



CG | UNNATI CULTURAL VILLAGE

• Art • Craft • Literature • Cuisine

A CHAUDHARY FOUNDATION Initiative

Lens Based Residency

Aayush Shrestha | Abhigya Thapa | Kripa Shakya |
Saurav Thapa Shrestha | Sharad Raut | Udhab KC



About Unnati Cultural Village

The Unnati Cultural Village is a unique initiative of the Chaudhary Foundation that fuels the evolution of heritage, multidisciplinary arts, crafts and living knowledge systems of Nepal, through its harnessing, preservation, promotion and resultant economic growth.

Unnati's philosophy of revival of national heritage through forms of arts, dance music, literature, cuisine and traditional habitat is intended to bring the past into the present. It is a sustainable creation of cultural wealth and artistic endeavor that speaks both to the traditional as well as the contemporary. The intention is to incubate a program that is sensitive and holistic.

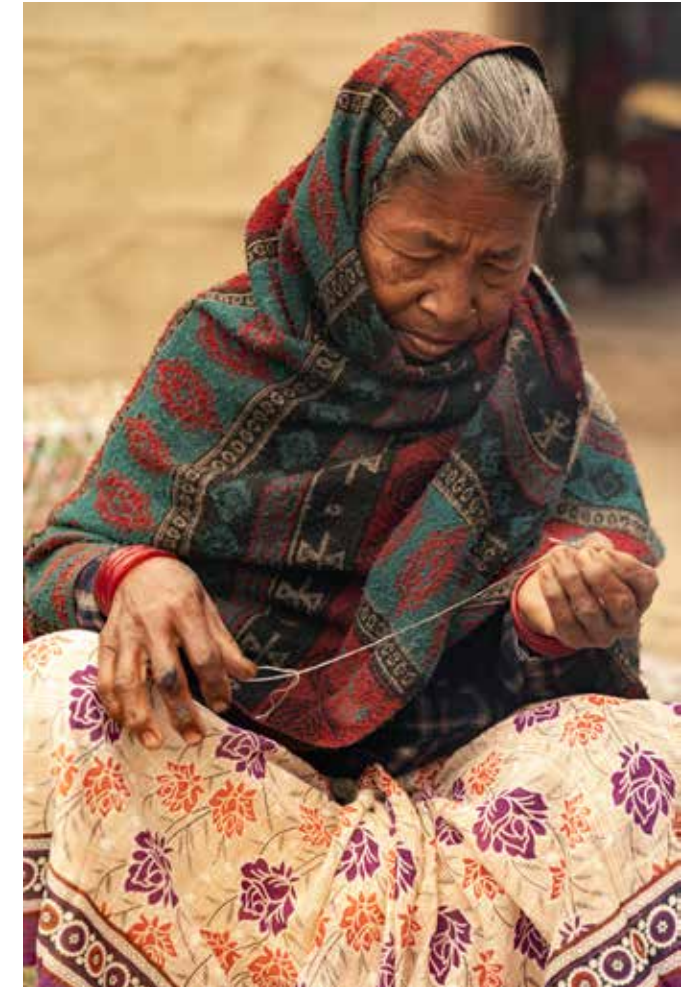
Lens Based Residency

Nawalpur's Lens Based Residency Program caters to Nepali photographers and videographers to create work based on village life. The program emphasizes celebrating the essence of Tharu village life in Nawalpur, serving as a symbol of courage, grace, beauty, and preservation. The program provides selected residents with access to a creative space in Nawalpur to reflect, think critically, and engage in activities while immersed in a local environment with indigenous Tharu people and their culture.



Aayush Shrestha

Aayush Shrestha is a Kathmandu-based visual artist and photographer. He began photographing at the age of 15 and has had his work exhibited on national and international platforms. He believes he learned the fundamentals from Artudio. He has been working commercially for the past eight years. Majoring in fashion and product photography, Aayush is currently working on his own historical and cultural research projects that incorporate fashion.







Abhigya Thapa

Abhigya Thapa is a Kathmandu based photographer. He was introduced to photography in 2010 and has been involved professionally since 2016. Since then, he has worked with a variety of organizations, including the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), UNDP, UNWomen, UNICEF, Nepal Tourism Board, and others, primarily documenting lifestyle and landscapes from across the country. In addition, Abhigya enjoys astrophotography and captures the moon and stars in his spare time.



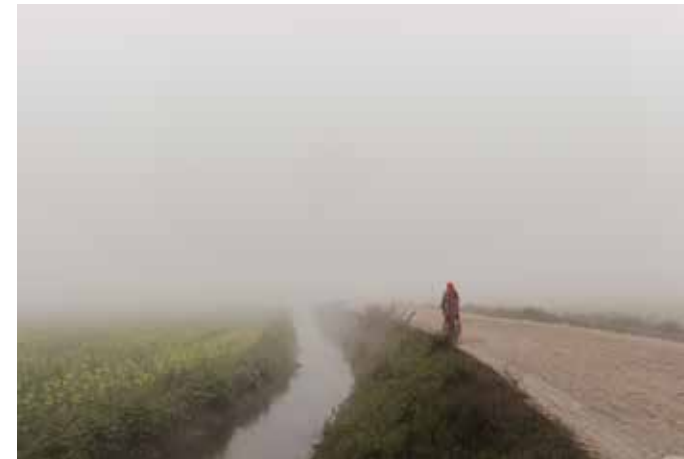




Kripa Shakya

Kripa Shakya is a visual artist and photographer based in Lalitpur, Nepal. She was introduced to art in 2015, when she enrolled in art classes. During her foundation level, she polished her art skills and learned about photography as an art medium. She now uses photography as a medium to express herself. Kripa also participated in the Mobile Library Nepal fellowship program in 2021, where she organized a workshop for beginning photographers. The workshop focused on reading and creating a story through photographs.







Saurav Thapa Shrestha

Saurav Thapa Shrestha is a Bhaktapur based freelance photographer. He is fascinated with stories that evoke powerful emotions and reflect the essence of life. He strives to create images that tell a story and touch the soul of the human experience.

At twelve, Saurav's interest in photography was sparked by a simple point-and-shoot camera. It became his companion as he explored Bhaktapur's cultural festivities and architectural wonders. He was fascinated by how photography could capture and preserve the beauty and vibrancy of the world around us.







Udhab KC

Udhab Kc is a freelance photographer and licensed trek guide based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Around 2010, while working at a desk job, he became fascinated by his office colleague's camera work and photos. He soon realized he had an eye for street and storytelling photography and left his desk job to pursue the art of photography. Udhab is now actively involved in photography, specializing in street, documentary, and travel photography. Since 2017, he has also been working as a Trek guide, leading photo treks and photo tours. He is the founder of #photowalkersnp—a photographer's community-based in Kathmandu, where photography enthusiasts can join for free to learn and share photography knowledge.





Acknowledgments

Surabhi Chaudhary

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