

Events

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Reflective lecture by Dr. Meena Kandasamy

Indian poet Dr. Meena Kandasamy opens a lecture series with reflection on conflict, displacement, and resistance.

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Dates **2 January 2026**
Times 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Performer Dr. Meena Kandasamy
Part of Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2025–26

Where

Bastion Bungalow
Historic building · Napier Street, Fort Kochi

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You've just missed it — take it home anyway

The 2025–26 Biennale ended on 31 March 2026. The next is expected around December 2027. We made a book of all 72 exhibits, venue by venue, with the photographs — 76 pages, 9 MB.

> **"My poetry is naked, my poetry is in tears, my poetry screams in anger, my poetry writhes in pain." One of India's most fearless writers reflects on womanness, Tamilness, and the politics of language.**

Speaker

Dr. Meena Kandasamy



About the speaker

A series-opening reflective lecture that presents art from conflict, displacement, and resistance.

Dr. Meena Kandasamy is an Indian poet, novelist, translator, and activist. Her work centres on caste annihilation, feminism, and linguistic identity. Born in 1984 to Tamil parents in Chennai, she sees her writing as a way to come to terms with her identity. These labels are “womanness, Tamilness and low/outcasteness,” and she wears them with pride.

Her poetry collections include “Touch” (2006) and “Ms. Militancy” (2010). Her novels include “The Gypsy Goddess” (2014) and “When I Hit You” (2017). “The Gypsy Goddess” is about the 1968 Kilvenmani massacre of Dalit labourers. The Women’s Prize for Fiction shortlisted “When I Hit You”. Both novels won international acclaim.

She has translated works by Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, Thol. Thirumavalavan, and Tamil Eelam poets. In 2023, she released “Thirukkural: The Book of Desire”, a feminist translation. She works with the Dalit Panthers of India. Kandasamy says political poetry has the “pressing responsibility to ensure that language is not at the mercy of the oppressors.”