

Chadar Badar

A puppetry craft of Santals

An illustrated book on the encounter of
the traditional art forms with our times

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What?

Understanding the situation of some tribal traditions through the context of Chadar Badar and its relevance in current context

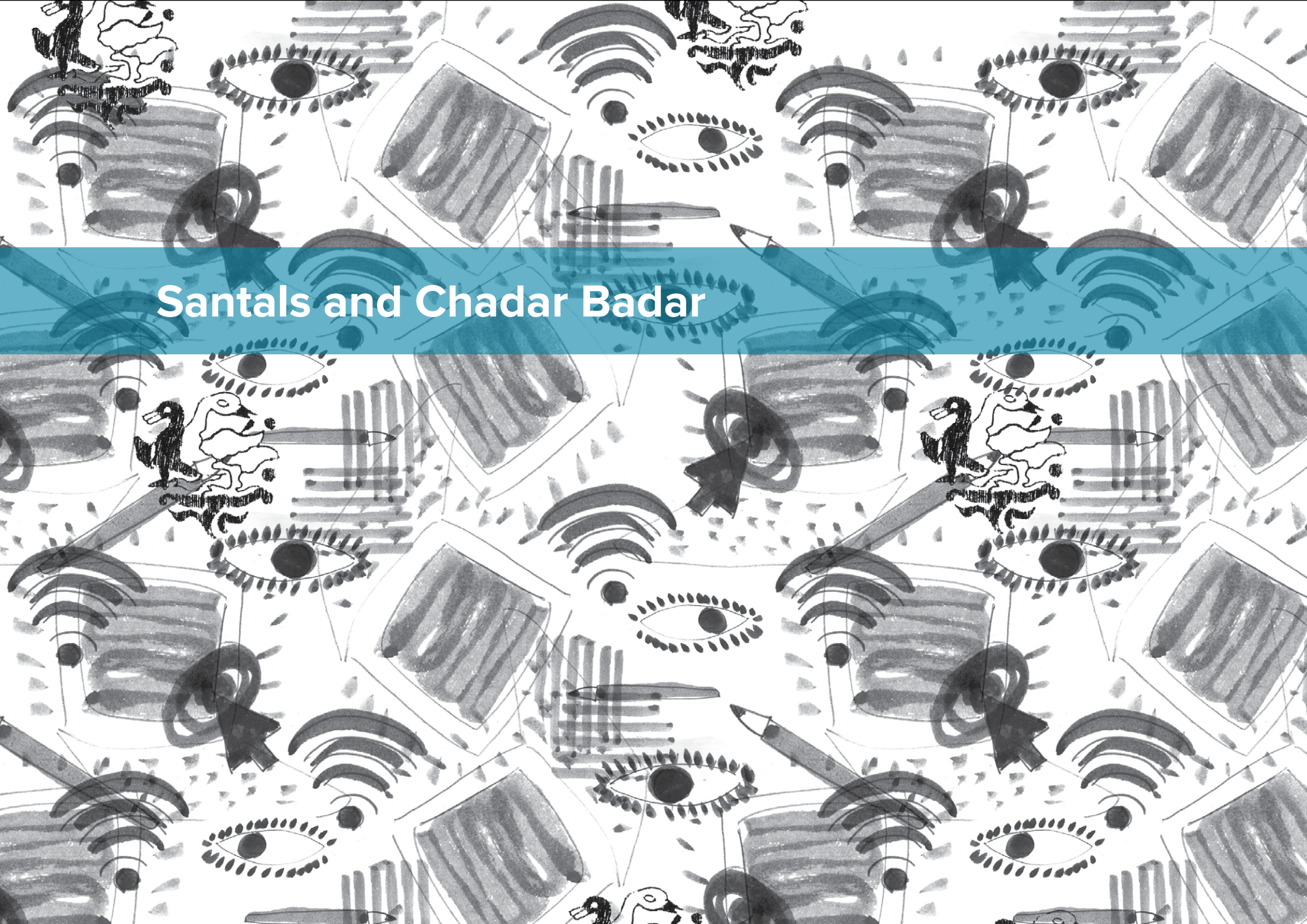
How?

