



CHRIST

(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

BANGALORE | DELHI NCR | PUNE

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND PERFORMING ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE AND MUSIC

AESTHETICA

05-07

FEB

2026



About the University

CHRIST University, Bengaluru, is one of India's most prestigious educational institutions, renowned for its academic rigour, vibrant campus life, and commitment to fostering socially responsible global citizens. With campuses in Bengaluru, Pune Lavasa, and Delhi NCR, CHRIST University offers a dynamic learning environment that blends innovation with tradition.

The university provides a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs across disciplines such as Humanities, Social Sciences, Business and Management, Commerce, Finance and Accountancy, Education, Engineering and Technology, Law, Architecture, Sciences, and the Visual and Performing Arts. Its interdisciplinary approach encourages students to connect knowledge with practice—nurturing creativity, critical inquiry, and ethical leadership.

CHRIST University is a recognized United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) SDG Hub for Goal 5: Gender Equality and engages deeply with sustainability, inclusion, and social justice through its research centres, cultural activities, and community outreach.

By integrating global frameworks like the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into curriculum and campus initiatives, CHRIST University empowers practitioner-pedagogues, researchers, and students to become changemakers. Whether in the studio, lab, courtroom, or classroom, the university fosters a spirit of inquiry, collaboration, and care—making it an ideal destination for aspiring learners and educators passionate about art, action, and impact.



About AESTHETICA 2026

Aesthetica 2026: Art in Action is an international conference hosted by CHRIST University, Bengaluru, that explores the intersection of creative practice, pedagogy, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the visual and performing arts. The conference invites artist-educators, practitioner-pedagogues, researchers, and students to critically reframe the SDGs—not as rigid policies, but as adaptable, lived experiences shaped by local knowledge, cultural specificity, and creative inquiry.

Aesthetica 2026 provides a platform to highlight artistic practices that address sustainability, equity, climate change, gender justice, and social inclusion, especially in the Global South. The conference celebrates cultural bearers and community-based practitioners whose impactful work often goes unacknowledged in institutional spaces.

Through academic papers, performances, practice-based research, and interdisciplinary collaborations, Aesthetica 2026 encourages participants to reflect, question, and creatively expand the SDGs. It offers a unique opportunity to explore how the arts can drive action, resilience, and sustainable futures across global and local contexts.

Art in Action: Practitioner Pedagogues and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Visual and Performing Arts

In recent years, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have served as a framework for addressing global challenges and promoting collective well-being. As institutions adopt these goals to guide their structures, policies, and pedagogies, there is growing interest in how these global aspirations are interpreted and applied in diverse contexts. While the SDGs offer a unifying vision, their implementation may at times simplify or overlook local histories, cultural specificities, and varied knowledge systems. While critically examining the SDGs, this conference invites participants to consider how these goals might be reframed or adapted within artistic and pedagogical practices. Can the SDGs function not only as policy directives but also as flexible tools informed by lived experience, critical engagement, and creative practice?

Amidst shifting global dynamics and varying levels of commitment to multilateral frameworks, the arts—and particularly the work of practitioner-pedagogues—continue to play a significant role in shaping how sustainability, equity, and justice are explored and enacted. Artist-educators often work across multiple spaces—studios, classrooms, archives, and communities—fostering dialogue, resilience, and care through their creative and pedagogical practices.

In many regions, especially in the Global South, these practitioners have long addressed issues that align with the SDGs, including climate change, gender equity, food security, and social inclusion. Their contributions, however, may not always be formally recognized within institutional frameworks. Aesthetica 2026 aims to highlight and honour these practices, while also asking critical questions:

How do global agendas such as the SDGs intersect with local artistic and educational contexts?

What does it mean to teach sustainability through performance?

How might creative practices expand or challenge existing approaches to global development goals?



Sub Themes (*including but not limited to*):

Practitioner-Pedagogues and Cultural Bearers as Grounded Theorists:

Artists and educators situated within communities may already be contributing to the SDGs through their daily practices—often in ways rooted in relational ethics, care, and resilience.

