

# UNNATI



# Project Report



## ABSTRACT

This report highlights the journey of UNNATI from March 2021 to December 2025, showcasing its efforts to uplift communities, promote sustainable development, and preserve Nepal's rich art and cultural heritage. As a key initiative of the Chaudhary Foundation, UNNATI has focused on empowering people at the grassroots by supporting creative industries, traditional skills, and environmentally friendly practices. Over the years, it has worked to create opportunities for women, artists, and local entrepreneurs across Nepal. Through meaningful partnerships and community engagement, UNNATI has contributed to building a stronger, more self-reliant, and inclusive society. This report reflects the impact made and the continued commitment to cultural revival, social progress, and sustainable livelihoods.



## Message from Chairperson Emeritus

**-Binod K. Chaudhary**

Over the years, UNNATI as a program under the Chaudhary Foundation has tirelessly worked towards promoting and preserving art and culture, recognizing their significance in shaping societies and fostering a sense of identity. Through various initiatives, we have provided platforms for artists to showcase their talents, organized cultural events that celebrate diversity, and supported art education programs to nurture the next generation of creative minds.

It gives me great pleasure and satisfaction to lend my support to our community through UNNATI, as a dedicated project to the advancement of art, culture, women empowerment, and sustainability. In addition to our commitment to art and culture, UNNATI has been at the forefront of empowering women and promoting gender equality. We firmly believe that empowering women is not only a moral imperative but also a catalyst for social and economic progress. Through our programs, we have provided skill development training, entrepreneurship opportunities, and access to resources for women, enabling them to become self-reliant and active contributors to their communities and working towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

Furthermore, We recognize the urgent need to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable practices for the well-being of our planet and future generations. Through our initiatives, we have focused on promoting renewable energy, waste management, and conservation of natural resources. By collaborating with local communities, businesses, and government agencies, we have been able to implement sustainable solutions that have a lasting impact on the environment.

In conclusion, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our stakeholders, partners, and supporters who have played a pivotal role in making UNNATI's endeavors successful. This report highlights the unyielding effort of togetherness that we have made significant strides in the fields of art, culture, women empowerment, and sustainability in this span of proceedings. However, our journey is far from over, and we remain committed to creating a better world for all to reach beyond territories. Let us continue to work hand in hand, inspiring positive change and leaving a lasting legacy for generations to come and the community we belong to.



## Message from Executive Director/ Founder

**-Surabhi Chaudhary**

At UNNATI, we believe that the foundation of sustainable development lie in the empowerment of grass roots communities by creating circular economies, revival and celebration of traditional knowledge systems, and enriching multi-disciplinary creative home grown industries that foster innovation and resilience.

As we reflect on the past years, I am filled with pride and deep gratitude for the incredible journey of growth, collaboration, and transformation that we have embarked upon together.

Our initiatives have actively touched lives across Nepal. Through Unnati Shipshiksa, we empowered women in MSME's and cottage industries by equipping them with technology, tools, and fostering entrepreneurship. Six community facility centers across 5 provinces and 6 districts of Nepal have become an incubation hub for exhibition and market linkage platforms for various artisanal engagements. The Farm to Table program strengthened rural agricultural systems, promoting eco-friendly bio-fertilizer practices thereby protecting soil regeneration and food security. Siya (Made in Nepal) continued to connect our tribal artisans spread from the Himalayas to the Terai regions offering unique and exquisite handmade products from natural materials to national and international markets, ensuring that traditional crafts find relevance and recognition in modern lifestyle thereby fueling green economies.

Art and Cultural engagement remained a strong pillar of our activities — from celebrating our rich heritage at events like UNNATI Mela and Dashain-Tihar Utsav, to showcasing contemporary Nepali art at prestigious forums such as the India Art Fair, New Delhi and Resonance of Hues exhibition at Vivanta, Meghauli Serai and UCV. Our residencies, workshops, and collaborations across sectors have nurtured young artists, expanded cross-cultural dialogue, and reinforced our mission to make Nepalese heritage a living and evolving force.

Through every project, UNNATI has prioritized grassroots empowerment, sustainability, innovation, and cultural revival. These outcomes would not have been possible without the collective efforts of our communities, artisans, partners, and team members. I sincerely thank each one of you for believing in our vision and for walking this journey with us.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to scaling our impact, nurturing creative economies, and building a future where Nepal's rich heritage, natural resources, and human potential are celebrated and strengthened for generations to come.

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A photograph showing a person's hand reaching into a wall cavity. The hand is wearing a red and yellow striped sleeve. The cavity is filled with light-colored insulation material. The wall is made of vertical wooden studs. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

# Introduction

## UNNATI

UNNATI, a unique initiative by the Chaudhary Foundation, caters to the economic growth, evolution of heritage, and living knowledge systems of Nepal. As the abbreviation suggests, it is the focal point for Upscaling National, Natural, Artistic, and Traditional Industries. UNNATI's philosophy of revival entails the survival of national heritage through forms of arts, crafts, dance, music, foods, language, and habitat, encompassing the philosophy of life by which civilizations once thrived in culture and traditions. The essence is to bring the lost and found, old and new, back into our everyday lives.

UNNATI is a living ecosystem whose engagement and efforts to harness the tangible and intangible disciplines of artistic industries are growing and evolving with a bottom-up approach in the economic pyramid.

UNNATI

Upscaling National, Natural, Artistic,  
And Traditional Industries

# Introduction



## VISION

A multi disciplinary program that fuels creative and cultural economies and preserves living heritage eco systems.



## VALUES

UNNATI is designed to uphold certain values throughout the life of ongoing projects. These values can be seen consistently through our programs, events, spaces, and experiences to create awareness, sensitivity, and integrity for the project.

“Purpose, People and Planet”

“Partnerships are fueled by Purpose between the Public & Private for Protection of the People & Planet”

“We are environmentally sensitive.”

“We are socially responsible.”

“We empower”

“We facilitate institutional building at the grassroots.”

## OBJECTIVES

- » Reviving cottage industries and indigenous livelihood practices in arts, crafts, performance, agriculture, architecture, and traditional industries to enrich and empower the national heritage of Nepal and expand its reach to South Asia.
- » Preserving and promoting threatened livelihood practices due to fast urbanization and loss of identity and culture.
- » Upscaling traditional techniques for modern-day requirements and transforming design and functionality for craft practitioners and consumers.
- » Creating products and services for wider markets, from the economic base to high-end consumers.
- » Developing a transdisciplinary platform for design-led interventions via for-profit and charitable projects and programs.
- » Incubating social entrepreneurs with business models like co-creative ateliers, collaborative workspaces, art residencies, museums, and exhibitions to stimulate the creative economy of the region.

## PILLARS



### Arts & Culture

Artistic expressions, research, and study within the visual arts, literature, music, and theatre, to conserve heritage and foster cross-cultural connections.



### Community Projects

UNNATI empowers women, youth, and traditional artisans through community projects that blend skills, culture, and sustainable livelihoods for grassroots transformation.



### Farm to Table

Promoting local, fresh, and sustainably produced foods through best practices in agriculture, organic farming, and dairy farming as the primary source of livelihood.



### Craft

Building strong marketing hubs and promoting locally-made products, UNNATI empowers rural artisans to thrive in green economies. This pillar links MSMEs and home-based workers to diverse markets, supporting long-term income and craft sustainability.



### Cultural Hospitality

An experiential space to enable cultural hospitality, festivals, events, creative expression, inclusion, and exploration.



# Pillars of UNNATI

## 1. Arts & Culture

# 1. ARTS & CULTURE

## A. EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Unnati Cultural Village has supported cultural celebrations including the UCV Mela, Jitiya Teej, Dashain, and the Crafters Carnival—totaling eight events and reaching over 6,500 people. The grand inauguration of UCV attracted celebrities, politicians, and poets, further elevating its prestige. Active promotion and marketing efforts have significantly increased visibility and engagement with UCV, highlighting its growing impact on the broader community.



12 & 13 March 2021

### Opening Ceremony of UCV + Nepal Literature Festival

The inauguration of Unnati Cultural Village was a grand affair, featuring captivating dance, theatre, and music performances. The atmosphere resonated with the spirit of celebration as Fine prints hosted a Book Festival, introducing the talented writers behind all books published during the calendar of 2077 BS.

#### Outcome

The event marked the commencement of a year-long celebration, bringing together Nepali and local artists to lead various arts and crafts activities. The event was celebrated with more than 4000 audiences in the periphery of UCV.

**Partner:** Fine print

**Location:** UCV

**Participants:** 4000+





“

*Upon arriving at the Village, we felt a genuine sense of serenity, and it is a perfect place for creative minds, especially those who enjoy nature. We should have more places like UCV all over Nepal so that people can appreciate and enjoy our country's rich cultural diversity and heritage. UCV, with its noble mission of preserving, promoting, and developing rural ethnic and cultural heritage, can be an inspiration for other beautiful and deserving villages of Nepal.*

— Bibhakar S. Shakya, Ph.D., Senior Economist, Richmond, Virginia, USA



12 March 2022

### Unnati Mela 2022

Throughout the year, UCV transformed into a hub of creativity, with local artists leading many arts and crafts activities. The village celebrated a year-long arts and crafts event, showcasing the community's talents through traditional dance performances and innovative workshops, led by Nepal and local artists.

#### Outcome

Promotion and marketing of UCV to invite local to national audiences with support to different artisans.

Location: UCV

Participants: 500+



8 March 2023

### Unnati Mela 2023

The second anniversary of Unnati Cultural Village was a community-wide celebration featuring local dance, music, food, exhibitions, and stalls. Open to the public, the event attracted a diverse audience eager to partake in the festivities. The celebration was a harmonious blend of cultural expressions, reflecting the vibrancy of the local community.

#### Outcome

Promotion of art and culture to a wider audience through communal integration.

Location: UCV

Participants: 500+



## Unnati Mela 2024

Celebrating UNNATI Cultural Village's anniversary & 114th International Women's Day

**Theme:** Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress

The UNNATI Mela 2024 was a significant event, held in conjunction with the 114th International Women's Day, attracting over 300 participants from Lalitpur, Chitwan, and Nawalpur. The event included empowering workshops, an open market, and a panel discussion.

**Chairperson:** Mrs. Surabhi Chaudhary, Founder/Executive Director of UNNATI

**Chief Guest:** Ms. Om Kala Gautam, Former Parliament Member, Gandaki Pradesh

**Participants:** 300+



### Panel Discussion:

**Speakers:** Ms. Chandana Koirala, Ms. Srijana Soti, Mr. Biswas Kafle

Over 100 women engaged in a dynamic Q&A session.

### Financial Literacy Session:

Led by Mr. Dirgha Neupane from Prabhu Bank, offering practical insights for women entrepreneurs.

### Outcome:

Empowered local women with knowledge on financial avenues, entrepreneurship, and women's rights.

Strengthened collaboration among local governments, NGOs, and community representatives.



14,15 & 16 September 2023

## Teej & Jitiya Mela 2023

The event featured fourteen stalls, each offering a unique range of products, from shoes and jewelry to traditional beaded necklaces (potey), natural fiber items, hemp clothing, decorative pieces, Fish Achar (pickle), and in-house stalls showcasing pottery and ceramics, plants, pottery-making, face painting, and mehendi application. The diversity reflected the talents and skills of the community.

### Outcome

Expanding the audience for art and culture through the inclusive integration of communities.

**Location:** UCV

**Participants:** 200

**Total Beneficiaries:** 14 Artisans

“

*The experience of participating in the inaugural exhibition at Unnati Cultural Village was simply unforgettable. The vibrant ambiance of the Art Village was truly captivating, with its diverse collection of art forms ranging from pottery to sculptures and even experimental spaces. It was a haven for art enthusiasts like me, and I couldn't help but fall in love with the atmosphere. Even now, I find myself longing for the lively pace of the village and I can't wait for the opportunity to be there again.*

— Seema



15-24 October 2023

### Dashain Mela 2023

To enhance community engagement and promote UCV, a Dashain program was held for the celebration of closeness, from Ghatasthapana to Vijaya Dasami. The festivities included Durga Sthapana, Bhajan, and a Swing ceremony.

### Outcome

Enhancing the reach of art and culture through the integration of diverse communities.

**Location: UCV**

**Participants: 250**



### Art Competition Themed “BREAKING BARRIERS”: Women Overcoming Obstacles to Achieve Their Dreams

Throughout history, women have faced numerous societal, cultural, and personal obstacles that sought to limit their potential. Yet, time and again, they have shattered these barriers, showcasing extraordinary resilience, courage, and determination—a sentiment beautifully captured in the students’ artwork.

**Total Beneficiaries: 32 students from 9 schools**

### Dashain & Tihar Utsav 2024

The Dashain & Tihar Utsav 2024 at Unnati Cultural Village, Nawalpur, celebrated Nepal’s rich heritage and sustainable tourism. Inaugurated by Mr. Baburam Biswokarma and Mr. Chakrapani Kadel, the event featured the art exhibition “Unveiled Visions” (Oct 26-Dec 26), showcasing works by 13 young Nepali artists, and an art competition themed “Breaking Barriers: Women Overcoming Obstacles.”

The event was co-partnered by Siddhartha Bank, QFX Cinemas, and CG Beverages.

**Total Attendees: 200+**

**Total Beneficiaries: 55 artisans**



### Crafters Carnival 2025

This one-day event, organized by Unnati Cultural Village and Vivanta Kathmandu, featured 27 stalls showcasing high-quality Nepali handicrafts, art, and eco-friendly products. The carnival provided a lively and fun environment with live music to welcome the New Year. It also raised awareness of eco-friendly practices and fostered community connections through networking opportunities.

**Collaborator: Vivanta Kathmandu**

**Total Attendees: 300+**

**Total Beneficiaries (Artisans): 27**

## B. EXHIBITIONS

The Unnati Cultural Village (UCV) hosted 11 events featuring 90 National and International artists, spotlighting Nepalese ceramic artistry, photography, and videography inspired by Tharu village life. The Tharu folk stories initiative involved learning from Tharu musicians, dancers, and storytellers. Workshops and dialogues fostered cultural exchange, skill development, and networking opportunities. Marking a historic return to the India Art Fair after five years, Unnati proudly represented Nepal in both 2024 and 2025, giving international visibility to 11 Nepali artists. Landmark exhibitions like Resonance of Hues and Unveiled Visions further reinforced Unnati's role in amplifying Nepal's artistic voice on global platforms while nurturing local talent and creative networks.



**12 & 13 March 2021**

### Sampada Contemporary Art Exhibition

The inauguration of Unnati Cultural Village was a grand affair, featuring captivating dance, theatre, and music performances. The atmosphere resonated with the spirit of celebration as Fine prints hosted a Book Festival, introducing the talented writers behind all books published during the calendar of 2077 BS.