- Study about the craft
- Studying of the work of people who have brought these issues to the attention of a larger audience
- Reflecting on the encounters with different stake holders

The outcome

Depicting the different facets of this problem in the form of a illustrated book

- My own journey
- Different perspectives
- One coherent story



Santals and Chadar Badar

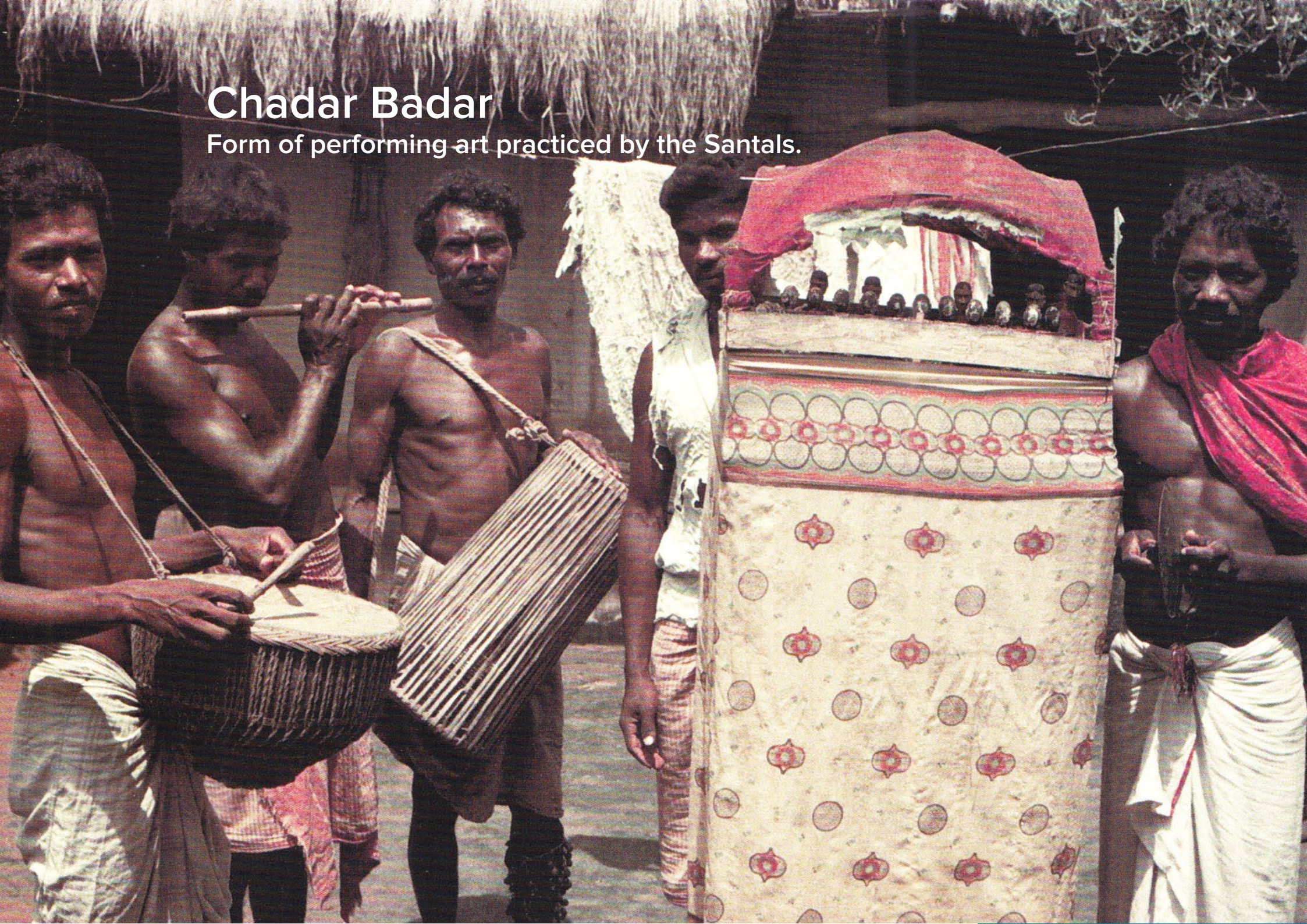
Santals

- 3rd largest tribal community in India
- Language: Santali
- Religion: Worship bongas (nature spirits)
- Region: Bihar, Tripura, West Bengal, Orissa and Jharkhand
- Occupation: Hunters turned farmers growing rice as chief crop



Chadar Badar

Form of performing art practiced by the Santals.





