

"WHOSE ART IS IT ANYWAY?"

EXPLORATING FOLK PERFORMANCE FROM SOUTH ASIA

go.wisc.edu/Matta



About the Artist:

Sri Vamsi Matta, or simply **Vamsi**, is an award winning Bangalore-based Theatre and Visual artist. His practice is influenced by his Dalit identity, experience and location. Dalit is the political identity of communities formerly known as "untouchable" and considered the lowest within the Hindu Caste System, and thus oppressed by its discriminatory scriptures, social structures and norms. The identity, and histories of his community and family, inform the questions, topics and mediums that Vamsi engages with through his work.



About the Course:

What are some rules that govern performance culture globally? Who set these rules? Can they be broken? How?— These are the central questions around which this semester-long course is structured. Together we will examine the appropriation, weaponization, dilution or valuation of particular performance practices from historically marginalized South Asian and American artistic communities by dominant groups.

"The course I am designing will be a semester-long survey of narrative and performing art traditions from South Asia, many of which have been marginalized, devalued or usurped by upper-caste artists. Students will be exposed to the invigorating cultural reclamation movement currently underway on university campuses, stages and in public spaces across the globe led by Dalits, minorities and other oppressed groups from South Asia."

General:

LIMIT: 20 students from any discipline
No prior movement, performance, media, or visual art training is required!

3-Credit Option:

Course #: Asian 300 Lec 004
Day/Time: Tuesday/Thursday, 4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
Format: In-person, 155 Van Hise
Other: Students in art programs, and or, theater & drama are encouraged to reach out to their advisors to inquire if this course may count towards electives in their major.