Global Frameworks, Local Frictions:

What occurs when SDGs are translated into curricula or institutional policies? How are terms like "inclusion" or "sustainability" understood in specific cultural and regional contexts?

The United Nations and Questions of Legitimacy:

How do artists engage with global frameworks in contexts where multilateral institutions face scepticism or political challenges? What new forms of solidarity or cooperation emerge in such settings?

Multi-Specialisation Modules as Methodological Opportunity:

How can interdisciplinary and collaborative pedagogies open new possibilities in arts education? What barriers exist within traditional academic structures?

Performance as Radical Pedagogy:

In what ways do embodied practices—movement, image, sound—offer unique approaches to teaching and learning about sustainability and social justice?

Rehearsing Sustainable Futures: How do artistic practices help us imagine, rehearse, and enact futures that prioritize justice, care, and ecological responsibility?



Abstract Submission Guidelines

We invite submissions from artist-educators, researchers, practitioner-pedagogues, and students across visual arts, performing arts, education, and interdisciplinary fields. Participants are encouraged to critically explore and creatively engage with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through their work.

Abstract Details:

1. Word Limit: 300–500 words
2. Title of the presentation
3. Selected conference theme(s)
4. Type of submission (e.g., academic paper, performance, workshop, photo essay, performative lecture, collaborative conversation, hybrid presentation)
5. Key arguments, methodology, and expected outcomes

Accepted Formats:

- a. Academic Papers
- b. Practice-Based Research
- c. Performative Lectures
- d. Photo Essays
- e. Collaborative Conversations
- f. Hybrid Presentations

Important Dates

Last Date for Abstract Submission: 31 October 2025

Notification of Acceptance: 8 December 2025

Conference Dates: 5–7 February 2026

Publication Guidelines

(For the Edited Volume with Taylor & Francis)

We invite selected contributors from Aesthetica 2026 to submit full papers for inclusion in an internationally published edited volume with Taylor & Francis. The volume will explore critical and creative engagements with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the lens of visual and performing arts, pedagogy, and practice-based research.

Word Limit: 5,000 – 7,000 words (including references, endnotes, and appendices)

Formatting:

1. Font: Times New Roman, Size 12
2. Spacing: Double-spaced throughout
3. Referencing Style: APA 7th Edition
4. File Format: Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)

Paper Structure

- a. Title of the Paper
- b. Author(s) Full Name(s), Affiliation(s), and Email Address(es)
- c. Abstract: 150–200 words
- d. Keywords: 4–6 keywords
- e. Introduction
- f. Literature Review / Contextual Framework
- g. Methodology (if applicable)
- h. Discussion / Analysis
- i. Conclusion
- j. References (APA 7th Edition)

Additional Guidelines

All papers must be original and must not have been published or submitted elsewhere.

Upon selection, authors will be required to revise their submissions to comply with Taylor & Francis author guidelines.

Visual materials (images, tables, diagrams) must be submitted in high-resolution (minimum 300 DPI) with appropriate copyright permissions.

Important Dates

Full Paper Submission Deadline: 15 December 2025

Feedback and Revision Notification: 1 February 2026

Final Revised Paper Submission: 15 March 2026

For Participants from India

Category	Mode of Participation	Registration Fee
Academics / Faculty	In-Person	5000 INR +GST
Students / Independent Artists	In-Person	3000 INR +GST
All Attendees (with/without paper presentation)	Online	2000 INR +GST

For International Participants

Academics / Faculty	In-Person	150 USD +GST
All Attendees (with/without paper presentation)	Online	75 USD +GST

For Christites

Academics / Faculty	In-Person	2000 INR
Students	In-Person	1000 INR

This is to inform that the option to pay fee vide
Debit card/ Credit card / Internet banking/UPI is available on our website
<http://christuniversity.in> -> E-services -> Online Payment Portal->Central Campus

Please submit full papers to
aesthetica.conference@christuniversity.in
with "abstract aesthetica" in the subject line for easy identification.
For any further queries, please contact us via WhatsApp text message
on +91 95187 26337 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM IST.