Performers are a troupe of 5-7 men. They travel from village to village singing songs about daily village life

Duration is from Bhado to Durga Puja

It is performed with the assistance of wooden puppets hung inside a wooden box

The performer narrates stories by words and verse from ancient Santal culture

The puppets are 5 to 9 inches tall and has movable limbs, manipulated by the performer, using strings attached to them

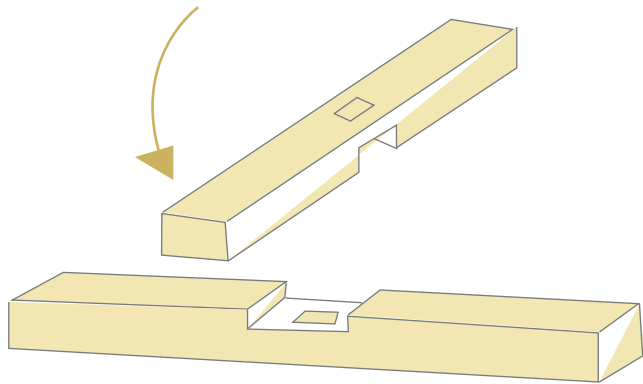
One string connects all the puppets. It comes out from the bottom of platform on which all the puppets are mounted



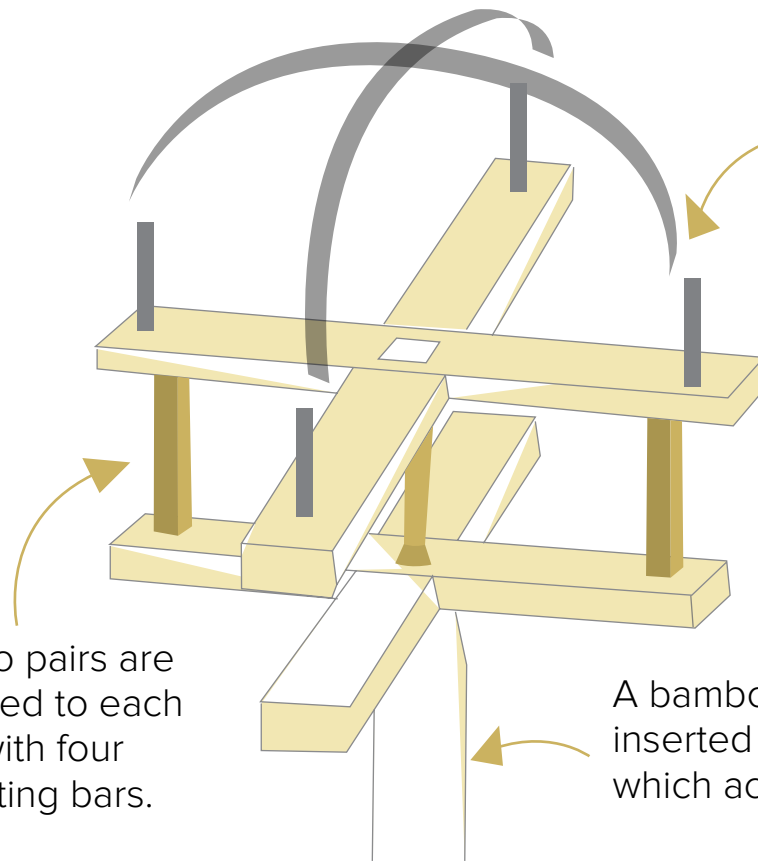


Structure

Two pairs of wooden bars are fixed at right angles with a square hole running through them.

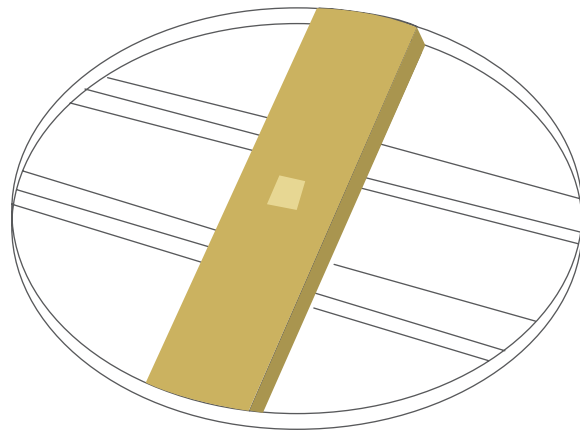


The two pairs are then fixed to each other with four supporting bars.

