

Poetic Illustration

What does poetry have in common with art illustration? Both eventually express life around in all its myriad, innumerable details and with infinite grace and truth.

Prakriti Foundation in collaboration with the departments of English and Fine Arts, Stella Maris College sought to connect the dots bringing together poetry and illustration in a workshop for 30 English Literature and 20 Fine Arts students which was held on 22 November, 2017 between 11 am and 1:00 pm.

The workshop was set within the framework of ‘the journey’ and more specifically on trains like the daily commuter trains and the metro, which have become ubiquitous symbols of the modern era. The settings also bridged two different cities in two countries – Paris, France and Mumbai, India. The poets Karthika Nair and Sampurna Chattarji hail from these two cities and it is their poetic journeys which lent cadence to the artwork of the French illustrator Joëlle Jolivet and the Indian Gond artist /illustrator Roshni Vyam.

The launch of the book ‘Metro Lands’ by Prakriti Foundation in association with Bonjour India on 21 November 2017 was marked by a unique event wherein a poetry reading cum illustration demo was held on the Chennai Metro train followed by more of the same at the Shenoy Nagar Metro station. This event led to the workshop in Stella Maris College and culminated in the budding student poets and illustrators finding the inspiration to create expressions of the memories of their own journeys through life.