**Total Artist: 26**

**Location: Art Gallery, UCV**

**Total Attendees: 4000+**

**Collaborated artist:** Lain Singh Bangdel, Thakur Prasad Mainali, Shashi Bikram Shah, Batsa Gopal Vaidya, Krishma Maharjan, Shanker Raj Singh Suwal, Shyam Lal Shrestha, Kiran Manandhar, Dr. Laya Mainali, Uma Shankar Shah, Dr. Seema Sharma Shah, Gopal Kalapremi Shrestha, Bhim Prasad Sharma, Sudarshan Bikram Rana, Sunita Rana, Asha Dangol, Erina Tamrakar, Bijay Maharjan, Sushila Singh, Meena Kayastha, Sagar Manandhar, Kabi Raj Lama, Shushank Kalapremi Shrestha, and Sajal Siwakoti

**Aug, Sept, Oct 2021**

### Reclamation Exhibition

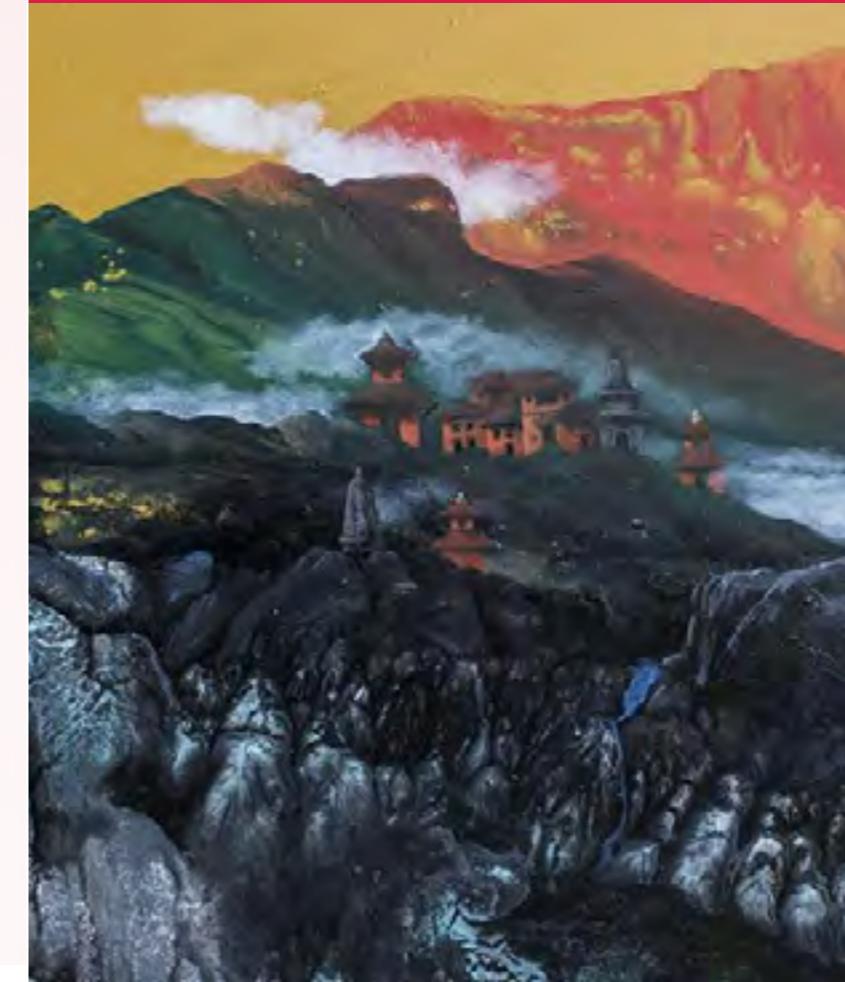
The exhibition, thoughtfully curated, featured artworks dedicated to women, weaving a narrative that celebrated their evolution. Through various mediums, the artists captured the essence of femininity, presenting a poignant reflection on the diverse roles and stories of women in Nepali society.

**Collaborated artist:** Anisha Maharjan, Chirag Bangdel, Damodar Baral, Laxman Bajra Lama, and Muna Bhadel.

**Total Artist: 7**

**Location: Art Gallery, UCV**

**Total Attendees: 400+**



**Jan-Mar 2022**

### Intangible of Peace & Nature - Solo Exhibition

A captivating collection of paintings exploring the intrinsic connection between nature and spirituality. The artists painted landscapes that echoed the beauty of Nepal, intertwining it with spiritual motifs, creating a visual journey that stirred the soul.

**Collaborated Artist:** Binod Pradhan

**Location:** Art Gallery, UCV

**Total Attendees: 500+**





Mar-May 2022

### Contemporary Art Exhibition

As part of Unnati Mela's one-year celebration, the exhibition showcased the works of young Nepali artists. Their fresh perspectives and innovative expressions celebrate the vibrancy and creativity of Nepal's emerging talents.

#### Collaborated Artists:

Pradhumna Shrestha, Rudra Bahadur Pun, Sangee Shrestha, Prithvi Shrestha, Saurganga Darshandhari, Roshan Pradhan, Mala Shrestha, Roshan Bhandari, Rishita Khatri, and Sushank Shrestha.

**Total Artist: 10**

**Location: Art Gallery, UCV**

**Total Attendees: 400+**



Apr- May 2022

### Public Art Exhibition

In collaboration with Bikalpa's festival, UCV proudly displayed its creations at the public art exhibition. Titled "Revisiting the Roots in Modern Nuance," the exhibition presented a fusion of traditional roots with contemporary expressions, creating a harmonious dialogue between the past and the present.

**Collaboration: Bikalpa Art Center (Organiser)**

**Location: Gallery of Creatives, Thamel**

**Total Attendees: 550+**

Sept 2022 - March 2023

### Chitwan Based Artists' Exhibition

A highlight of the exhibition was a dedicated space featuring artworks exclusively created by local women artists from Nawalpur and Chitwan. This provided a platform for their talents and empowered these artists, fostering a sense of community and recognition.

**Location: Art Gallery, UCV**

**Total Artist- 4**

**Collaborated Artists:** Barun Babu Ghimire, Bhim Prasad Sharma, Rashmi Amatya, Suraksha Wagle



March-May 2023

### Lens-Based Residency Exhibition

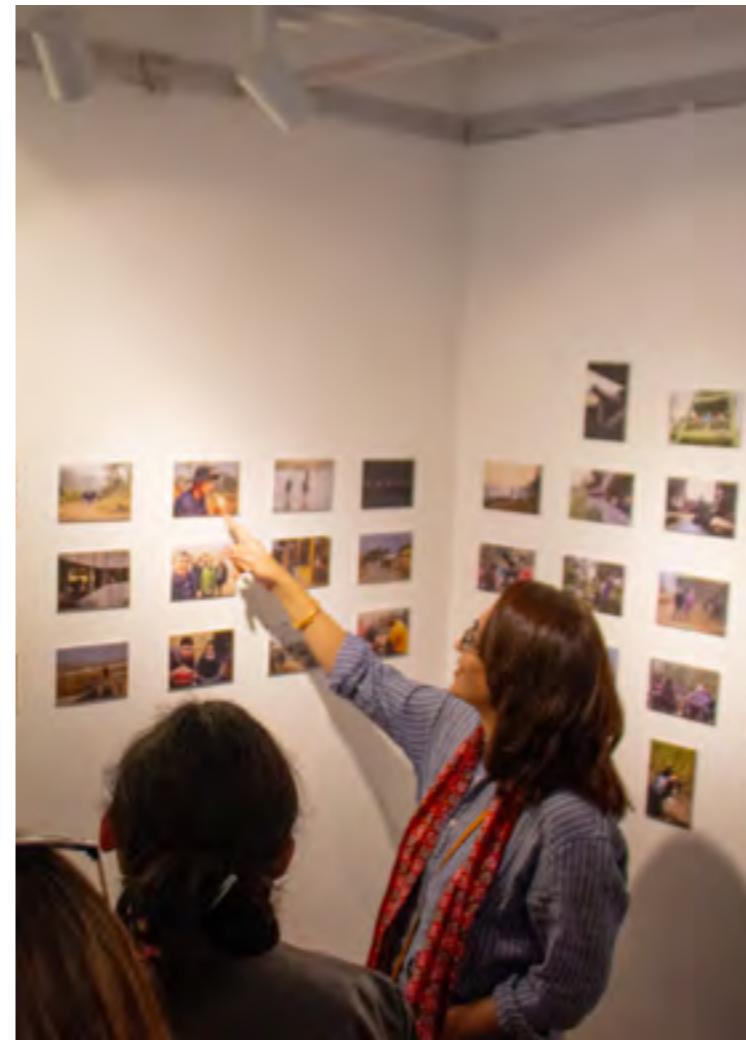
The exhibition culminated with a compelling display of work, including photos and videos, created during the lens-based residency. This section encapsulated diverse perspectives and narratives, offering a glimpse into the multifaceted world seen through the lenses of talented artists.

**Location: Art Gallery, UCV**

**Total visitors: 600+**

**Total Artist- 6**

**Collaborated Artists:** Aayush Shrestha, Abhigya Thapa, Kripa Shakya, Saurav Thapa Shrestha, Sharad Raut, Udhab KC



Aug 10 – Oct 11, 2024

## Resonance of Hues – A Collective Art Show Celebrating Nepali Culture

The art exhibition Resonance of Hues was inaugurated on August 10, 2024, at Vivanta Creatives, a newly established art space at Vivanta Kathmandu. Featuring 8 leading Nepali contemporary artists, the exhibition celebrates Nepal's cultural heritage through a vibrant blend of traditional and modern expressions. The event was chaired by Ms. Surabhi Chaudhary, who emphasized "Public-Private Partnership for the People and the Planet." Mr. Binod Chaudhary gave the closing remarks, commending Unnati's efforts.

Special guests included Ms. Sarika Chaudhary, Mr. Rahul Chaudhary, and Mr. Ravi Nischal, General Manager of Vivanta Kathmandu, who expressed pride in the collaboration. A captivating performance by Sur Sudha added a rich cultural layer to the evening.

**Collaborated Artists:** Dr. Seema Sharma Shah, Mr. Umashankar Shah, Ms. Namrata Singh, Ms. Manju Khadka, Mr. Sujan Dangol, Ms. Sushma Shakya, Ms. Samjhana Rajbhandari, and Mr. Abhijeet Prajapati

**Number of Artworks showcased:** 35

**Visitor and Digital reach:** Over 1,000+

**Total Artists:** 8



Oct 26-Dec 26 2024

## Unveiled Visions

This group art exhibition at UCV aims to encourage, promote, and provide a platform for Nepal's budding contemporary artists. The exhibition explores Nepali modern, exploratory, socio cultural, traditional, and contemporary art, weaving a compelling visual narrative of everyday life and addressing pertinent issues.

**Collaborated Artists:** Binod Giri, Khushbu Nhembafuki, Manish Dhoju, Nikhil Bahadur Shakya, Rasik Rai, Rupak Rai, Sara Tunich Koinch, Sharmila Tamang, Spandan Pyakurel, Sujan Bir Bajracharya, Suman Thapa, Sunil Pandey, Sushil Gurung

**Total Artists:** 13

**Total Attendees:** 200+



Feb 1 - 4, 2024

## India Art Fair 2024

Unnati Cultural Village proudly provided a global platform for Nepalese artists by actively participating in the prestigious India Art Fair 2024 in collaboration with Aakrit Collective. Representing Nepal after 5 years at this major international art event, Unnati showcased the talents of five young contemporary Nepalese artists, bringing their work to the attention of collectors, curators, patrons, and art enthusiasts from around the world.

Through this initiative, Unnati not only highlighted the richness of Nepal's artistic and cultural heritage but also created critical market linkages and professional exposure for the participating artists. With over 50 artworks displayed, the participation led to remarkable success,

- » **Output:** After 5 years Nepal represented at an international Art Fair showcasing contemporary art practices by 5 young Nepalese artists. (Aakrit Collective)
- » **Sales Inquiry and Art Gallery Connection** for Nepalese artists have been initiated for their long-term growth and sustainability.
- » **Collaborated with:** Aakrit Collective ( Hitesh Vaidya, Jagadish Moktan, Nawina Sunuwar, Pooja Duwal and Tashi Lama)
- » **Total Attendees:** 200,000+



Feb 6 - 9 2025

## India Art Fair 2025

**Theme:** Genesis of Divine – Preservation, Conservation & Creation

For the second time, UNNATI proudly represented Nepal at the India Art Fair 2025 with the thematic exhibition Genesis of Divine. Curated by Roshan Bhandari, the showcase explored how divinity is expressed and experienced through Nepali art—bridging ancient traditions with contemporary interpretations.

Featuring six talented artists, exhibition presented a powerful narrative through mediums like bronze sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, junk art, and installation.

The booth drew significant appreciation and captivated audiences with its rich portrayal of Nepal's culture and traditions. Visitors showed genuine interest in the stories, symbols, and spiritual depth woven into each piece—offering a moment of connection between heritage and art.

Through their works, the artists celebrated Nepal's sacred legacy and artistic innovation, leaving a lasting impression on an international platform.

### Key Highlights:

**Visitor Reach:** 200,000+

**Collaborated Artists:** Bijaya Maharjan, Meena Kayastha, Subodh Bhandari, Sambriddhi R. Shakya, Sushila Singh, and Uma Shankar Shah

### Booth Outcome:

- » Widely praised for its unique presentation.
- » Stood out for its contemporary interpretation of divinity.
- » Received strong engagement and international recognition.



Nov 14 2025 –Feb 14 2026

### Unveiled Visions II

The showcase reflects imagination, depth, and cultural richness drawn from diverse ethnic backgrounds. The exhibition aims to promote emerging Nepali artists, encourage cultural dialogue, and build visibility for Nepal's creative community on national and international platforms. The exhibition was proudly inaugurated by Chief Guest Mr. Danda Pani Rijal Ward Chairperson and graced by Special Guest Mr. Deewaker Piya - Honorary Consul of Uruguay and Mr. Yagya Prasad Chapagain from Meghauli Upabhokta Samiti, celebrating the creativity and vision of Nepal's emerging artists.

**Collaborated Artists:** Abhijeet Prajapati, Iva KC, Preeti Duwal, and Sagun Thapa.

**Total Artists: 4**

**Total Reach: 3000+**



## Case Study



### From Carpet to Canvas, Journey of Tashi Lama

Tashi Lama is a visual artist from Kathmandu, Nepal. He completed his Bachelor's in Fine Arts from Kathmandu University in 2019. These stories became the foundation of his artistic journey. He is a member of Aakrit Collective, an artists' group based in Bhaktapur. Tashi combines traditional thangka painting techniques from his family with the skills he gained through formal education. His artworks pay tribute to the labour, dedication, and sacrifices of people like his mother who worked in the carpet industry.

Before 2024, Tashi had only participated in national-level exhibitions and workshops. Recognizing his talent and unique style, the UNNATI project selected him and his team to represent Nepal at the prestigious India Art Fair 2024. His artworks received great appreciation from artists, visitors, and art lovers, and he successfully sold all his pieces during the event. Following this success, Tashi gained recognition from both national and international art communities. He was honored with the Australian Himalayan Art Award 2024 for his dedication and creativity. Currently, he is hosting his solo exhibition at Siddhartha Art Gallery, showcasing his weaving-inspired artworks. His work continues to attract attention, and he is now seen as one of the world's emerging young artists.

# Case Study

## Bridging Heritage and Innovation: The Global Debut of Sambridhi Ratna Shakya and Subodh Bhandari

In Feb 2025, two emerging Nepali artists—Sambridhi Ratna Shakya and Subodh Bhandari—achieved a significant breakthrough by showcasing their work at the prestigious India Art Fair (IAF) 2025. This milestone marked their first international exhibition, made possible through the support and facilitation of the Unnati program.

Unnati identified the duo through its talent-scouting and creative empowerment initiatives, recognizing the strength of their practice, which reimagines Nepal's architectural heritage through contemporary visual art. The platform provided by Unnati not only enabled their debut on a global stage but also positioned Nepali art and culture in a broader international discourse.

### Art Rooted in Cultural Memory and Architectural Form

Sambridhi and Subodh are graduates of Kathmandu University School of Arts, Department of Art and Design, where their shared interest in the dialogue between past and present first took form. Their collaboration focuses on installations that reinterpret traditional architectural elements—such as khopas (niches), windows, and stone carvings—with a fresh visual language.

Their installation, “Fragments of Faith”, explores the enduring symbolism of niches in Nepali religious and domestic architecture. Coated in red mud and adorned with sacred motifs, the piece captures how spirituality and craftsmanship have evolved while remaining deeply embedded in the fabric of everyday life.

The second work, “Odyssey of a City”, reflects on the urban transformation of Kathmandu through windows collected and studied from around the Kathmandu valley; including Buddhist courtyards—Bahals and Bahils. The piece offers a layered visual narrative of time, community, and resilience.



### Unnati's Role: Creating Pathways for Emerging Talent

Unnati's involvement was instrumental in identifying, mentoring, and enabling these young artists to step onto an international platform. The India Art Fair represented their first international showcase, and its outcome exceeded expectations—not only for the artists, but also for the broader Nepali art ecosystem. Their installation “Fragments of Faith” was acquired by the Fidelity Investments Corporate Art Collection in the United States, a landmark achievement that underscores the global relevance of their work. All exhibited pieces were sold, and they secured new commissions—demonstrating both artistic merit and market viability.