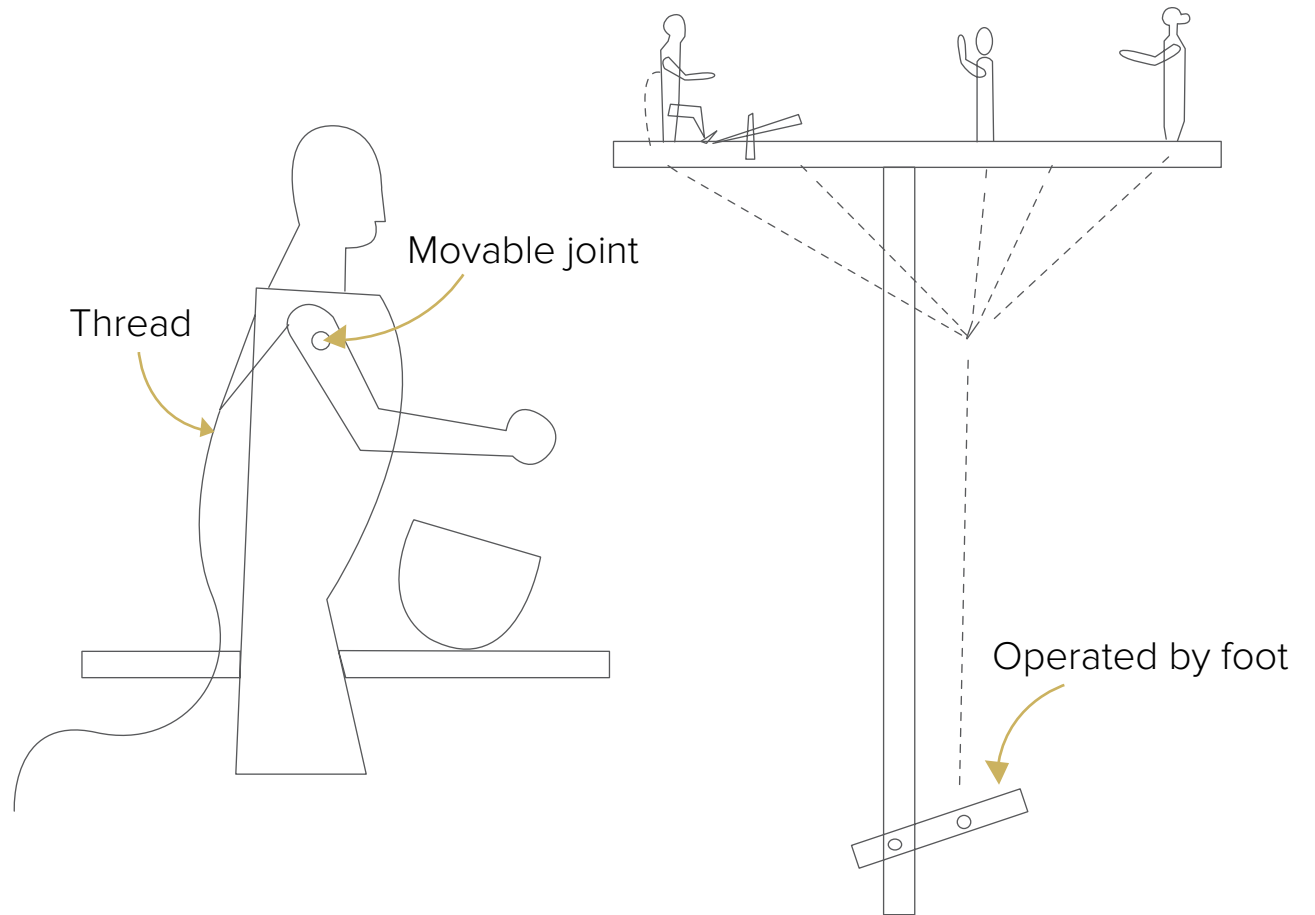


Four split bamboo pieces two long flexible bamboo branches are bent and tied.

A bamboo pole is inserted in lower part which acts as the stand.

