

# Curriculum Vitae

**Dr Aruna Narlikar**

Contact Details

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## Brief Biography

Dr Aruna Narlikar is a published author, free-lance journalist, and artist.

Aruna's works include the co-authored book, *Bargaining with a Rising India: Lessons from the Mahabharata*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014, and a collection of poems in Hindi with her own illustrations, *Jhilmilate Indradhanush*, Indore: Shree Sarvottam Prakashan, 2017.

Aruna's writing experience extends to contributions in Indian national daily newspapers and magazines in English, as well as for the vernacular press. These publications have taken the shape of invited columns, feature-length articles, art reviews, travelogues, and poetry. Her longstanding involvement with literary activities and publications goes back to her academic qualifications (she has a PhD in English literature). Her knowledge, training, and experience in the languages have also led her to work in the area of translation for the Sahitya Akademi.

Besides her involvement in the print media, Aruna has extensive anchoring experience in programs on art, culture, education, and women's issues on national TV. Most of these programs were productions of the prestigious national channel Door Darshan.

Aruna is also a self-taught artist, who has exhibited her paintings in numerous solo and group exhibitions across Latin America, Europe, and Asia. She has followed an original and innovative approach to develop her unique style. Her paintings cover a variety of themes ranging from her renowned images of her inspiration, Ganesha – the elephant-headed god, to quasi-abstract works representing ancient monuments, to figurative works

depicting the fast-fading beauty of village life in India. Her painting 'Despondency' was selected as 'Painting of the Week' by the Times Of India art page. Her works are in private collections in India, US, UK, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Germany, and Brazil.

These multiple channels of expression of her art find inspiration in her academic training, as well as her travels worldwide. Aruna enjoys traveling within India and abroad, and particularly relishes the opportunity to understand and interact with new and diverse cultures at close hand. She maintains a strong interest in the study of food in India and abroad, experiments in cultivating new recipes, and has developed an expertise in popular writing on the subject.

Besides writing and painting, Aruna designs jewellery. She has a senior diploma in Yoga. She has participated actively in the performing arts including various plays on stage, anchoring of cultural and literary shows, and is trained in classical Indian music as well as the Indian dance forms of Kathak and Bharatanatyam.

### **Academic Qualifications:**

Doctorate, Ph. D. (1976-80), English Literature, University of Sagar.

M.A. (1968-70), English Literature, University of Sagar.

B.Sc. (1965-68), University of Sagar.

Senior Diploma in Yogic Science (1970), University of Sagar.

Art Appreciation Certificate (1993-94), National Museum, New Delhi.

Art Appreciation Certificate for Art Critics (by special invitation), Hindustan Times & American Centre, New Delhi (1994).

### **Publications:**

#### **Books:**

1. Collection of Poems in Hindi, *Jhilmilate Indradhanush*, Indore: Shree Sarvottam Prakashan, 2017.
2. (With Amrita Narlikar) *Bargaining with a Rising India: Lessons from the Mahabharata*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.

**Articles in English:** Over 500 articles, weekly columns, and features in national newspapers and magazines/journals (Hindustan Times, Times of India, National Herald, Evening News, Children's Book Trust, Home Design, Femina, and others).

**Articles in Marathi and Hindi:** Articles and poems in newspapers and magazines (Saptahik Sakal, Shree Sarvottam, Samaj Chintan, Malavika, Nai Dunia, and others).

#### **Book Translations:**

Translated two books for the National Academy of Literature (Sahitya Akademi), New Delhi - Rajkavi Tambe (from Marathi to Hindi); Natyacharya Khadilkar (from Marathi to Hindi).

**Art:**

Over twenty-five solo exhibitions of oil paintings and drawings in India and abroad. Invited and participated in numerous group shows. Paintings in private collections in India, UK, US, Germany, Switzerland, Bulgaria, and Brazil.

**Television:**

*National Television:* From 1979 to 1992 - Presenter for programmes on national television (Door Darshan) on art, culture, education, Yoga, health and women's issues. Interviewed renowned personalities and anchored discussions on topical issues.