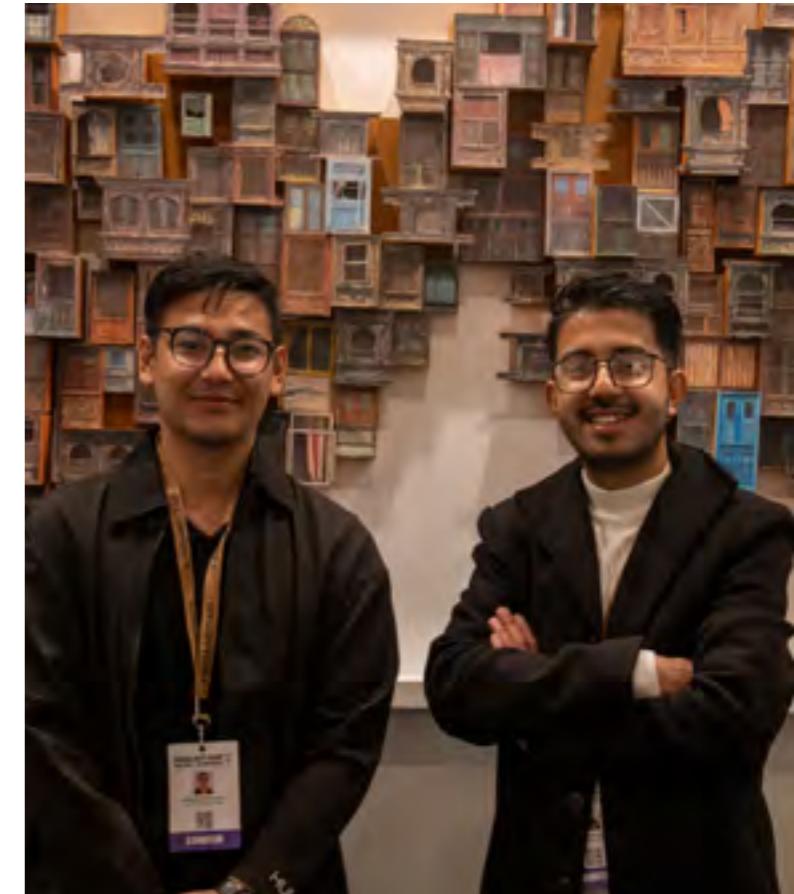
This success story highlights how strategic facilitation and targeted support can help elevate local talent onto world stages, catalyzing long-term impact.

### A New Chapter for Nepali Contemporary Art

The debut of Sambridhi and Subodh is more than an individual success—it represents a growing recognition of Nepal's artistic voice in global conversations. Their work showcases how traditional cultural forms, when reinterpreted with authenticity and innovation, can resonate far beyond national borders.

“This experience has shaped our practice in new ways, allowing us to see how Nepal's history and identity can be shared and appreciated globally.”

— Sambridhi Ratna Shakya & Subodh Bhandari  
Through Unnati's vision and the artists' dedication, Nepalese art has taken a confident step forward—bridging tradition and modernity, and building a new legacy for the next generation of cultural creators.



## C. RESIDENCIES

Between 2021 and 2025, UNNATI hosted nine artist residencies, bringing together 54 national and international artists and artisans to explore diverse artistic disciplines and cultural practices rooted in Nepal's heritage. These residencies served as platforms for skill enhancement, cross-cultural collaboration, and creative exploration, while fostering deeper engagement with local communities and contexts.

Notable highlights include the Ceramic and Pottery Residency, the Nawalpur Residency, and the Handmade History series, which reflected on the survival, transformation, and relevance of indigenous crafts. Through these residencies, UNNATI continues to promote artistic innovation, cultural dialogue, and the preservation of Nepal's living traditions.



Sept 21- 30,

### Nawalpur Artist Residency - I

In a unique 10-day residency, UNNATI Cultural Village opened its doors to Nepali artist Subima Shrestha. A Kathak dance artist, choreographer, and art educator, Subima collaborated with Tharu musicians, dancers, and storytellers during her residency. Their collective efforts culminated in a mesmerizing final piece deeply rooted in Tharu folk stories.

**Organizer:** Echoes in the Valley

**Artist:** Subima Shrestha

**Location:** UCV



Dec 27 2022 - Jan 13 2023

### Nawalpur Artist Residency - II

A residency focused on celebrating the essence of rural beauty in Tharu village life brought together Nepali photographers and videographers. The artists collaborated to create impactful visual narratives, serving as both a celebration of rural life and a vital preservation initiative.

**Collaborated Artists:** Sharad Raut (videographer), Udhab Kc (photographer), Abhigya Thapa (photographer), Saurav Thapa Shrestha (photographer), Aayush Shrestha (photographer), Kripa Shakya (photographer)



Dec 13 2021- Jan 14 2022

### Residency with Master Trainers

A cross-border collaboration unfolded as Bangladeshi and Nepali ceramic artists immersed themselves in a residency, crafting installations for UNNATI Cultural Village. The exchange not only fostered artistic synergy but also added unique ceramic installations to the cultural landscape of the village.

**Total Artist: 4**

**Artist:** Anisul Haque (Bangladesh), Gopal Kalapremi, Meena Kayastha, Shushila Singh, Phurbu Dolma Gurung

**Location:** UCV



Apr 4-22 2022

### **Handmade History I Knotting & Expanding | Lost & Found**

UNNATI Cultural Village hosted five Indian artists-in-residence, transcending borders to explore commonalities in transformation and preservation. Through workshops, dialogues, and community engagement, the program aimed to build robust networks and foster cultural connections within the Nepali community.

#### **Collaboration: Raza Foundation**

**Artists:** Manish Pushkale (curator), Amitava Das, Rm Palaniappan, Manish Pushkale Wahida Ahmed, and Tanmoy Samanta

**Location:** UCV



Jun 24 - Jul 14 2022

### **Handmade History II Surviving & Extincted | Material & Matter**

In the vibrant heart of Kathmandu, UNNATI Cultural Village hosted three Indian and two Nepali artists-in-residency. The residency provided a dynamic ambiance for artistic exploration, fostering creativity and collaboration among the diverse pool of talent.

#### **Collaboration: Raza Foundation**

**Artists:** Three Indian and two Nepali artists; Pratul Dash, Ravi Kumar Kashi, M Pravat, Rashmi Amatya, Bijaya Maharjan

**Location:** UCV

Mar 20- Mar 29, 2025

### **Handmade History III Refined Fibre | Pulp Function**

The third edition of Handmade History brought together four Indian artists-in-residence—Akhilesh, Dileep Sharma, Sheetal Gattani, and Vanita Gupta—for a ten-day exploration of fiber and pulp-based practices. Under the themes Refined Fibre and Pulp Function, the program highlighted contemporary approaches to handmade processes through material experimentation and artistic dialogue.

**Curated by:** Manish Pushkale

**Collaborated Artists:** Akhilesh Varma, Dileep Sharma, Sheetal Gattani, and Vanita Gupta

**Collaboration:** Raza Foundation

**Location:** UCV





20 Feb - 13 March 2023

### International Ceramic Symposium

UNNATI Cultural Village opened its doors to ceramic artists from around the globe in an International Ceramic Symposium with 7 seven international artist from including 3 from Thailand, 2 from Germany, and one from Latvia, and Australia respectively. The artists contributed to the open-air museum with installations based on the theme of harmony, adding a global perspective to the village's artistic landscape.

**Artists:** Gopal Kalapremi Shrestha (curator), 7 International Artists; Pim Sudhikam, Reinhard Keitel, Prakorn Wilai, Berthhold-J Zavaczki, Elina Titane, Merrie Tomkins, Kreetapol Thongkhum.

**Location:** UCV



21 May - 6 June 2023

### Ceramic and Pottery Residency

With a broader vision to enhance the state of ceramic and pottery in Nepal, UNNATI Cultural Village initiated the International Ceramic Residency program. This effort seeks to determine a viable production line for UNNATI Bazaar, contributing to the region's improvement and sustainability of ceramic art.

**Artists:** Bipasha Sen Gupta & Shruti Mascarenhas (For India), 6 Potters from Bhaktapur and Kapilvastu, 1 Ceramic and **Location:** UCV

**Location:** UCV





Feb 08 - 13, 2025

### 5-Days Artist Residency with Shampa Sircar Das at Unnati

UNNATI hosted a 5-day Artist Residency for renowned Indian contemporary artist Ms. Shampa Sircar Das, celebrated for her work inspired by Indian folk and tribal art.

Deeply influenced by her extensive travels and engagement with India's rural landscapes, Shampa's art explores cultural symbolism, weaving together philosophy, aesthetics, and technique. Her works are rich in visual language, reflecting a deep connection to India's spiritual heritage.

This residency offered a meaningful exchange of artistic insights and strengthened cultural ties between India and Nepal through shared traditions and creative exploration.



“

*The experience of the symposium is multi-layered and full of impressions. Working in a cultural village is a rich experience that is permeated by getting to know nature, traditions, culture, sound, and taste. The peaceful beauty of Unnati Cultural Village is like an oasis for creativity.*

*The authenticity of the local village, the kindness of the people, and the beauty of nature are values that inspire. The creative work process and the result are the interaction and result of experience. When getting to know the locals and gaining daily experience, the clay sculptures transform and change during the process. The created group sculptures, TERRACOTTA, so well belong to the garden landscape because they include the context of place and time.*

– Elina  
Ceramic Artist

“

*My experience working with Unnati during the Art Residency in the Chitwan region was incredible. We were able to immerse ourselves in the community and capture their lifestyle and emotions. The facilitation provided by Unnati Cultural Village was beautiful, and their hospitality was authentic and peerless. This experience has helped me realize the importance of documenting and conserving the community, which Unnati promotes through various means to keep it alive*

– Saurav Thapa Shrestha  
Lifestyle Photographer

“

*Unnati Cultural Village is a beautiful space to celebrate our rich culture and heritage. During my week-long stay surrounded by nature, I deeply enjoyed experiencing the Tharu culture. I was truly impressed by the hospitality, the food, and the peaceful environment. As a visual artist, I especially appreciated the well-lit studios, the natural materials available, and the opportunity to explore mediums like ceramics. I would love to visit again and hope to see a museum here soon with the largest cultural collection in Nepal. My best wishes to the entire team. Thank you!*

— Dileep Sharma  
Visual Artist

“

*Unnati Cultural Village is a sanctuary where any artist can find the inspiration to create and imagine new possibilities. I thoroughly enjoyed being immersed in its lush, green surroundings. Lots of love to the team for making this experience so memorable.*

— Akhilesh Verma  
Visual Artist

“

*“The last few days at Unnati Cultural Village have been incredibly inspiring. It is a wonderful center that gives artists the space and freedom to think beyond and stimulate creativity. I am deeply grateful for the time I spent here. The staff, from Chef Pandeyji to Sarovar and Ashish, were exceptionally warm and helpful. A special thanks to Roshanaji for ensuring all our needs were met and to Lojala and Sujal for accompanying us from Kathmandu and making us feel so welcome. Heartfelt thanks to Manish Pushkale and the entire Unnati team!”*

— Vanita Gupta  
Visual Artist



## 2. Community Projects

## 2. COMMUNITY PROJECTS

### A. WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS

UNNATI has implemented sixteen initiatives aimed at community empowerment and cultural enrichment, directly benefiting 283 participants. These programs span homestay entrepreneurship, tradition-inspired innovation, and hands-on skill development. By blending traditional knowledge with modern practices, the initiatives have strengthened individual capabilities, encouraged economic self-reliance, and contributed to the preservation of Nepal's artistic heritage.

Some beneficiaries have progressed to become staff members and collaborative partners within the Unnati Cultural Village (UCV), furthering the cycle of community-led growth.

31 Mar- 11 Apr 2022

#### **Home stay Entrepreneurs Training**

Local homestay entrepreneurs underwent a 12-day training program at UCV, covering crucial aspects such as communication, advertisement and marketing, cultural programming, guest management, hygiene, safety, and entrepreneurship development.

**Trainer: CG Hospitality**

**Collaborator: CTEVT**

**Location: UCV**

**Participants: 19 participants from Baglung, Lamjung, Gorkha, Tanahun, Kaski, Parbat and Nawalpur**



22 Sept 2021

#### **Book Discussion of Folk Gods**

A heartwarming session brought children from Nawalpur together for a lively discussion on "Folk Gods," a collection of enchanting folk tales from the Kailash region. This initiative aimed to kindle a love for storytelling and cultural exploration among young minds.

**Collaboration: Mobile Library**

**Partner: Book Bus Nepal & Safu**

**Location: UCV**

23 & 25 Aug 2021

#### **Innovation through Tradition**

Engaging online sessions explored the evolution of contemporary art. These discussions showcased how artists meld traditional art forms with modern expressions. The dialogue unfolded how artists build upon traditions through innovative representation and artistic practices.

**Collaboration: Mobile Library**

**Trainer: Mahima Singh**

**Participants:** 6 participants (Kathmandu University School of Arts, Kaksha Art Gallery, Gandaki Secondary Boarding School, Né Nepal, Central Department of Fine Arts, National Academy of Medical Science, Kumarwati English School, Theatre Centre For Children, Sirjana College of Fine Arts )



1 Mar 2021

#### **Phase I of Ceramic Training at UCV**

A month-long basic ceramic training was conducted at the Crafts Village of UNNATI Cultural Village, focusing on clay preparation, wheel throwing, and firing techniques. The training provided foundational skills to emerging artisans, helping them build a deeper understanding of ceramic craftsmanship.

**Trainer: Gopal Kalapremi**

**Participants: 4 ceramic artisans**

21- 27 Nov 2022

#### **Phase II of Ceramic Training**

Building upon the success of the initial ceramic training, Phase II expanded the artisans' skills. Participants delved into advanced topics such as clay characteristics, glazing, coloring, chemical mixing, and firing techniques, elevating their proficiency in ceramic craftsmanship.

**Trainer: Gopal Kalapremi**

**Location: Kathmandu**

**Participants: 4 UCV ceramic artisans**



“

*I am incredibly grateful to UNNATI for the opportunities they have provided me. The skills I have learned in pottery have not only empowered me economically but have also given me a sense of independence and pride in my work.*

- Sundar Kumari Chaudhary

#### **Message from Artisan**

Sundar Kumari Chaudhary's journey is a powerful example of how targeted training and opportunities can transform lives. Coming from a background of limited education and primarily household responsibilities, Sundar Kumari has managed to redefine her role within her family and community. Through the UNNATI livelihood program, she received basic and advanced training in ceramics and pottery, which not only honed her skills but also opened up new avenues for her economic independence.

Under the guidance of renowned Ceramic Artist Mr. Gopal Kalapremi Shrestha and through continuous participation in workshops, she was able to refine her craft, explore new techniques, and gain the confidence needed to excel in her field. Her journey from a dependent homemaker to a skilled professional in ceramics, and now a regular staff member at UNNATI, is a testament to her dedication and the support provided by the program.

Sundar Kumari's story highlights the importance of skill-based training programs in empowering women, especially those from marginalized communities. By gaining financial independence and valuable job skills, she has not only improved her own life but also set an inspiring example for other women in her community. Her gratitude towards UNNATI reflects the significant impact such initiatives can have on individuals and communities alike.



#### **From Household Weaver to Market Supplier- Tulsi Kumari Mahato**

Tulsi Kumari Mahato lives in Agauli, Kawasoti Municipality, with her husband and son. Her family depends on farming and a small shop for their income. She

belongs to the Tharu community, where women traditionally weave natural fiber into baskets and buckets for home use. Tulsi used to weave only for her family, but after getting training from the Foundation in collaboration with Vycuu Saving and Credit Cooperative, she learned new weaving skills. She started making different products like baskets, dustbins, placemats, and vases with natural fiber and ceramics. Motivated by this opportunity, she formed a group of local women to begin small-scale production. However, initial sales were limited, and the group struggled to find consistent buyers.

Tulsi and her team participated in an advanced product design and diversification training under the UNNATI project. This intervention introduced value-added techniques such as embroidery on baskets, natural fiber bags, and corn husk shoes. The training not only enhanced product quality but also expanded their product range. Crucially, the UNNATI project facilitated market linkages by connecting Tulsi's group with Chaudhary Group's hospitality souvenir shops and hotel procurement channels. This exposure enabled them to establish regular supply chains with multiple hotels and retail outlets beyond CG networks. This success has significantly improved the livelihoods of Tulsi and her group. They no longer rely solely on their husbands' incomes and contribute meaningfully to household expenses. Tulsi has now become a source of inspiration in her community sharing her skills and teaching natural fiber weaving to other women's groups, fostering empowerment and self-reliance among local women. Through dedication, skill, and opportunity, Tulsi Kumari Mahato has woven not just baskets, but a brighter and more independent future for herself and many others.