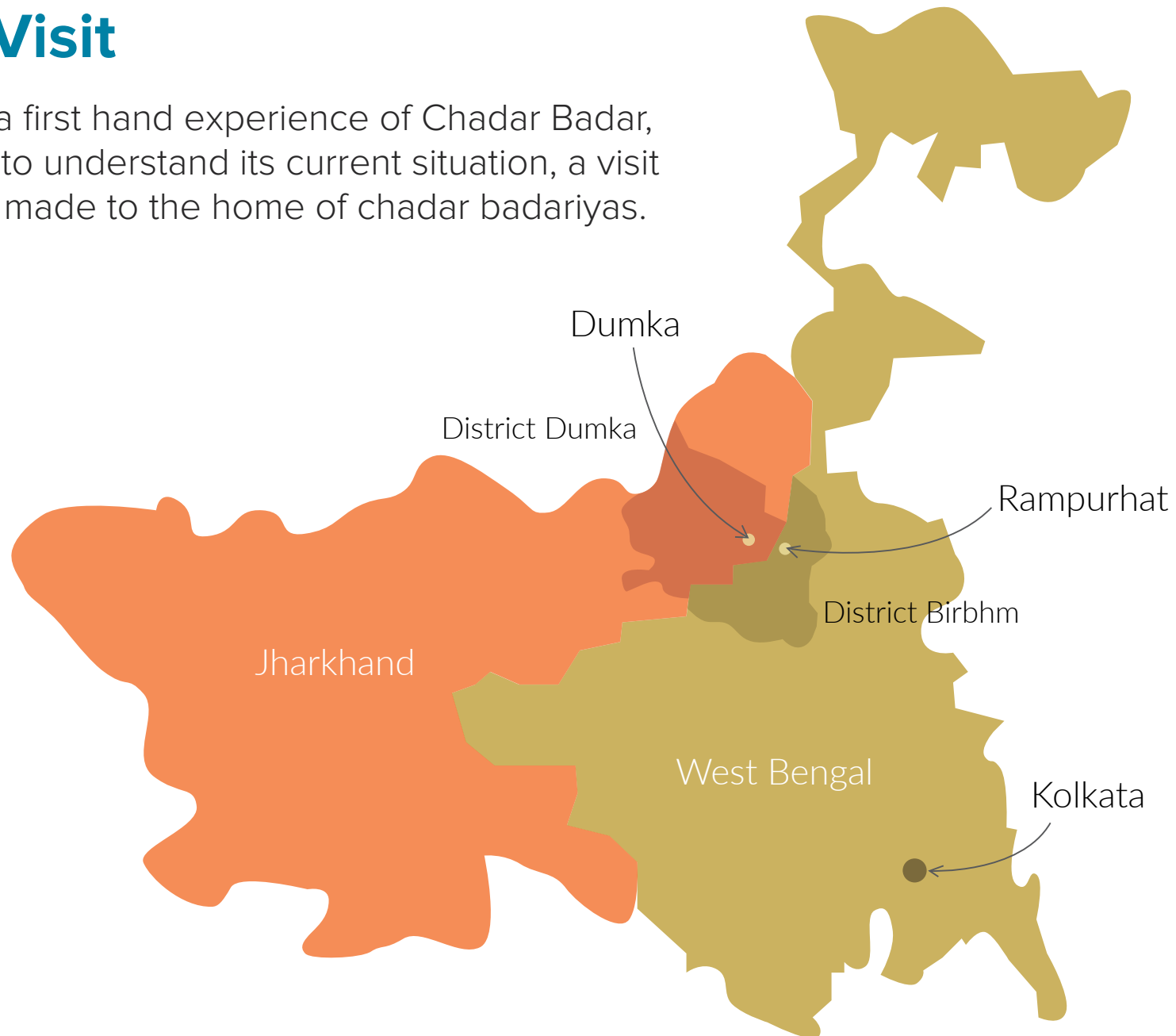


Circular stand on which the puppets are mounted.



A Visit

For a first hand experience of Chadar Badar, and to understand its current situation, a visit was made to the home of chadar badariyas.





The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of stylized, hand-drawn faces and eyes. Each face has a simple outline, a small nose, and a slightly open mouth. The eyes are large and detailed with eyelashes. The faces are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with lines connecting them. A horizontal blue band runs across the center of the image, containing the word "Insights" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Insights

Cost of development is paid by the rural population



Different perspectives



Baburji:
villager

“Its easy, if TV & mobile phones are present, who will look at puppetry.”



Roboy:
villager, activist

“Tribals dont choose to leave traditions behind but they live on resourceful lands & that becomes their doom.”



Ashok Singh:
has worked with govt.

“Training of performers in different places, with the government support will bring new hope to the artists.”

Analysis

What does development mean?

What can be the nature of collaboration?

