dialogue and discovery.

PIJCACE addresses this need by creating space for interdisciplinary conversation that honours diverse traditions while engaging contemporary concerns. We recognise that meaningful scholarship in the creative arts must embrace multiple perspectives—Indian, Eastern, Indigenous, and Western—without privileging any single framework over others.

### Our Vision in Practice

This journal represents more than a new publication; it embodies our commitment to fostering an authentic scholarly community. We have designed PIJCACE as a cornerstone initiative that will grow into a broader ecosystem of engagement, including conferences, workshops, and digital platforms dedicated to advancing knowledge in creative arts and cultural studies.

Our upcoming Aksara Bharata Conference 2025, focused on "Transcultural Aesthetics—South-Asian Heritage in Contemporary and Digital Arts," exemplifies our approach: bringing together classical aesthetic theories with cutting-edge digital practices to explore new possibilities for cultural expression.

### **A Commitment to Authenticity**

As we launch this initiative, we do so with clear awareness of the challenges facing contemporary academic publishing. The proliferation of AI-generated content and the pressure for rapid publication output threaten to diminish the very authenticity that makes scholarly discourse valuable. We are committed to maintaining rigorous standards not merely for their own sake, but because genuine intellectual exchange requires the vulnerability and commitment that only authentic engagement can provide.

We seek contributors who share this commitment—scholars and practitioners who understand that meaningful participation in academic discourse enriches both individual understanding and collective knowledge. Our goal is not simply to add another journal to the academic landscape, but to cultivate a space where transformative conversations can flourish.

### **Moving Forward**

In launching PIJCACE, we acknowledge that no single initiative can address all the complexities facing creative arts scholarship today. Yet we believe that thoughtful, inclusive dialogue across disciplines and cultures remains essential for advancing human understanding. Through this journal, we invite you to join us in exploring how creative expression can serve as a force for connection, healing, and transformation in our shared global community.

This inaugural issue represents a beginning—the first step in what we hope will be a long journey of discovery, dialogue, and mutual enrichment. We welcome you to this conversation and look forward to the insights and innovations that will emerge from our collective engagement with the vital questions that creative arts and cultural expressions pose for our world today.