12 March 2022

## Career Development Workshop

Empowering young women aged 16 to 28, a workshop at Unnati Mela 2022 focused on personality development and effective resume writing. This initiative aimed to equip them with essential skills for a successful and confident career path.

**Trainer:** Supriya Deo, HR Manager,  
Usha Rajak, Actress  
**Location:** UCV  
**Participants:** 16 Local Participants



12 March 2022

## Art Workshop

Nurturing creativity in the youth, an art session at Unnati Mela brought together young art enthusiasts aged 8 to 15. The session aimed to instill a love for art and culture from an early age, fostering a vibrant artistic community.

**Trainer:** Rashmi Amatya, Artist  
**Location:** UCV  
**Participants:** 19 Local Participants

15 - 20 Mar 2022

## Vyccu's Natural Fiber Training Initiative

Vyccu Savings and Credit Cooperative Limited undertook a humanitarian effort, providing natural fiber training to women in Nawalpur. UCV plans to expand on this initiative, offering further product design training and establishing market connections for skilled artisans.

**Trainer:** Gopal Kalapremi

**Location:** UCV

**Participants:** 5 Local Natural Fiber & 4 UCV Ceramic Artisans



1 Aug - 3 Aug 2022

## Certified Course on Fundamentals of Arts Management

A comprehensive 3-day course addressed the fundamentals of arts management. This certified program is aimed at building a cadre of arts and creative managers proficient in strategic planning, marketing, fundraising, and HR management.

**Collaborator:** ARThink South Asia & Khoj Studio  
**Location:** Vivanta, Kathmandu  
**Participants:** 31 participants from various arts and cultural organizations.





22-23 May 2022

### Ceramic and Pottery Workshop

A two-day workshop unfolded at Srijana College of Fine Art and Kathmandu University, School of Arts. A total of 28 participants engaged in hands-on ceramic and pottery exploration, enriching their artistic skills.

**Collaborator: Bipasha Sen Gupta & Shruti Mascarenhas**

**Location: Srijana College of Fine Art and Kathmandu University, School of Arts**

**Participants: 28 participants from 2 colleges**

### Art and Pottery Workshop of Tharu Community Culture

An impactful art and pottery workshop was conducted with the participation of students from the USA, who immersed themselves in the lifestyle, culture, traditions, and crafts of the Tharu community. Through their creative expressions, the students translated these rich experiences into meaningful artwork.

**Total Participation: 11 students**



26 Nov - 6 Dec 2024

### Product Design & Diversification in Natural Fibre Crafts

A 10-day training on Product Design and Diversification in natural fiber crafts was held at Unnati Cultural Village. The training empowered women from the Amaltarai Tharu Hastakala Women Group by enhancing their skills in sustainable and marketable craft production.

Participants learned to creatively utilize locally available resources, focus on product diversification, and explore branding and market linkage opportunities. This initiative not only enhanced their craftsmanship but also aligned their products with modern market demands.

The closing ceremony was graced by the Honorable Minister of Gandaki Province, Ms. Bindu Poudel, whose encouragement strengthened the spirit of future collaboration.

**Total Trainees: 16 women**

**Trainers: Ms. Rajini Chitrakar and Ms. Ganga Biswakarma**



23 Nov 2024

### Brand in Hands Program Facilitation

Unnati facilitated the Brand in Hands program, organized by the BioTechnique Society of Nepal and the Robotic Association of Nepal, empowering 30 participants with practical skills and entrepreneurial insights.

Ms. Ganga Neharu led a hands-on session on banana fibre extraction and product development, introducing sustainable crafting techniques. Ms. Janaki conducted a session on Entrepreneurship Development, guiding participants on how to transform their skills into viable business ventures.

The facilitation focused on promoting sustainable skills and entrepreneurial knowledge, helping participants build and grow their own businesses.

**Total Participants: 30**

**Facilitators: Ms. Ganga Neharu and Ms. Janaki**



3 Oct - 12 Oct 2023

### Soap, Candle, and Dhoop Making Training

In a 10-day training program at UCV local women acquired skills in soap, candle, and dhoop making. The production included a variety of organic materials, showcasing UNNATI's commitment to skill development and sustainable practices.

These initiatives underscore UNNATI's multifaceted commitment to community empowerment, skill development, and cultural enrichment.

**Facilitator: Mrs. Janaki Pradhan Shrestha (Master Trainer),**

**Mrs. Sabina Oli (Assistant Trainer)**

**Location: UCV**

**Beneficiary Women: 17**

26 Mar- 4 Apr 2025

### Soap, Dhoop & Candle Production

Women artisans who had previously received training from us were engaged in in-house production of sustainable, organic products of fragrant candles, incense and soaps.

This initiative provided the trained artisans with the opportunity to apply their acquired skills, offering both skill enhancement and a market platform to showcase and promote their handmade products in CG's Hospitality outlets and Gift Shops.

### Employment Opportunity: 3 Women



20 Apr - 5 May 2025

### Ceramic Product Development Training

The 15-day ceramic training program at Unnati Cultural Village focused on enhancing the skills of community women in creating high-quality, market-ready ceramic products. The training covered a wide range of items including fast-moving souvenirs, cultural figurines, ceramic tiles, planters, vases, tableware, bathroom amenities, candle holders, and decorative items. Participants were introduced to important ceramic techniques such as glazing, terracotta, shading, and raku firing. The program aimed to foster creativity, technical proficiency, and entrepreneurial capacity among women artisans.

**Trainer: Saugat Shrestha**

**Beneficiary Women:** 4 women and 1 man from the community of the local area.

### Outcomes:

Skills built in glazing, terracotta, raku, and other techniques.

Strengthened local women's capacity for sustainable income through ceramic art.



## Bio-Fertilizer Training: Turning Leaves into Life

21- 22 Nov, 2024

A transformative Bio-Fertilizer Training was conducted by Mr. Sagar Karki and Ms. Tulasi Gyawali, bringing sustainable agricultural practices to life for 15 community women from Nawalpur. This hands-on training focused on converting organic materials, like fallen leaves and kitchen waste into bio-fertilizers to enhance soil health and agricultural productivity. This initiative equipped community women with vital skills to improve their livelihoods, foster environmental stewardship, and promote sustainable agriculture.

### Trainee: 15 Community Women

#### Outcomes:

- Environmental Conservation: Reducing chemical inputs in farming
- Improved Productivity: Enhancing soil health for better crop yields.
- Sustainability: Encouraging long-term, eco-friendly agricultural practices.



## Mushroom Farming Training

9 & 10 Jun, 2025

As part of UNNATI's "Farm to Table" pillar, a two-day hands-on Mushroom Farming Training was conducted at Unnati Cultural Village. This initiative aims to promote self-reliance, sustainable practices, and local food systems through practical agricultural knowledge.

**Trainer: Mr. Laxman Pun**

**Trainee: 8 Participants**

**Outcomes:** This training empowered participants with the skills and confidence to begin their own mushroom cultivation, from preparing the substrate to successfully growing Volvariella and Milky Mushrooms.



“

*The session provided me with a complete and fulfilling experience of enthusiastic attendees, with a blend of cultural and natural surroundings, motivating influences, and satisfactory outcomes. The participants were eager to acquire knowledge about various training methods for making Dhoop, candles, and soap using local and natural resources. They quickly grasped the concepts, remained motivated, and actively engaged throughout the session and stayed overtime to learn and better outcomes of the product. The participants are now equipped to pursue entrepreneurial ventures in dhoop, soap, and candle making, incorporating different ingredients, flavored elements, quality control, and essential measurements.*

— **Janaki Pradhan**

Trainer of Incense, Soap and Candle-making

“

*The practical section of the program covered everything from the very basic techniques to preparing glazes, which was very informative. These activities being practical made it easier to comprehend and note. The workshop was very resourceful and fulfilling. It was able to cover so much in detail and left me with a new motivation to experiment with ceramics. In addition to that, the program provided valuable insights into ceramics from an industrial perspective, which I found particularly enlightening.*

— **Suprina Manandhar**

Ceramic Student, Kathmandu University

“

*Over the past 8 days at UCV, there has been many transformative things in ceramic techniques, specifically in matte glazing and mold making. Moving from basic surface preparation to the exploration of unique, soft-finished matte glazes. Through hands-on sessions, we taught how to mix and test different glaze recipes, understanding how slight changes in material and firing atmosphere affect the final surface. Simultaneously, we delved into mold making from crafting simple one-part molds to more complex multi-part forms. We were able to produce functional molds that will serve in creating consistent and intricate ceramic pieces. The study of these techniques not only expanded their technical skills but also opened creative pathways for future work.*

— **Saugat Shrestha**

Ceramic Trainer

## B. COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH

UNNATI's community assessments and research initiatives have provided valuable insights into the craft, culture, and MSME ecosystems across Nepal. These studies focused on identifying local strengths, existing gaps, and opportunities for inclusive growth, particularly in traditional industries and community-based enterprises. Over 2500 individuals, MSMEs, NGOs and stakeholders were engaged through surveys, consultations, and interviews across 10+ districts.



18 Feb - 23 Feb 2022

**Need Assessment of the MSMEs, Study conducted by Ashwarya Kulkarni**

The study embarked on a profound exploration, capturing the essence of craft and livelihood ecosystems in villages around Unnati Cultural Village and the Gorkha district. The objective was to meticulously analyze these systems' existing loopholes and potentials, laying the groundwork for identifying better opportunities for empowerment, sales, and innovation in the Sector.

**Participants:** Women groups, FNCSI, Cooperative, CTEVT, Home stay members, Local craft organizations

**Location:** Nawalpur & Gorkha districts

24 Jun - 14 Jul 2022

### Stakeholder Consultation Programs, (Phase I)

A series of stakeholder consultation programs were conducted across eight districts in two provinces. These consultations aimed at understanding the current status of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), value chain development, and the role of governmental, non-governmental, and other organizations in enhancing the MSME sector.

**Location:** Gandaki Province- Nawalpur, Kaski, Lamjung and Gorkha, Koshi Province- Sankhuwasabha, Tehrathum, Ilam, Sunsari

**Participants:** 589 stakeholders from GON, NGOs, Cooperatives, entrepreneurs, producer groups, government officials and media were participants



27 Dec 2022 -13 Jan 2023

### Community Survey of Kawasoti & Gaindakot Municipality, Study conducted by Unnati team

A crucial aspect of the study was its primary goal to comprehend the current status of the Tharu community in Gandaki province. The examination delved into their livelihood practices and traditional skills, intricately connecting them with the community's needs for economic upliftment.

**Participants:** 17 HHs, 3 focus groups discussion, KII with Ward chairperson, Local level government officials, Home stay Members.

**Location:** Kawasoti Municipality & Gaindakot Municipality, Nawalpur



June 2023

### Service Mapping of the NGOs, CSOs & Cooperatives

Detailed information was meticulously collected from local Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs), Civil Society organizations (CSOs), and cooperatives operating in Tehrathum, Kaski, Gorkha, and Nawalpur. This comprehensive data collection served as the foundation for implementing the WB project.

**Location:** Nawalpur, Kaski, Gorkha, and Tehrathum districts

**Participants:** 54 NGOs and Cooperatives details information collected

**Location:** Nawalpur- Harkapur, Kaski-Pokhara, Terhathum- Myanglung, Sunsari- Inaruwa

**Participants:** 229 stakeholders from GON, NGOs, Cooperatives, entrepreneurs, producer groups, government officials and media were participants

January 2023 to June 2023

### Prepared Upskill development Program, Conducted by Unnati Cultural Village

Under the umbrella of the WB and JSDF upskill program, strategic plans were meticulously prepared. These plans included the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environment and Social Commitment Plan, and Labour Management Plan, ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable approach to upskilling initiatives.



4-22 April 2022

### Baseline Data collection

Efforts were made to collect MSMEs data from local-level governments, ensuring a granular understanding of the diverse MSME landscape in the targeted regions.

**Location: Nawalpur, Kaski, Gorkha and Tehrathum districts**

**Participants: 1642 MSMEs data collected for the baseline of the WEAVE**



June 2023

### Value Chain Mapping and Business Plan Prepared

Detailed value chain mapping exercises were conducted for Allo, Large Cardamom, and Dhaka products. These exercises sought to understand the actors, influencing factors, and the current status of these products within their respective value chains.

**Participants: 3 Value chain products and three value chain products businesses plan prepared.**





June- July 2023

### **Craft Product Development, Production, and Marketing Strategy Preparation**

In a proactive step towards empowerment, visits were conducted to various producer groups, entrepreneurs, women cooperatives, women groups, shops, and factories specializing in lokta paper, natural fibers, ceramics & pottery, embroidery, Dhaka, and furniture made from cane and bamboo. These visits were instrumental in gathering insights, understanding market trends, identifying potential collaborations, and exploring opportunities for sourcing materials and expertise.

This comprehensive report encapsulates the diverse initiatives undertaken, marking a significant stride towards empowering local communities, enhancing value chains, and fostering sustainable economic growth in alignment with the strengths and demands of each sector.

**Product Designer: Mugdha Gosavi**

**Location: Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, and Nawalpur**

5 - 7 Jun 2024

### **Stakeholder Consultation Meeting (Phase 2)**

In June 2024, the Chaudhary Foundation organized stakeholder consultation meetings for the “Women’s Economic Empowerment through Value Chain Development of Small-Scale Farm and Non-Farm Activities” project in Taplejung and Sankhuwasabha districts. The meetings aimed to assess the current status of the large cardamom enterprise, evaluate the impact of activities from the past five years, and identify challenges faced by MSMEs and women’s groups in allo and large cardamom production. Transparency and accountability were emphasized throughout the project planning and implementation.

The consultations began on June 4, 2024, in Birtamod, Jhapa, with 23 members of FLCEN discussing large cardamom enterprises, export mechanisms, and related challenges. Additional sessions were held on June 5 and 7 in Taplejung and Sankhuwasabha, engaging NGOs, CSOs, microfinances, women’s groups, and cooperatives. The meetings had significant participation, with 15 NGOs/CSOs members and 45 beneficiaries in Taplejung and 27 NGOs/CSOs members and 28 beneficiaries in Sankhuwasabha.

Resulting in important data collection of Allo and Large Cardamom enterprise enhancement, assessing market and employability gaps and creating open dialogue between the government and community stakeholders.

#### **Participants**

**23 FLCEN members in the Birtamod consultation**

**15 NGO/CSO members and 45 beneficiaries in the Taplejung meeting**

**27 NGO/CSO members and 28 beneficiaries in the**



## C. COMMUNITY FACILITY CENTER (CFCs)

Unnati's Community Facility Centers (CFCs) are inclusive spaces designed to nurture creativity, preserve cultural heritage, and strengthen community-led development. Located across key regions like Gaindakot, Nawalpur district and Bharatpur, Chitwan district, these centers serve as local hubs for skill-building, artistic expression, and cultural exchange.



### Gaindakot CFC

The Community Facility Center at Unnati Cultural Village serves as a vibrant hub for learning, creativity, and cultural exchange. Designed to empower local communities, it offers dedicated spaces for skill development, art and craft workshops, exhibitions, and community gatherings. The center plays a key role in preserving traditional knowledge while promoting innovation through hands-on engagement with artisans, youth, and cultural practitioners. It stands as a symbol of inclusive growth—fostering entrepreneurship, education, and cultural pride in the heart of Nawalpur.



### Nawalparasi CFC

Nawalparasi, located in Lumbini Province, spans 634.88 sq. km with a population of approximately 386,868 (CBS, 2021). The district is home to various ethnic groups, with the Tharu community forming the largest segment at 17.6%. The region's economy is predominantly agriculture-based, with 49.1% engaged in farming, forestry, and fishing, while only 6.8% are involved in crafts and trade-related work.





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### Madhesh Province CFC

UNNATI entered into a strategic partnership with Incredible Mithila, adding another Community Facility Center (CFC) to strengthen community-led initiatives. Through this collaboration, both organizations are working together to upgrade the CFC for better training and production support, while also establishing a retail outlet and display area to showcase local art and craft products. By blending UNNATI's expertise in branding and market outreach with Incredible Mithila's deep cultural knowledge, the partnership aims to uplift local artisans and highlight Nepal's rich creative heritage.