To save what is dying

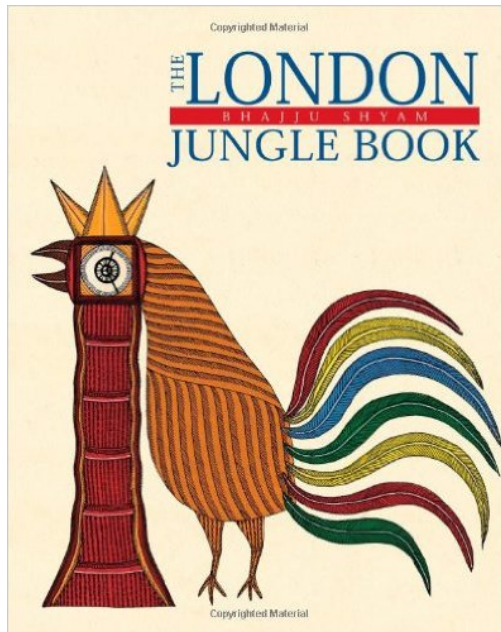
Is past our identity?

Can we learn from the past?

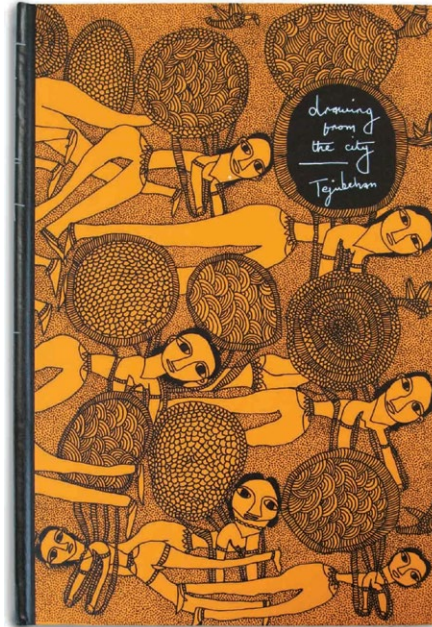
What can people do?

What is my understanding?

Similar Work



The London Jungle Book



Drawing from the city



Cycle's Dream

Similar Work



Three Little Pigs



The country Rat and the Town Mouse

The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern. It features stylized human faces with large, expressive eyes and simple, curved lines for hair and clothing. These faces are interconnected by a network of thin, dark lines, creating a sense of a shared or interconnected community. A solid blue horizontal banner is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the text 'The Narrative' in white. The overall aesthetic is graphic and illustrative, with a focus on human connection and communication.

The Narrative

- Provide information about what is happening without involving them directly in a 'movement'
- Provide information about the particular problems of the region, like the stone quarries
- Recreate the premise and context. It will present both sides, what is happening in the villages as well as the cities
- Will not state facts and figures
- Form of a conversation
- Short, engaging, visually driven
- The book will have some element of Chadar Badar

