

## Priyanka Das

### Transdisciplinary Artist | Filmmaker | Somatic Researcher

Priyanka Das is a transdisciplinary artist, filmmaker, and somatic researcher whose work investigates the intersection of embodied cognition, neuro-aesthetics, and spatial integration. Rather than treating art, wellness, and environment as separate disciplines, she operates under a unified holistic framework: utilizing the human nervous (somatic) system and the natural world as interconnected mediums for creative transformation and healing.

As a filmmaker and writer, Priyanka creates *cinematic meditations* that bypass cognitive barriers, activating visceral, somatic responses in the active viewers. Her recent anthropological documentary, *Tomia Timur (Self Portrait in Others)*, serves as a cinematic proof-of-concept for this work—exploring how the boundaries between self and geography dissolve through deep sensory and somatic engagement with a landscape and its people. Her entire body of work is an evolutionary journey leading up to this point.

This philosophy powers her signature methodology, **Somatic Prana**. Developed through years of creative practice and deep study of the body's energy layers (Koshas), these interactive workshops teach artists, students, and collectives how to locate emotional density in the flesh, stir it through specialized awareness and structural movement, and translate that raw internal fire (Tapas) into radical creative action.

Extending this work from the studio to the earth, her **permaculture garden project** serves as the physical anchor for her philosophy. She views soil regeneration not merely as agricultural design, but as an outer expression of somatic cleansing—a living laboratory where the wind (*Swati*), the waters, and the fire (*Tapas*) of life force achieve ultimate ecological equilibrium.

Whether facilitating in the spiritual heart of Ubud, Bali, consulting for art galleries, alternative art spaces, lecturing in academic film departments, or cultivating the earth, Priyanka is dedicated to restoring human presence. Her work serves as a vital blueprint for sustainability and creative resilience in a fragmented world.

### Education

- Master's in Fine Arts in Film Production (MFA) and Master's in Film Studies and Critical Theory (MA), **Ohio University, USA**
- Master's in Business Administration (Marketing), **Nottingham Trent University, UK**
- Bachelor's in Science (Biotechnology), **Bengaluru University, India**

## Film Screenings

- Films/videos screened at over **150+ international film festivals and exhibitions** worldwide, including Cannes, Oberhausen, Clermont-Ferrand, Kolkata International Film Festival, Berlin Underground Film Festival, Athens International Film Festival, Queens Museum New York, Cosmic Rays Film Festival, Dixon Place, Film Diary NYC, Melbourne International Film Festival, LA Underground Film Festival, Ann Arbor Film Festival, La Paz Film Festival, etc.
- Honored with **Jury Honorable Mention** at many festivals.

## Theatre Work & Non-Profit

- Over **eight years of creative experience at off-Broadway** in New York City: Five Ohm, Frost Lighting, Signature Theaters, and other production houses.
- Collaborated for several years with art councils such as **the Bronx Council on the Arts, New York City**, fostering creative partnerships that nurtured local cultural ecosystems.

## Programming & Curatorial

- Chair programmer at **Blow Up Arthouse Film Festival | USA**
- Assistant programmer at **Athens Film + Video Festival | USA**
- Jury member at **Cleveland International Film Festival | USA**
- Director of Education and Film Programming at **Sphere Film Festival | India**
- Visiting curator at **Millennium Film Workshops** and **ABC No Rio (New York), Filmmaker's Coop, Canyon Cinema Foundation**, and many more.

## Teaching

- Taught **Introduction to Documentary Film, Film Studies, Sound Production for Films** at Ohio University | USA

## Distribution

- Films distributed by **Canyon Cinema (North America)** and **Filmmakers Cooperative, New York, Direct Network, DTH (North America), ShortTV (Europe)**.

### **Cultural Volunteer Program**

- Taught English and organized cultural art expos at **Kahianga Village, Tomia Island, Wakatobi, Indonesia**
- Organized **Rural Creative Engagement Programs** in various parts of India

### **Permaculture Garden Building**

- Promotes natural, healthy soil and ecological systems for **permaculture gardens**
- Helped build homestead regenerative gardens in **India (Chatra), Indonesia (Ubud)**, and the USA (**Michigan, Odessa**)

Her **signature Somatic Prana workshops** are held worldwide, spanning academic art institutions and cultural or wellness spaces. They **create a transformational bridge** between creativity and the embodied language of the human body and its holistic presence.