This partnership marks a significant step toward fostering women's empowerment, sustainable livelihoods, and the intergenerational transfer of traditional skills. With the combined efforts of both organizations, the initiative ensures that Nepal's unique artistic traditions are not only preserved and celebrated but also adapted to meet contemporary market needs.



## 3. Farm to Table

## 3. FARM TO TABLE

### A. ORGANIC GARDEN AT UCV

The Organic Garden in Harkapur, Nawalpur, has made significant improvements in infrastructure, crop diversity, and community engagement. It now features composting facilities, and shaded areas, and promotes agroecological principles. The garden also hosts educational programs and community events, fostering sustainability and community ownership.



#### Progress reports on Organic Garden, UCV, Harkapur, Nawalpur

Procedures focus on planting seasonal crops such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, chilies, pak choy, lettuce, tomatoes, coriander, and other supporting vegetables for the start of the winter season. Biofertilizer application and irrigation plan have been carried out and taught to the field team so they can implement it while the consultant is not present. Beekeeping is in good health and started producing honey, with mustard planted for optimal nectar harvesting.

#### Working Areas: including planting, hydroponic system construction, crop calendar, beekeeping



#### Hydroponic System

The hydroponic system has been cleaned and washed properly to remove algae formation and will be installed with new batches of salads and strawberries. Nutrients have been bought and its application has been taught to the field team. A compost production system has been started, producing high-quality fertilizers using three systems: hot heap composting, vermicompost, and the Johnson-Johnson method. The third system will soon start with liquid fertilizers.

#### Working Areas: planting process, compost production, hydroponic system, beekeeping, lotus pond, and gallery.

#### Plantation Progress

Plantation progress includes planting Marfa Mustard, lettuce, pak choy, Radish, pumpkin, long beans, coriander, mint, banana asparagus, and mustard oil. The hydroponic system is working efficiently and healthy, with the possibility of expansion during the monsoon season if flooding occurs. Pruning litchi orchards after harvesting will provide more light to the pond, benefiting the lotus.

#### Working Areas: planting, fertilization, composting, hydroponic system, lotus pond, rabbit-goose reconstruction, investments, financial spending, and gallery.

# Total Production from the Organic Farm in KG Till Year

| Pre Monsoon Season      |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Vegetable Name          | Total Production in KG |
| Cucumbers               | 300                    |
| Pumpkins                | 400                    |
| Squash                  | 800                    |
| Bottle gourd (Ghilaura) | 350                    |
| Bitter gourd (Karela)   | 180                    |
| Coriander               | 120                    |
| Leafy greens (Rayo)     | 110                    |
| Bhindi                  | 300                    |
| Bean (tane, Laure simi) | 330                    |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>2890</b>            |

| Post Monsoon Season |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Vegetable Name      | Total Production in KG |
| Radish              | 80                     |
| Garlic              | 120                    |
| Carrot              | 80                     |
| Tomatoes            | 330                    |
| Cauliflower         | 370                    |
| Cabbage             | 40                     |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>1020</b>            |

| Monsoon Season                                    |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Vegetable Name                                    | Total Production in KG |
| Leafy greens (Spinach, Fenugreek, Mustard greens) | 40                     |
| Green Chilies                                     | 110                    |
| Brinjal (Eggplant)                                | 250                    |
| Bell peppers                                      | 370                    |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>770</b>             |

| Winter Season       |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Vegetable Name      | Total Production in KG |
| Cabbage             | 200                    |
| Cauliflower         | 150                    |
| Spinach             | 160                    |
| Radish              | 50                     |
| Peas                | 200                    |
| Carrots             | 240                    |
| Pakchoy             | 60                     |
| Lettuce             | 60                     |
| Beans (Iahare Simi) | 500                    |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>1620</b>            |

| Tea Product (Herbs) |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Vegetable Name      | Total Production in KG |
| Mint (Pudhina)      | 50                     |
| Lemon Blam          | 50                     |
| Holi Basil (Tulsi)  | 50                     |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>150</b>             |

| Tea Product (Fruit and Root) |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Vegetable Name               | Total Production in KG |
| Gogi Berry                   | 50                     |
| Ginger                       | 150                    |
| Turmeric                     | 150                    |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>350</b>             |

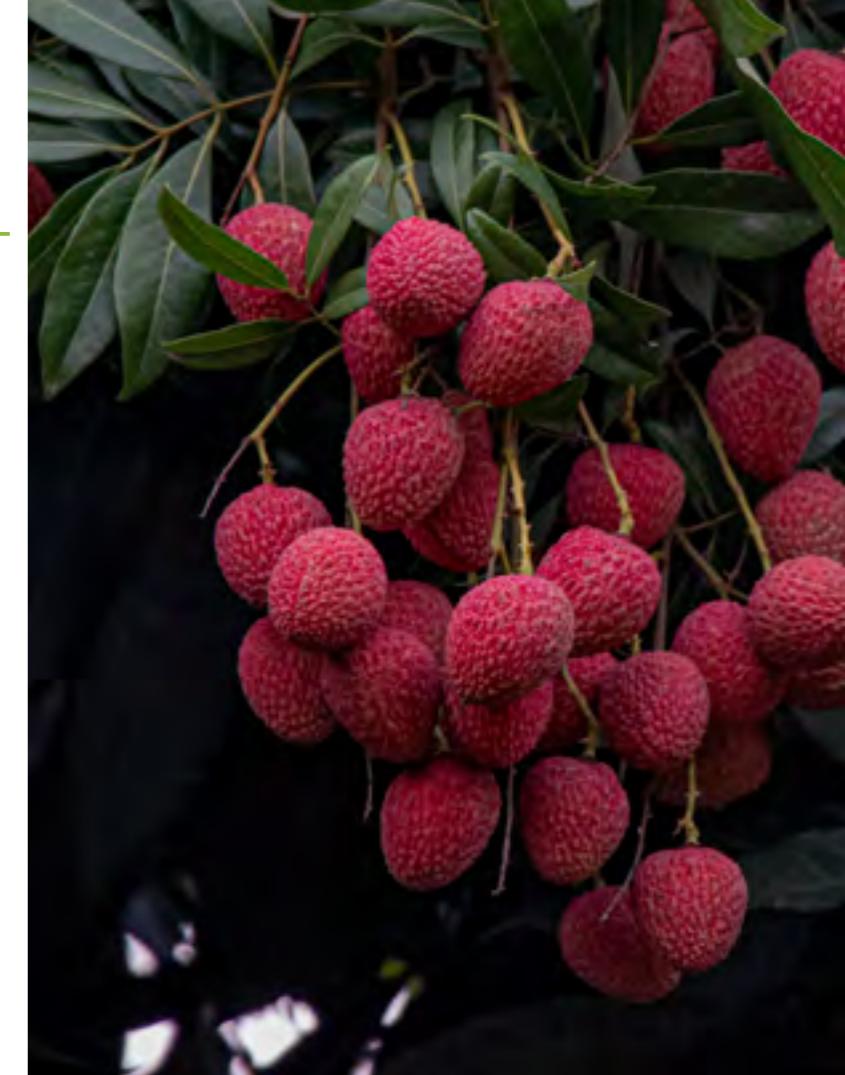
| High value product |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Vegetable Name     | Total Production in KG |
| Honey Bee          | 500                    |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>500</b>             |

| Mushroom Farming             |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Vegetable Name               | Total Production in KG |
| Button Mushroom (Dale Cheu)  | 200                    |
| Oyster Mushroom (Parle Cheu) | 200                    |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>400</b>             |

## 6th to 18th Feb 2023

UNNATI has established permanent beds for vegetables like cucumber, long gourd, and snake gourd, and bitter gourds. They have also introduced bio-intensive beds for asparagus, which are long-term, nutrient-rich beds made by digging 1 foot deep and storing green mulch, composts, ash powder, and breaking down larger soil chunks. These beds allow asparagus to grow thicker roots and have reserve food for growth. The team has seeded various herbs, including Italian and Thai basil, oregano, parsley, rosemary, sugar plant, peppermint, and chamomile flower for tea. Rose plants have been grafted and grown around the property, with the goal of transplanting them to different parts. The flower trellis for bougainvillea has been installed, and if approved, a similar structure can be replicated around the UCV. The company has also supplied organic vegetables to Hotel Chitwan twice a week with fresh herbs and salads.

**Working Areas: permanent beds for vegetables like cucumber, long gourd, snake gourd, and bitter gourds, bio-intensive beds for asparagus, seeded herbs, grafted rose plants, and installed a flower trellis for bougainvillea.**



## 27th March 2023 to 5th May 2023

The organic garden has grown with 17 different vegetables and 6 different herbs, including chilies, capsicum, eggplant, simi beans, and cucumbers. Beekeeping is also being done using vermicompost produced by earthworms and other supplements. Fruit trees like avocado, lemons, red bananas, and watermelon are also being planted around the organic garden area. Bougainvillea is also being planted around the UCV properties, including the main gate, opening area, and way to the open-air museum and zen garden.

**Working Areas: Organic garden progress, Bougainvillea plantation, beekeeping, thatch roofing, lotus pond, and landscaping Zen Garden.**



## Organic Farming and Bio-Fertilizer Production

8- 12 Nov, 2025

Unnati Cultural Village produced 500 liters of EM (Effective Microorganism) fluid, used to convert dried leaves into natural fertilizer—an eco-friendly step aligned with Unnati's commitment to sustainable agriculture. Beneficiaries trained during the "Bio-Fertilizer Training: Turning Leaves into Life" on November 21-22, 2024 actively participated in this production process. The resulting fertilizer is now enriching the soil on Unnati's organic farm, reducing dependency on chemical alternatives and promoting regenerative farming practices.

### Outcome:

- Produced natural fertilizer from dried leaves, enhancing soil quality on the organic farm.
- Engaged trained beneficiaries in sustainable production, ensuring community involvement.
- Promoted eco-friendly farming, reducing reliance on chemical fertilizers.

“

*The current state of the country is challenging, and as entrepreneurs, we are struggling to survive. Unfortunately, we haven't come across many opportunities or platforms for nurturing entrepreneurial ideas. However, UNNATI has been a valuable support system, helping us create entrepreneurs within our communities.*

— Tila Devi Aryal

Secretary, Devchuli Chamber of Commerce and Industry

“

*As someone who participated in the ceramic training at Unnati Cultural Village, I must say it was an entirely new and exciting experience for me. The serene surroundings adorned with beautiful natural settings added an extra charm to the whole experience. What truly set this program apart was its uniqueness and attention to detail. I was particularly impressed with the engobe technique, which stayed as learning afterward too. It was an immersive journey that left me with a deep appreciation for the art form and unforgettable memories.*

— Roshan Prajapati

Participant, Ceramic Training



## 4. Crafts

## 4. CRAFTS

### INTRODUCTION

UNNATI recognizes the importance of creating competent and viable green economies with a strong platform to showcase and create marketing hubs to sustain the livelihoods of rural artisans and their families.

This pillar of UNNATI facilitates the craft branding, distribution, and market outreach model, which focuses on collaborating with MSMEs and home-based workers involved in crafts as well as encouraging consumers to buy locally-made products, which directly benefits these groups. This platform provides the front-end marketing for the back-end development of artisan groups, connecting them to international, national, and local markets.

Under this pillar, UNNATI has developed a brand named Siya by UNNATI.



### A. SIYA

Siya embodies the feminine soul of Nepal. At Siya, we don't just create products – we breathe life into stories, nurture age-old traditions, and honor the invisible hands that shape beauty from the everyday life.

From delicate embroidery on natural fibres to the poetic lines of Mithila art on ceramics, from hand-sculpted wood and metal to paper that carries the imprint of generations. Every piece we offer is a living story – one that connects you to Nepal's spirit, soil, and soul.





## B. MARKET LINKAGE

This is a vibrant marketplace where the spirit of Nepal comes alive in every corner. Here, you're embraced by the earthy scent of terracotta, the intricate weaves of textile, and the gentle chime of crafted metal that echo Nepal's craftsmanship. From lovingly crafted pottery and soft natural-fiber shawls to hand-carved wooden boxes and charming fridge magnets – every piece captures the essence of Nepal's land, people, and traditions.

These are not just souvenirs – they are pieces of Nepal's living heritage, created with care, culture, and soul. The hands that shape them don't just craft objects; they tell stories, preserve age-old traditions, and build sustainable futures.

Each product is ethically sourced and authentically handcrafted by skilled local artisans – many of whom are empowered through the UNNATI initiative, which uplifts communities by fostering creativity, dignity, and economic opportunity.



### Vivanta Kathmandu:

Located in the heart of Kathmandu, this outlet showcases artisanal products including handicrafts, souvenirs, natural fiber goods, ceramics, and textiles. It provides a market linkage platform for local vendors and artisans, promoting sustainable products to urban and international consumers while creating employment opportunities within the community.

**Market Linkage: 10+ artisans and local vendors**



### Unnati Cultural Village

#### Retail Outlet:

Situated at the Unnati Cultural Village in Nawalpur, this outlet serves as a dynamic hub for promoting local crafts, organic farm products, and artisanal creations. It strengthens the economic base of grassroots producers by offering them direct market linkage, enhancing visibility, and generating employment within rural communities.

**Market Linkage: 8+ artisans and local vendors**



### Tharu Gaam at Meghauli Serai

The Retail space is a market platform for women entrepreneurs and M/SMES producing handcrafted items in Nepal where they can display and sell their locally made products along with products made at Unnati Cultural Village. This initiative has provided a market platform for over 20 M/SMEs so far from across Nepal to showcase their products. The Retail space acts as a souvenir shop for the guests visiting the Meghauli Serai while experiencing rich Nepali culture and hospitality and taking memories back home.

**Market Linkage : 18+ artisans and local**



## CG Digital Platforms

Crafting Opportunities for Local Artisans at CG Digital Showrooms & on its online platforms. From the hands of our artisans to homes across the world. UNNATI's products are available at CG Digital showrooms (Bishalnagar, Basundhara, Jorpati, Gathaghar, Chitwan and Pokhara), bringing Nepal's living heritage closer to you through art, craft, and sustainable design.

Our aim is to create meaningful opportunities by giving artisans greater visibility, connecting their work with wider markets, and celebrating the beauty of Nepal's living heritage.

## UNNATI in Collaboration with Vivanta Chitwan & Miraaya to Promote Nepali Handicraft Products

This collaboration aims to promote Nepali handicrafts to both national and international audiences, support local artisans by providing a platform for sustainable livelihoods, and encourage conscious, eco-friendly consumption. By showcasing these unique creations, we hope to create meaningful market linkages, celebrate Nepal's culture, and share stories of tradition, craftsmanship, and empowerment with every product.



## Rooted in Heritage, Growing in Market

Sabitri Chaudhary lives in Pratappur Rural Municipality, Nawalparasi West, with her family. Like many others in her village, her family depends on farming for their livelihood. As a member of the Tharu community, Sabitri grew up learning the art of weaving natural fibers—a skill passed down from her ancestors. Nawalparasi is rich in forests, where different types of natural fibers are found. Women in the community often use their free time to weave baskets, buckets, and boxes. These handmade items are also part of their tradition, especially gifted during weddings.

Sabitri saw an opportunity to turn this tradition into a source of income. She began selling her woven baskets and formed a group of women who also knew how to weave. At first, they worked during their leisure time. But everything changed when they connected with the UNNATI project. The UNNATI project, run by the Foundation, supports local producers by helping them reach the market. Through this project, Sabitri started receiving regular orders. Her products were linked to souvenir shops and other shops in the Kathmandu valley.

Now, Sabitri and her group get steady orders for their natural fiber products. This has helped her become financially independent and inspired other women in her community to take their skills seriously.



## Case Study



### Durga Gurung – Painting a Path to Stability

Durga Gurung lives with his daughter and son in Meghuli, Bharatpur Metropolitan City. A skilled artist by profession, he earned a living by painting wildlife scenes on walls and gates, creating signboards for local organizations, and farming a small piece of land. However, his income was irregular, making it difficult to support his family and meet daily expenses.

His situation began to change when the UNNATI project launched the Tharu Gaam initiative at Meghuli Serai. Designed to promote the rich culture of indigenous communities and market locally produced goods, the project also created employment opportunities for local artisans. Durga was selected to contribute his artistic talents to enhance the guest experience. At Tharu Gaam, Durga began painting on mini canvases, stones, terracotta vases, ceramic and metal plates, and even performed live painting sessions. This platform allowed him to fully utilize his skills in a meaningful way. His artwork quickly gained attention—not only from hotel guests but also from buyers in Kathmandu, Nawalpur, and beyond. He even received customized orders from visitors who admired his work.