Story concepts

Story 1



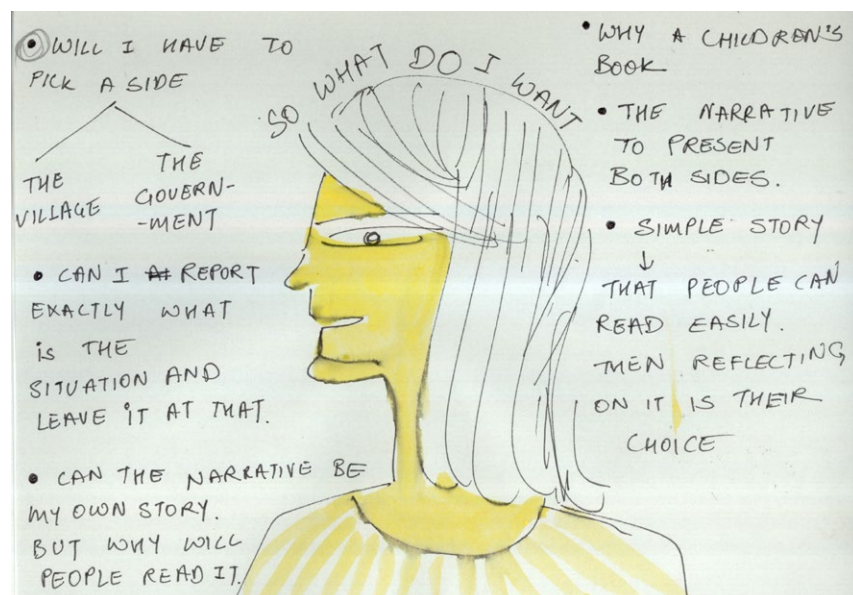
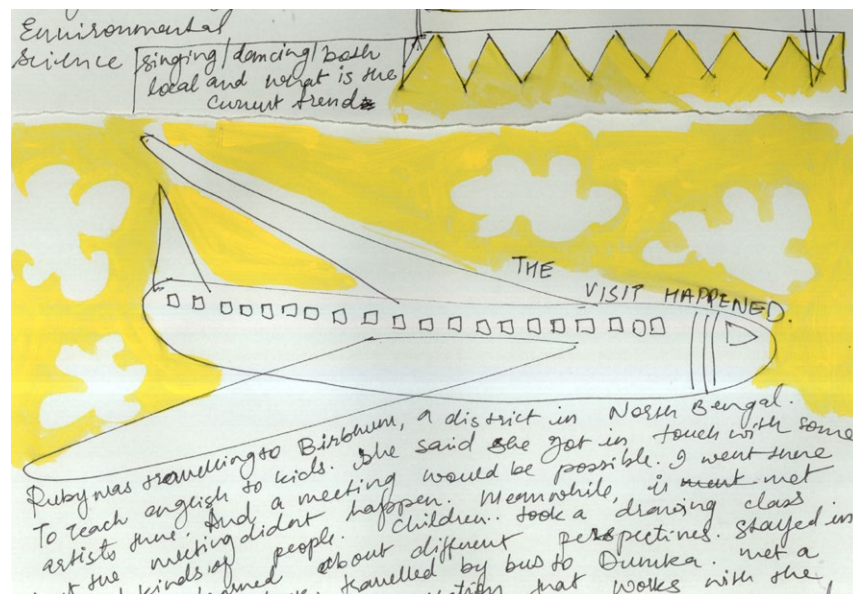
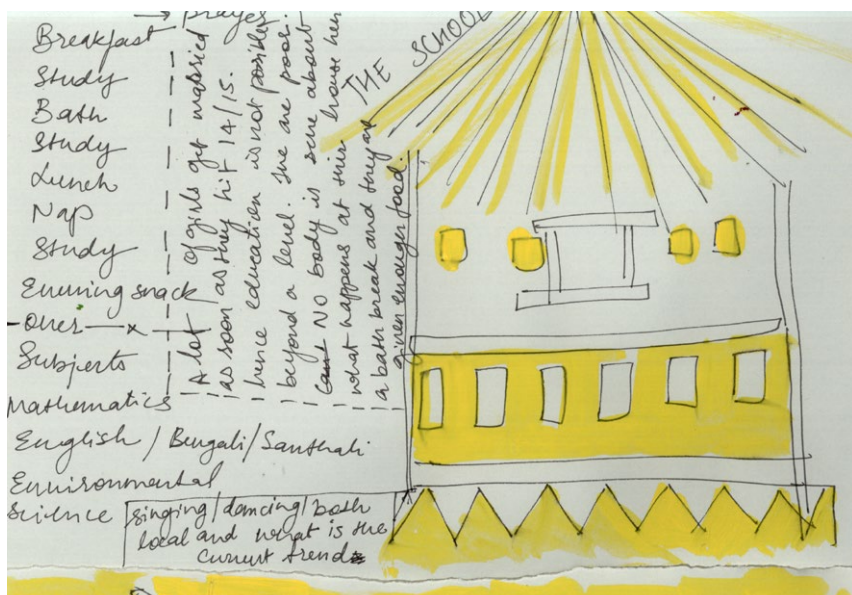
Story 2



Story 3



Story 4



Story 5

THE FIELDS, THE HOUSES

THE PEOPLE

THE APPLAUSE

What season is it?

Are the farms tilled
already?

Will we get a fresh
paint this year?

Will we go out
tomorrow?

THATS IT!
LETS LEAVE AND THEM OURSELVES!

Final story

Story 5

It is closest to the encounters faced during the project. It brings forward, the outlook of different people who interact with the craftsmen. The story summarizes all the dwelling that happened after the research was over.

- The puppets leave their house in search of new audience
- They meet various people who make them different offers
- END?