Today, Durga continues to work with the hotel, and his artistic skills are being properly recognized and rewarded. His economic condition has improved, and he is able to support his family with greater stability. Through the support of UNNATI, Durga Gurung has transformed his passion into a reliable livelihood, proving that with the right opportunity, local talent can thrive and inspire.

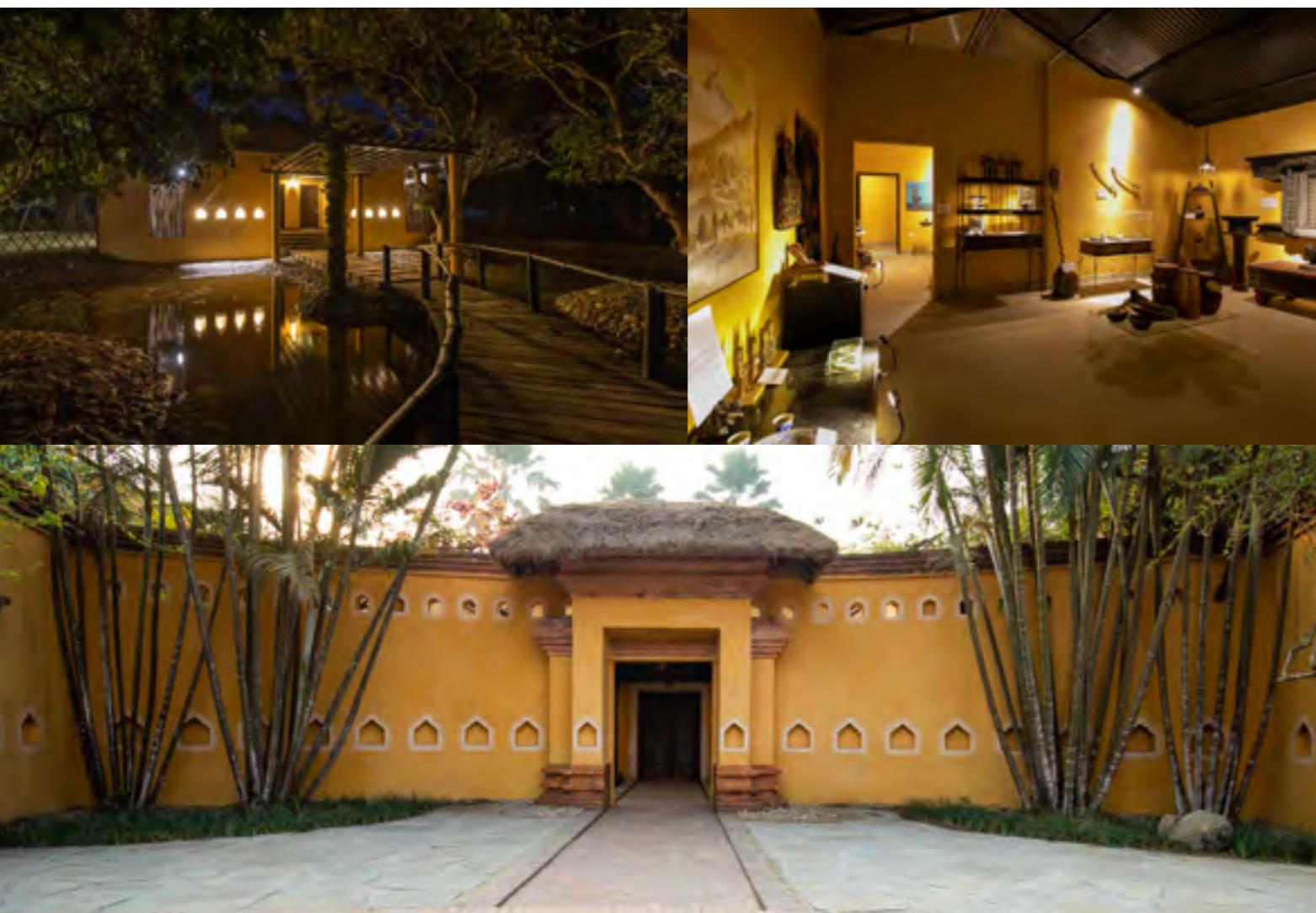


## 5. Cultural Hospitality

## 5. CULTURAL HOSPITALITY

### A. UNNATI CULTURAL VILLAGE (CG HOSPITALITY)

Chaudhary Foundation, through its UNNATI initiative, has established a unique and first cultural centre with multiple facilities for creative practitioners, tourists, academia, MSMEs, and artisanal communities called Unnati Cultural Village (UCV). This unique platform serves as a long-term engagement and commitment to build and preserve the living intangible facets of culture along with the tangible heritage of the various ethnicities that lend colour to the Map of Nepal. Unnati Cultural Village is a central force for the creation of sustainable livelihoods through the creation of artistic and artisanal languages through products and services and the preservation of their traditional knowledge systems, which translate to income-generating opportunities for the ecosystems. It is also a singular platform where cross-pollination and collaboration manifest between the stakeholders in the artisanal, institutional, government, and international communities.



### B. GLIMPSES OF UNNATI CULTURAL VILLAGE VISITS



Glimpses of vibrant student visits to Unnati Cultural Village, exploring art, culture, craft, tradition, pottery, ceramics, and museum. A journey of discovery and inspiration!



Mr. Kiran Man Chitrakar visited UCV with the primary goal of showcasing over 100 years of Nepalese photographs.



Mr. Vijay GC, Provincial Monitoring and Coordination Specialist from UNDP and members of Green Society Nepal (Initiator of Elephant Dunk Paper crafts) visited Unnati Cultural Village.



HAN Nawalpur Chairperson Mr. Santosh Rana, Secretary Mr. Yam Pd. Neupane and Nawalpur Tourism Committee Chair person Mr. Phans Ram Mahato



It was a true privilege to welcome Mr. Murat Ülker, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Godiva Chocolatier, and his family to Unnati Cultural Village.

We were delighted to share the essence of our community, traditions, and heartfelt initiatives with them.



Mr. Sally Altschuler, author from Denmark, along with Mr. Rajeev, Founder Director of Kathalaya, enjoyed and were impressed by the art, culture, craft, and sculptures at Unnati Cultural Village.



Glimpses of exposure visits to Unnati Cultural Village, from Incredible Mithila, our CFC based in Janakpur, Nepal exploring UCV's vibrant cultural preservation space.



Glimpses of exposure visits to Unnati Cultural Village, from KHN and their beneficiaries an INGO based in Nepal exploring UCV's vibrant art, culture, craft, tradition, pottery, ceramics, and museum.



During World Tourism Day, we had the distinct honor of welcoming His Excellency G. Rajapaksa, Former President of Sri Lanka, accompanied by Mrs. Ioma Rajapaksa, as well as H.E. Air Chief Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana (Retd) and Mrs. Pathirana, to Unnati Cultural Village. It was a true privilege to host such esteemed guests and share the beauty, culture, and significance of our vibrant space.



Sunday, December 21, 2025

#### Gates Foundation Visit to Unnati Cultural Village

Christopher Elias, President of the Global Development Division, Gates Foundation, visited Nawalpur and the Unnati Cultural Village (UCV) under the UNNATI Project. The delegation interacted with project beneficiaries, observed artisan products being handcrafted by local women, reviewed project progress, and explored SIYA, UNNATI's high-end Made in Nepal brand.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENTS

UNNATI has cultivated a robust network of over 30 national and international partnerships, collaborating with esteemed institutions such as UNESCO, Asia Society, Tate Modern UK, Arts South Asia Project, Raza Foundation, Taragaon Museum, Sushila Arts Academy, Kiran Nadar Museum, Khoj, ATSA, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), among others. These alliances have positioned UNNATI as a vital contributor to the global discourse on art, development, and cultural preservation.



20 June 2021

### Participated in Kalinga Literary Festival

Speaker at the “Preservation of Indigenous/National Heritage & Legacy Enterprises in Nepal” Session. Ms. Surabhi shared insights on heritage preservation, emphasizing the importance of legacy enterprises in Nepal.

**Organizer:** KLF - Bhava Samvad  
**Medium:** Virtual



**Discover. Share. Act.**  
#TheClimateConnection



THANK YOU

Dear Ms Surabhi Chaudhary,

The British Council expresses its sincerest gratitude for your participation in our climate change interaction event held at the British Embassy Kathmandu on 19 August 2021. Your contributions were invaluable. We also thank you for your support to our programme addressing women leadership in climate action. In the lead up to COP26 we look forward to working with you to amplify the voice and agency of women in climate change discourse.

If you would like to reach us with comments, feedback and/or suggestions, please write to [arts@britishcouncil.org.np](mailto:arts@britishcouncil.org.np)

Regards,  
Shahida MacDougall  
Country Director, British Council

Aug - Sept 2021

### Pop-Up Shop at Vivanta

UNNATI organized a vibrant pop-up shop at Vivanta, showcasing the richness of Nepali handmade products.

#### Location: Vivanta

**Collaborators:** Sushila Singh, Radha ko Burn Survivors, Rishita Khatri, Herveda Botanicals, Samaah Jewellery and Nature Craft (artists)

March 2022

### MOU with CTEVT, Gandaki Province for Vocational Programs

UNNATI signed an MOU with CTEVT to develop vocational programs, empowering women and youths with marketable skills.

**Organizer:** CTEVT  
**Location:** Pokhara

Sept 2022 - Mar 2023

### Participated in Road to COP 26

Panelist on Women, Culture, and Climate Change at Climate Change Interaction Event. Ms. Surabhi contributed as a panelist, exploring the intersections of women, culture, and climate change.

**Organizer:** British Council  
**Medium:** Live in Kantipur Television and Facebook

Feb- March 2022

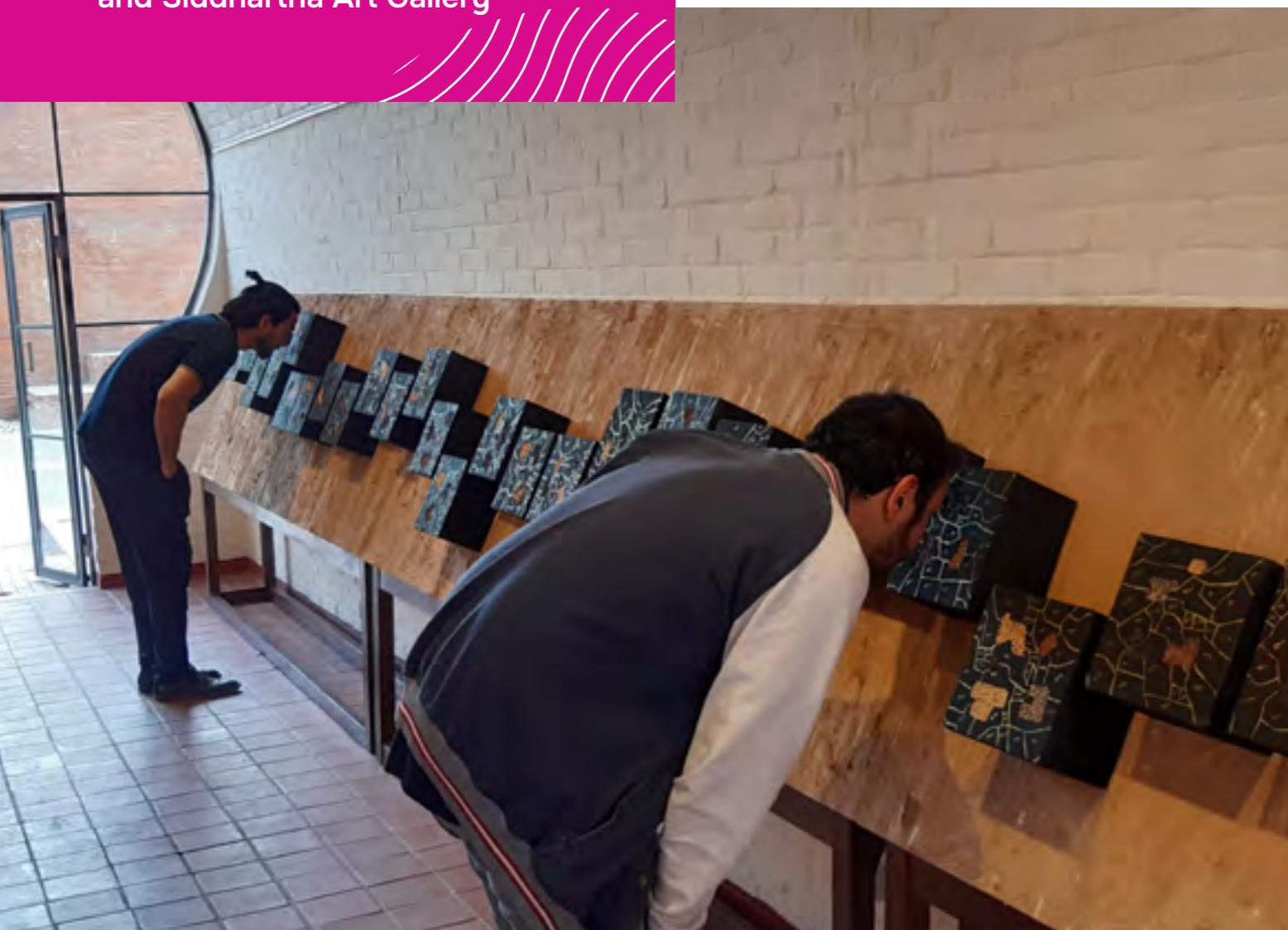
### Support to KTM Triennale

2077

KTM Triennale is an international art festival. The 2077 integration nurtured several historical outcomes for Nepali arts and the city of Kathmandu. Supported the KTM Triennale by providing 20 television sets and 13 sound systems to display artwork and information.

**Organizer:** Siddhartha Arts Foundation

**Location:** Patan Museum, Nepal Art Council, Taragaon Museum, and Siddhartha Art Gallery



12 March 2022

### MOU with VYCCU & Credit Cooperative for Handicrafts Upgradation and Upskilling

UNNATI collaborated with VYCCU and local artisans to upgrade and upskill handicrafts for sustainable livelihoods.

**Organizer:** VYCCU & Credit Cooperative

**Location:** UCV



29 April - 1 May 2022

### Representation in India Art Fair 2022

Ms. Surabhi represented UNNATI at the India Art Fair 2022, contributing to an exhibition of interdisciplinary works of art.

**Organizer:** India Art Fair

**Location:** Delhi, India



April- May 2022

### Support to Bikalpa Festival- Revisiting the Roots in Modern Nuance

Provided support to Bikalpa by offering 4 television sets and 1 sound system to display artworks and information.

**Organizer:** Bikalpa Art Center

**Location:** Bikalpa Art Center, Park Gallery Pulchowk, Gallery of Creatives Thamel, and Vidroh Thamel

11 May 2022

### Participation at “Art from Indigenous Community” Panel Discussion:

Ms. Surabhi shared insights as a speaker in a panel discussion focusing on “Art from Indigenous Community.”

**Organizer:** Bikalpa Art Center

**Location:** Vivanta Kathmandu



22 - 26 December 2022

### Participated in the 10th edition of Nepal Literature Festival (NLF)

UNNATI's handcrafted products were prominently displayed at the Nepal Literature Festival.

**Organizer:** Bookworm Foundation  
**Location:** Pokhara

10 February, 2023

### World Kathak Day Celebration

Supported the World Kathak Day Celebration organized by Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, contributing for UCV's awareness and networking.

**Organiser:** Kiran Nadar Museum of Art  
**Location:** Delhi, India



8-22 March 2023

### A Retrospective on An Artist

Supported Ragini Upadhyay Grela's exhibition that was being exhibited at the Nepal Art Council. A total of 239 pieces, including paintings, prints, drawings, and lithographs, created by the illustrious artist between 1978 and 2023, have been kept on display at the re-collective exhibition.

**Organizer:** Ragini Upadhyay,  
Siddhartha Art Gallery

**Location:** Nepal Art Council



28 March - 3 April 2023

### Bharat-Nepal Kala Sangam

Sushila Arts Academy's Bharat-Nepal Kala Sangam was supported by workshops on proposal writing and digital marketing for artists, art educators, and institutions.

**Organizer:** Sushila Arts Academy  
**Location:** Taragaon Next, Bouddha

7 April 2023

**Bal Sahitya Mahotsav 2023**

Provided logistics and contributed to whole-school wall painting for Rato Bangala School.

**Organizer: Rato Bangala School****Location: Rato Bangala School, Patan**

17 &amp; 18 April 2023

**Participation in UNESCO's Sub-Regional World Heritage Conference**

UNNATI participated to represent civil society organizations from Nepal in the role of cultural heritage preservation. UNNATI presented the vision and mission behind establishing an experiential learning space, Unnati Cultural Village, in Nawalpur, to revive Tharu culture through the creation of a living ecosystem.

**Organizer: UNESCO Delhi****Location: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India**

8,9 &amp; 10 September 2023

**Entrepreneur Expo & Summit organized by the Women Entrepreneurs Forum in association with CNI and FNCSI**

Participated in an Exhibition organized by the Women Entrepreneurs Forum in association with CNI and FNCSI to showcase the Unnati products for promotion and marketing.

**Organiser: Women Entrepreneurs Forum, Chitwan, CNI & FNCSI****Location: Bharatpur, Chitwan**

15 May 2023

**Membership in Tate Modern's South Asian Acquisitions Committee.**

Ms. Surabhi Chaudhary was appointed as Nepal's representative and member of Tate Modern's South Asian Acquisitions Committee. Tate Modern, known for its avant-garde contemporary art collections, serves as an ideal platform to showcase Nepal's diverse talents.

**Collaboration organization: TATE Modern's South Asian Acquisitions Committee:**



**Feb 12 2023**

### **Collaboration with Dhaka Art Summit 2023**

UNNATI participated in the Dhaka Art Summit, a platform for artists, art enthusiasts, and cultural connoisseurs to promote artistic exchange and cultural dialogues. The event showcases Nepali art and culture, fostering cross-cultural understanding through exhibitions, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities.

**Collaborative organization: Dhaka Art Summit**



**20 February 2023**

### **MOU signing with AOD**

The Chaudhary Foundation has signed an MOU with Design for Sustainable Development Foundation (DFSD), a subsidiary of AOD/Design Corp Group of Companies in setting up an initiative for the joint development of craft into lifestyle fashion and other related product.

**Collaborative organization:  
Design for Sustainable  
Development Foundation (DFSD)**



**November 2022**

### **MOU signing with BMGF**

UNNATI and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) are collaborating on a project aimed at empowering lives through art. The project focuses on community development, cultural preservation, and livelihood enhancement. Key objectives include integrating art into daily life, preserving traditional art forms, enhancing local artisans' economic status through skill development programs, promoting health and well-being through art-centric initiatives, and fostering art education among the younger generation. The partnership envisions a future where art can drive positive change and foster resilient communities.



11 Jun 2024

### Art of Living Session For Miss Nepal 2024

A 4 day Art of Living session for Miss Nepal 2024 took place at Vivanta Kathmandu, supported by Unnati Cultural Village. The program was designed to enhance inner peace and cultivate a positive mindset for the contestants, helping them manage stress and improve overall well-being. This transformative experience aimed at empowering the participants, ensuring they are mentally and emotionally prepared for the exciting journey ahead.



### Agreement Signed Between C.G. Foundation and Vivanta Kathmandu to Empower Women Artisans & MSMEs through Handcrafted Heritage

Vivanta Kathmandu and C.G. Foundation have undergone an agreement to promote women-led businesses and MSMEs through this initiative for the preservation of Nepal's cultural heritage while fostering sustainable economic empowerment. The collaboration serves as a market linkage initiative, ensuring visibility and accessibility for the artisans. The Kiosk setup at Vivanta Kathmandu will be used for product display, promotion and sales of various products which reinforces its dedication to social impact, further strengthening the reach and sustainability of Nepal's traditional craftsmanship.

## STALL PARTICIPATION

Through exhibitions, workshops, and cultural showcases, UNNATI has actively represented in platforms like the IDA21 Replenishment Meeting, India Art Fair, CNI Women Leadership Summit, and regional events across Chitwan, Lalitpur, and Kathmandu. These participations have supported artisan visibility, community empowerment, and cultural preservation through meaningful public engagement and strategic partnerships.

18 - 21 Jun 2024

### Participation at IDA21 Replenishment Meeting 2024

UNNATI participated in the 3rd IDA (International Development Association) Replenishment meeting held from June 18th to 21st, 2024, at The Soaltee Hotel, Kathmandu, showcasing locally crafted products by Nepali artisans. This prestigious event, attended by over 250 international delegates, provided a platform for UNNATI to highlight its work in empowering local communities. Through a stall displaying six types of craft products, including ceramics and pottery, woodcarving, natural fiber items, textiles, knitting, and jewelry, UNNATI introduced its initiatives that enhance artisans' skills, connect them with broader markets, and promote Nepal's rich cultural heritage.

**Attendees: 250 + International delegates**



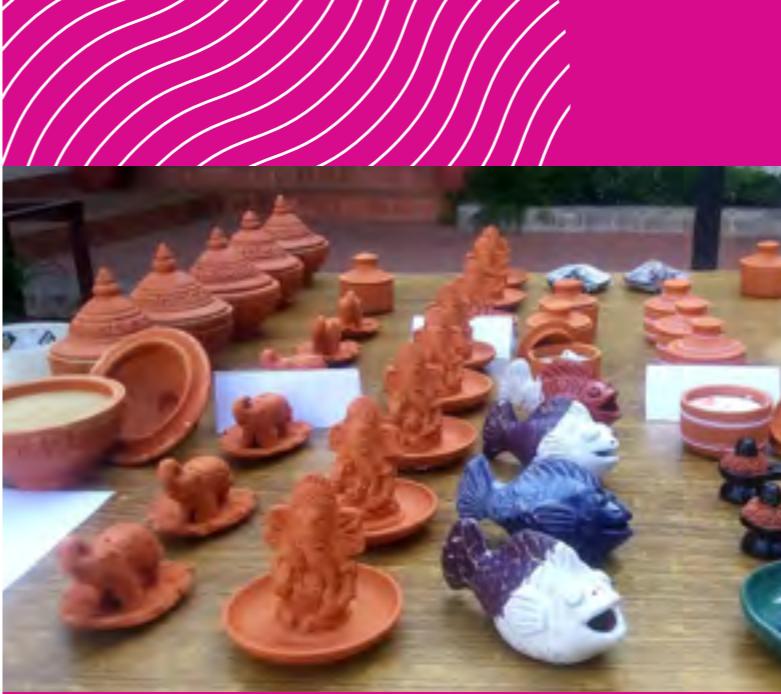


16 Mar 2025

### Participated in Women Leadership Summit by CNI

UNNATI participated in the marketplace set up at the Women Leadership Summit 2025, organized by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supplies in collaboration with the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) on 16th March.

In the exhibition, handcrafted products made by our artisans and supported micro and small enterprises (M/SMEs) were showcased among the distinguished guests and attendees. It was an inspiring event and the love shown by the visitors at our stall reaffirmed our commitment to women empowerment, livelihood development and preserving and reviving Nepali art, crafts and culture.



During the festival of lights, Tihar, a special stall showcased beautiful diyas and festive products crafted by the talented local community women.



Our Teej Stall at Vivanta Kathmandu celebrates women artisans to promote local craftsmanship, and foster sustainable economic growth.



### Entrepreneur Expo & Summit in Chitwan

We participated in an Entrepreneur Expo and Summit in Chitwan, providing a platform for local entrepreneurs to showcase their products. This event aimed to support and promote local businesses, fostering a spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation within the community.

**Participation: 60+ local entrepreneurs**

**Viewership & community engagement: 1000+**



A Craft Stall at Pimbahal, Lalitpur during the Kutumba Band performance proudly showcased sustainable crafts, supported local artisans, and engaged an audience passionate about art, culture, and heritage.



Participation in Better Chitwan Program on International Youth Day 2024



### **Chittaun Kacheheri 2.0 & 3.0**

Unnati's participation in Chittaun Kacheheri 2.0 & 3.0 showcased craft products of community women artisans, along with live pottery demonstrations.

### **CAPS Meeting- Arts & Craft Stall**

Showcasing the remarkable artwork and crafts created by Local Artisan and producer group at the Centre for Asian Philanthropy and Society (CAPS) meeting at Meghuli Serai, Chitwan.



### **3rd Entrepreneur Expo & Trade Fair 2022**

The expo served as a meaningful platform to showcase UNNATI's initiatives focused on empowering communities, preserving culture, and creating sustainable opportunities.

**Total Reach: 500**

### **CG New Year Carnival 2021**

Participated in the New Year Carnival at CG Head Office, Sanepa, showcasing a range of UNNATI Bazaar products. The event provided an opportunity to promote handcrafted, sustainable goods and connect with a wider audience in a festive setting.

**19th and 20th Dec 2025**

### **Celebrating Local Craft at the Christmas Market**

UNNATI participated in the Christmas Market organized by Hatti Hatti at Kathmandu Marriott Hotel, showcasing a vibrant range of artisan-made products. The two-day market celebrated local brands, creativity, and craftsmanship, bringing together handmade décor, festive gifts, and the rich talent of Nepali artisans in a warm, community-driven setting.



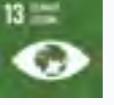
# Relevance Of Sustainable Development Goals In Nepal

## RELEVANCE OF SDG IN NEPAL

The Sustainable Development Goals 2016-30 is a global initiative aimed at ending poverty, protecting the environment, and ensuring global peace and prosperity. They consist of 17 goals, 169 targets, and 232 indicators, addressing the complex economic, social, and environmental issues of the contemporary world. Nepal was an early adopter of the national SDG road map, with the SDG Status and Road map 2016-30 and the Needs Assessment, Costing, and Financing Strategy outlining goals, targets, and indicators. The Constitution of Nepal 2015 incorporates many of the SDGs, and the 15th Plan (2019/20-2023/24) is built around their gradual achievement.

UNNATI aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by focusing on economic growth, heritage preservation, and traditional industries development in Nepal. Its activities contribute to poverty alleviation, decent work, industry, innovation, infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, and partnerships for the goals. UNNATI's bottom-up approach in the economic pyramid supports for traditional industries, and collaboration with stakeholders aligns with the broader agenda of sustainable development. By incorporating both tangible and intangible aspects of artistic industries, UNNATI contributes to the broader agenda of sustainable development.

## CONTRIBUTION OF UNNATI IN ATTAINING SDGs

| Projects                                 | Sustainable Development Goals |   |   |   |   |
|--|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Pillar 1: Arts &amp; Culture</b>      |                               |   |   |   |   |
| Residencies                              |                               |    |    |   |   |
| Art Exhibition                           |                               |    |    |   |   |
| <b>Pillar 2: SIYA</b>                    |                               |   |   |   |   |
| SIYA Brand                               |                               |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Pillar 3: Farm to Table</b>           |                               |   |   |   |   |
| Farm to Table                            |                               |  |  |  |  |
|  |                               |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Pillar 4: Shipsikshya</b>             |                               |   |   |   |   |
| Livelihoods & Community Development      |                               |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Pillar 5: UNNATI Cultural Village</b> |                               |   |   |   |   |
| Unnati Cultural Village (UCV)            |                               |  |  |  |  |
| Events and Festivals                     |                               |  |  |  |   |



UNNATI Program  
Outcomes (2021-25)

# ART & CULTURE

## PILLAR 1

### RESIDENCIES

Nepalese Ceramic artists for museum and art gallery produced **8 installation** pieces. International European & South East Asian artists **total of 8, produced 17 stunning works** to add to UCV's collection. 12 Celebrated South Asian Artists from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka organized by the Raza Foundation produced high-value canvases. **6 National Photographers & Videographers** produced a total of **56 works** added to UCV's collection.

#### Output

- Learned about the Tharu musicians, dancers, and storytellers to create a final piece that is rooted in Tharu folk stories.
- Built strong networks by engaging artists with the Nepali community and holding art workshops and dialogues with locals.
- The photographs and videography captured the Tharu village life, celebrating the essence of rural beauty and serving as a need for preservation
- The International Ceramic Symposium program encompasses artistic growth, skill development, networking, collaboration, community engagement, and the promotion of ceramics as a valuable and vibrant artistic medium.
- The residencies program played a pivotal role in facilitating professional growth and career advancement for the artists involved. Through public exhibitions, the artists had the opportunity to showcase their artworks to a wider audience.

#### Outcome

We gained international recognition when artist Berthold-Josef Zavaczki Z (Germany) featured UCV and the event on his blog. He had collaborated with UNNATI during the International Ceramic Symposium 2023.

UNNATI's residencies fostered cultural exchange, artistic growth, and community connection. Artists created works rooted in local traditions like Tharu folklore, engaged with communities through workshops and storytelling, and highlighted the beauty of rural life.

 **9 EVENTS**  
 **45 ARTISTS**

### ART EXHIBITIONS

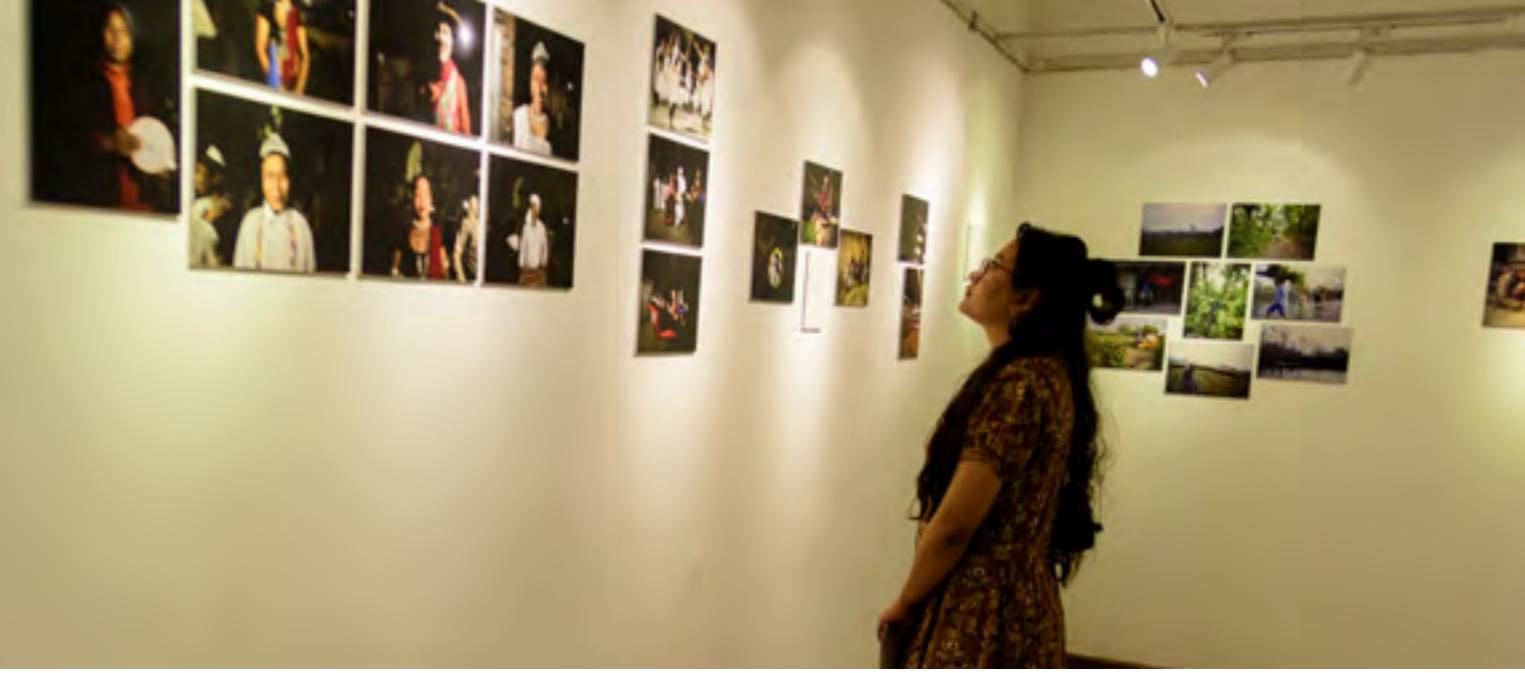
Art Shows organized at UCV showcasing national artists from across Nepal.