Characters



Ghost



Writer/ Anthropologist



Activist



Government

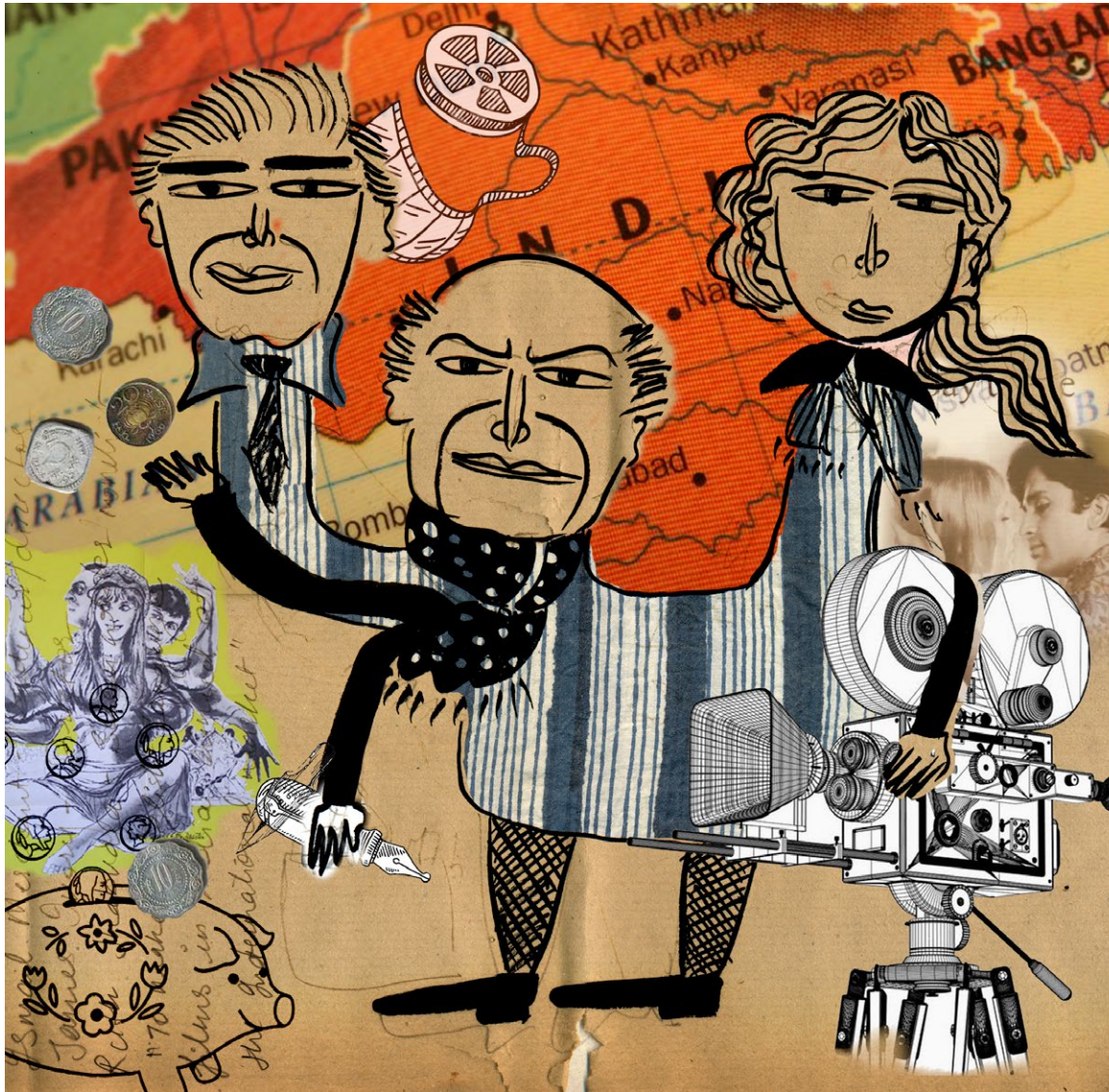
Characters



Rendering



Rendering



Hand drawn characters + Photoshop Backgrounds







Final Spreads



Final Spreads

Hence from the group, half the puppets came back home. They waited for their next performance to tell people what they had experienced outside the village.



Final Spreads



Conclusion & Scope

References

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Books

- Johannes Beltz Marie Eve Celio Scheurer- Cadence and Counterpoint: Documenting Santal Musical Traditions
- Gita Wolf, Sirish Rao- The London Jungle Book, Tejubehan- Drawing from the city
- Ramesh Hengadi, Rasika Hengadi, Shantaram Dhadpe, Kusum Dhadpe and Gita Wolf -Do!
- The tribal world of Verrier Elwin
- Ram Dayal Munda- Adi Dharma
- Ashok Singh- Aadivaasi Kathputli Lok Kala, Chadar Badar

Thank you