#### Output

- Sampada - Contemporary Art Exhibition exceptional art exhibition curated by Gopal Kalapremi Shrestha showcasing artworks of foremost senior contemporary Nepali artists.
- Reclamation Exhibition- Featuring artworks related to women; following and celebrating the evolution of the female.
- Intangible of Peace & Nature -Solo Exhibition- A collection of paintings on nature and spiritual connections
- Contemporary Art Exhibition- featuring young Nepali artists at Unnati Mela, a one-year celebration.
- Public Art Exhibition-Displaying UCV's creation at the public art exhibition of • Bikalpa's festival - "Revisiting the roots in modern nuance".
- Women Artists' Exhibition- An Exhibition featuring local women artists from Nawalpur and Chitwan.
- Lens-based Residency Exhibition-Exhibition featuring work (photos and videos) created during the lens-based residency.
- Resonance of Hues – Exhibition held at Vivanta Creatives by 8 National Artist.
- Unveiled Visions – Exhibition featuring young contemporary artists which was inaugurated during the Dashain and Tihar Utsav. A thought-provoking showcase highlighting personal and collective narratives, offering fresh perspectives on identity, memory, and transformation.
- Unveiled Visions – Vol II showcases emerging Nepali artists from diverse backgrounds, presenting bold contemporary works that explore identity, heritage, and the beauty of Nepal. The exhibition offers a fresh, immersive perspective on the country's vibrant spirit and landscapes.

#### Outcome

UNNATI's diverse art exhibitions have become a powerful platform for celebrating Nepal's rich artistic voices—from senior masters to emerging talents, women artists, and local creators. These shows explored themes ranging from identity, nature, and spirituality to gender and cultural heritage, sparking dialogue and deepening public appreciation for contemporary Nepali art. By showcasing works both within galleries and in public spaces, UNNATI not only fostered greater access to art, empowered underrepresented voices, and strengthened the cultural fabric of the communities it serves, but also promoted Nepal's artistic talents on international platforms, helping them gain wider recognition globally.





## ART EXHIBITIONS- INDIA ART FAIR 2024 & 2025

### Outcome

- UNNATI's diverse art exhibitions have become a powerful platform for celebrating Nepal's rich artistic voices—from senior masters to emerging talents, women artists, and local creators. These shows explored themes ranging from identity, nature, and spirituality to gender and cultural heritage, sparking dialogue and deepening public appreciation for contemporary Nepali art. By showcasing works both within the gallery and in public spaces, UNNATI fostered greater access to art, empowered underrepresented voices, and strengthened the cultural fabric of the communities it serves.
- Notably, UNNATI's participation in the India Art Fair in both 2024 and 2025 marked a significant milestone, offering Nepali artists a prestigious international platform and expanding their visibility on the global art stage. These appearances elevated the profile of Nepal's contemporary art scene and affirmed UNNATI's commitment to cultural exchange and global recognition for its artists.



11 EVENTS



97 ARTISTS



100,000+  
OUTREACH &  
ENGAGEMENT

## PARTNERSHIPS & ENGAGEMENTS

UNNATI has built a vibrant network of over **30 national and international partnerships**, collaborating with renowned partners such as UNESCO, Asia Society, Tate Modern UK, Arts South Asia Project, Raza Foundation, Taragaon Museum, Sushila Arts Academy, Kiran Nadar Museum, Khoj, ATSA, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. These collaborations have enabled UNNATI to contribute meaningfully to global forums and local initiatives, advancing cultural preservation, creative exchange, and community empowerment.

**No of event: Thirty Four**  
**Beneficiaries/Participants': 2500**

### Outcomes

UNNATI has established partnerships with numerous organizations and engaged in various national and international initiatives to share insights into its activities within the art and culture sector. It has supported several art and culture programs through sponsorship, wide-reaching

 **34+ EVENTS**

 **3000+  
PARTICIPANTS**

### Outcome

UNNATI's wide-reaching partnerships have strengthened its role as a catalyst for cultural preservation, community empowerment, and sustainable development. By collaborating with renowned national and international institutions, UNNATI has advanced programs not only in arts and culture but also in education, women's leadership, heritage conservation, and social innovation. These alliances have expanded visibility for local communities, enabled cross-sector learning, and created inclusive platforms for dialogue and across Nepal and beyond.

## ART COLLECTION

The artworks have been significantly appreciated since the time of acquisition, a donation to UCV

**No. of Artworks: of 120 high-value artworks**  
**Beneficiaries/Participants': 45 Artists**

### Outcomes

Through the different art workshops, residencies, exhibitions, events, and festivals UNNATI has collected around **2 crores** of artwork the UCV within the art and culture sector. It has supported several art and culture programs through sponsorship, collaborating with partners, and offering assistance.

 **120+ ARTWORKS**

 **54 ARTISTS**

### Outcome

Aim is to build the collection upto **5 crores** and hold exhibition & sales of these works

## PILLAR 2

# COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Trainings and Workshops in Livelihoods and Skill Development- 16 Programs

## Outcomes

UNNATI is actively involved in community development and livelihood sectors. Through research, Unnati focused on areas like Dhaka, ceramics, folk painting, natural fibers, embroidery, and Lokta paper crafts. Skill training and workshops were carried out, and the community centers became well-equipped spaces. UNNATI has conducted 16 training sessions and workshops, benefiting 233 men and women from youth, indigenous, and marginalized women's groups

## Outcome

Beneficiaries from this training have significantly improved their income. They are engaged in local businesses and have improved their quality of production and services. This opportunity has empowered these women to achieve self-dependence, contribute to their households, and provide their children with access to quality education.

 **16 EVENTS**  
 **233 PARTICIPANTS**



## PILLAR 2

# FARM TO TABLE

## PILLAR 3

## ORGANIC FARMING & BEEKEEPING

Vertical farming, organic compost, vermiculture, recycling of kitchen waste, farm-to-table experiences, herb gardens, fruit plantation, maintaining mango & litchi orchards, lotus ponds, mushroom tunnel farming, and drip farming are activities started at the organic garden

## Outcomes

The organic practices of farming is the most vivid source for nutritional food production. Unnati promotes such cultural and organic practices to promote the healthy lifestyles of lives of people. The farm-to-table concept intercepts modern food habits, especially leaning toward fast food and unhealthy food farming practices as well. Farm-to-table pillar will regenerate an inner consciousness of people and it will revitalize the old practices of food healthy food habits through the production of organic products. Environmentally sustainable models and practices will be part of this movement in which thousands of young farmers will be trained in order to produce the best food for their countrymen. The self-dependency on food, fruits, and vegetables will have a new high momentum by farming thousands and thousands of fertile but barren lands of the nation. UNNATI has its own Organic Farming and beekeeping, made its own vermicompost, and produced its own local fruits and vegetables

## Outcome

From Farm to table, UNNATI became self-dependent on seasonal vegetables, most of the vegetables cooked in hospitality were from the organic garden, which minimizes the cost of hospitality.



## CRAFTS

### SIYA- MADE IN NEPAL

- SIYA Brand is a retail chain of UNNATI specializing in the branding and distribution of artisan products. Our brand is an homage to the grace and allure of Princess Sita. With the bindi in our logo, our story shares a narrative woven with threads of beauty, and the enduring spirit of femininity, where each product resembles the indigenous women's consistent efforts for their resilience. Our brand unfolds, unveiling a captivating line of products that embody the essence of purity and elegance with its components and intuition of reaching different audiences. Every craftsmanship carries the essence of devotion and harmonious connection with the community, embracing the purity of earth's elements with enchanting comeliness. Beyond aesthetics, each product is imbued to promote sustainability, support local artisans, and contribute to social causes.
- From delicate embroidery on natural fibres to the poetic lines of Mithila art on ceramics, from hand-sculpted wood and metal to paper that carries the imprint of generations – we work with a vibrant range of natural crafts: fibre, ceramic, textile, wood, metal, and paper. We even explore the unexpected – like woven ceramics fused with organic threads – to carry forward traditions with innovation and care. Every piece we offer is a living story – one that connects you to Nepal's spirit, soil, and soul.
- Collection of lifestyle, home decor, home textiles, stationery, spa & wellness, divinity, children's clothing, blankets & pashminas, handcrafted jewelry, bags, Sarees, stoles

#### Outcome

Flagship Retail Outlets, Participation in Exhibitions, Trade Fairs, E-Commerce, Hospitality orders and working with interior designers and design houses for Bespoke orders.

 **100,000**  
REACH  
**20+**  
M/SMEs Benefited  
**250+**  
Artisans Economically Empowered

## CULTURAL HOSPITALITY (CG HOSPITALITY)

The first cultural center of Nepal displaying arts crafts cuisine languages and the habitat of indigenous communities

#### Outcomes

The UNNATI Cultural Village serves as a venue for numerous programs, with performance space for festivals, dance music theatre, etc. banqueting facilities, and art hotel, Ethnic restaurant, art gallery, museum and retail along with lush greenery of mango & litchi orchards, lotus ponds, organic farming for farm to table experiences and a live crafts village.

#### Outcome

It is the first cultural hospitality space of its kind in Nepal showcasing the rich cuisines, heritage, arts & crafts, architecture, and culture of the region.

## EVENTS & FESTIVALS

We have supported cultural festivals engaging communities, the public sector, artists, artisans, and many stakeholders. UCV Mela, Jitiya Teej, Dashain and many more.

#### Outcomes

UCV witnessed a grand inauguration attended by numerous celebrities, politicians, literature artists, and poets, significantly elevating its prestige. During the anniversary celebration, the focus was on promoting cultures, observing festivals, adhering to traditions, and preserving the rich history of Nepali cultures and traditions. The active promotion and marketing efforts during this period contributed to the heightened visibility of UCV and its offerings

#### Outcome

Promotion and marketing helped many people to reach out to UCV and its offerings and local and national level people are also coming to UCV.

 **6500**  
REACH

# Total Outreach

## Collaborated organizations: 30+

Collaboration is at the heart of UNNATI's impact. By actively engaging with over **30 organizations**, like the BMGF, CG Hospitality, Bikalpa Art Centre, Siddhartha Art Centre, Nabil Bank, Sushila Arts Academy, UNESCO, ARTthink South Asia, and Women Entrepreneurs Forum, UNNATI has expanded its reach, diversified its projects, and amplified its impact. These collaborations extend beyond artistic endeavors, forming networks that share a common commitment to community development, cultural preservation, and empowerment.

## Collaborated Artists: 138

In fostering a dynamic ecosystem of creativity, UNNATI has collaborated with **138 artists** whose unique perspectives and talents have breathed life into diverse projects. Artists like Lain Singh Bangdel, Thakur Prashad Mainali, Shashi Bikram Shah, Batsa Gopal Vaidya, Krishma Maharjan, Shankar Raj Singh Suwal, Shyam Lal Shrestha, Rudra Bahadur Pun, Saurganga Darshandhari and many more, these collaborations represent not only a fusion of artistic expression but also a synergy of shared visions, each artist contributing to the colorful mosaic of creativity that defines UNNATI's endeavors.

## Trainers collaborated: 16

UNNATI has collaborated with 16 facilitators, trainers, and assistant trainers to lead transformative livelihood and community development training with the expertise

of Mahima Singh, Gopal Kalapremi, Bipasha Sen, Shruti Mascarenhas. This collaborative effort combines diverse skills, knowledge, and experiences to create a comprehensive learning framework with multi-diverse training on ceramic, natural fiber training, Pottery, career development, and home stay training. UNNATI aims to empower communities, promote sustainable development, and impart essential skills at the grassroots level, with facilitators playing a crucial role in shaping a brighter, more resilient future for the communities they serve.

## Beneficiaries Reached: 6500+

UNNATI's impact is measured in numbers and lives touched, stories transformed, and communities empowered. With a heart-driven commitment to positive change, UNNATI has reached and positively influenced the lives of over 6500 beneficiaries. These include individuals, families, and entire communities whose journey toward empowerment has been catalyzed by the transformative power of art and livelihood training. The UNNATI training program has significantly improved beneficiaries' income, business operations, local business engagement, and expanded activities. It has also empowered women towards self-dependence, leading to quality education for their children and breaking the poverty cycle. This success has a ripple effect reaching different direct and indirect beneficiaries which highlights the importance of skills development and empowerment for sustainable development.

# Achievements



## High-Value Artworks: 175+

UNNATI's multi-disciplined art residencies and exhibitions of artistic excellence are a blend of quality and creativity, resulting in 120 plus unique and high-value artworks. These artworks are not just aesthetics but also potent symbols, showcasing the artistic richness and cultural depth of the communities they engage with. They represent the organization's dedication to preserving and celebrating the diverse cultural tapestry of the communities it serves which are worth of more than 1 crore.

## Total Sold Artworks: 75+

UNNATI has successfully connected 75+ artworks with appreciative patrons. These transactions represent more than just sales; they signify a sustainable economic model where art becomes a source of livelihood for artists, encouraging a self-sustaining creative economy.

# UNNATI's Overview

UNNATI is dedicated to preserving culture, developing communities, and promoting artistic expression.

We intend to achieve sustainable development from the perspective of Cultural empowerment, where our visions lie beyond the organizational long run. Our organization features Tharu musicians, dancers, and storytellers who weave art based on Tharu folk stories, creating a symphony of connections through workshops and dialogues. The Residencies Program offers professional growth for artists, showcasing diverse art exhibitions. SIYA, a cultural homage to Princess Sita, promotes indigenous craftsmanship and sustainability. The farm-to-table concept is highlighted, empowering the community through skill development programs and workshops. The UNNATI Cultural Village is a comprehensive cultural hub in Nepal. It offers a range of facilities including performance spaces, banqueting, arts hotels, restaurants, art galleries, museums, retail therapy, and organic farming. It hosts yearly celebrations to showcase Nepali culture, promote local talents, and inspire the next generation, fostering creativity and cultural exchange among artists from diverse disciplines. Each sentence in the UNNATI impact narrative resonates with cultural preservation, community development, and artistic expression.

“

*The session was an amalgamation of various management aspects that have been helpful in my artistic and professional careers. Despite being short, most of the parts were direct and specific to the objectives of concept and application. The personal sharing of the experts and their sharings was relevant to me. The aspect of budgeting was beneficial, which was often overlooked by my common friends and me while managing art programs or projects.*

— Suman Tamang  
Arts Management Training

“

*The experience has expanded my knowledge and deepened my understanding of the intersection of art and culture in the daily lives of women in Nawalpur. Additionally, it has facilitated valuable connections with fellow photographers in Nepal.*

— Kripa Shakya  
Resident Photographer,  
Lens-based Residency

“

*Unnati has bridged the gap between Nepali artists and artisans and artists from outside Nepal. This is indeed a significant step forward towards fostering the creative and cultural economy of Nepal.*

*Unnati has already marked its presence with its various initiatives, and I am sure it can play an important role in placing Nepal on the global cultural map more prominently.*

— Tanmoy Samanta

“

*As an artist, it is always a pleasure to feel the new horizons unveiled in the Nepali art field. Unnati Cultural Village is dedicated to developing the Nepali art field and is constantly working to support Nepali art and artists by running week- or month-long workshops and exhibitions and collecting Nepali artworks. I also got to participate in a week-long exhibition at the Unnati Cultural Village.*

*The atmosphere was so artistic and homely. It supports me in exhibiting my artwork to a wider audience in China. I got immense responses from the audience. In that artistic environment, I got some amazing ideas and subjects for my paintings, which I will implement shortly. I want to thank the Unnati Culture Village has also collecting my artwork. And I also want to thank Surabhi Khaitan, ma'am, for her effort and love for art.*

— Pradhumna Shrestha, Visual Artist, Contemporary Art exhibition

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# CHAUDHARY | FOUNDATION

Towards Sustainable Social Reforms

Sanepa, Lalitpur

 +977-1-5522330  
5529273 ext. 664

 [info@chaudharyfoundation.org](mailto:info@chaudharyfoundation.org)

 [www.chaudharyfoundation.org](http://www.chaudharyfoundation.org)

  [@unnaticulturalvillage](https://twitter.com/unnaticulturalvillage)