Ambika Joshi

(AKA Computational Mama)

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Other websites: https://ajaibghar.com https://dra-ft.site

Ambika's (under the moniker Computational Mama) work explores live coding and teaching as a form of camaraderie, friendship and self-care. On her Twitch stream, she teaches the basics of creative computation and new approaches to computational thinking. Her streaming series Coding with Friends is rooted in creating inclusive spaces for womxn makers to explore creative computation. She was awarded the Processing Foundation Fellowship in 2021 to produce Season 2 of Coding with Friends.

She was a 2021 Processing Fellow, a speaker at Iterations 2021, a 2020 BeFantastic Fellow and has been featured in Casey Reas' (co-founder Processing) recent list of generative artists doing interesting work.

Her work has been featured in India Art Fair (2022) and Vorspiel / transmediale & CTM (2021).

She is a co-instigator of dra.ft which explores emergent ideas of text and its future.

The moniker Computational Mama, was created in late 2017 when a bed-ridden heavily pregnant mama-to-be decided to learn creative coding. She currently lives in Udaipur, India in a mutli-generational household of all women and her 5 year old son. She is also a museum professional with over 10 years of experience and is the co-founder of Ajaibghar Cultural Services.

Experience

2019-present	Director, Ajaibghar Cultural Services, clients include Science Gallery Bengaluru, Serendipity Arts Festival, Arts Council Australia. Educator, teaching creative coding at various design institutes Artist, work heavily with computer vision, and AI and generative text models
2017-2019	Independent Museum Consultant
2014-2017	Deputy Project Manager, Indian Music Experience, Bengaluru
2013-2014	UX Design and Research, Commonfloor.com
2010-2013	Art Direction and Design Research, DesignHabit (India's foremost Museum Design Studio)

Curatorial Work

Year	Role and Organisation	Project
2022	Curator, Program Lead for AIxDesign	AI PLAYGROUND - The AI Playground program spotlights creators from around the world that use AI tools to feed their creative practice. The program runs through 2022 with Behind the Scenes talks and workshops on AI & text, images, movement and sound.
2021	Co-curator and co-organiser as part of dra.ft collective for Electronic Literature Organisation conference 2021	freeFall future.text - An exhibition focused on Indian and Asian E-Lit, emerging out of a month-long Collaborative Text Lab engaging platforms and creators of the region in collective study and experimentation to explore e-lit when moving beyond the flatness and boundaries of platforms. Conference archive website: https://conferences.au.dk/elo2021/

Exhibitions (Recent)

2023	**Mother Machines**, as part of Feminism in Public Spaces by Designathon in Zurich, Swit, March 2023
2022	**Mother Machines**, as part of BeFantastic AI Art showcase in at Samsung Opera House, Bengaluru, November 2022
2022	**MuseTogether IAF,** as part of Ajaibghar collective in collaboration with Uma Khardekar at India Art Fair, April 2022
2022	**K(not) a Conversation,** in collaboration with Nayeli Vega Vargas and Thomas Heidtmann at India Art Fair, April 2022
2021	**K(not) a Conversation,** in collaboration with Nayeli Vega Vargas and Thomas Heidtmann
2020	**Don't assemble**, Processing Community Day, February 2020, IGIB New Delhi.

Talks/Performances

Screenwalks, Fotomuseum Winterthur and The Photographers' Gallery, April 2023 (talk link)

Distortion Series 2023: Talking to Robots, March 2023 (talk link)

Makers Meet & Eat, Utrecht, (CCU, Raum, Impakt, Setup), September 2022

Coding with Friends, Iterations Online, Amsterdam, *November 2021* (talk link)

Handmade Code, Delhi Technological Institute, *April 2021*

[Handmade Code, Meetup FOSS United,](#) *February 2021*

[Handmade Code, Digikat,](#) *August 2020*

[Algorave India: Delhi Edition,](#) *September 2019*

Grants and Fellowships

[Processing Foundation Fellowship, 2021](#)

[BeFantastic CoLab – Pivot International TechArt Fellowship, 2020](#) BeFantastic India Supported by Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Bangalore and British Council

[Experiments with Video Archives, Pad.ma (Public Access Digital Media Archive)](#), September 2012 – April 2013

Residencies

[Artist-in-Residence (In collaboration with Agat Sharma), In Context: public.art.ecology, FOOD EDITION-II](#), Khoj International Artists' Association, March - April 2013

Other

[Jury member, Gender Bender 2021](#), Sandbox Collective

Workshops / Teaching

September 2022	**[Fingerp(ai)nting with words, @ AIxDesign, Netherlands](#) (ONLINE) -** A 2-4 hours workshop on hand tracking on webcam and creating generative poetry visualised on the fingertips.
September 2022	**[Poetry together @ Creative Coding Utrecht, Netherlands](#) (OFFLINE) -** A 4-6 hours workshop on body tracking and creating movement based poetry and typographical experiments.
March 2022	**Handle with care @ JK Lakshmipat University (ONLINE) -** A 5 day workshop style module for design students, with interactive coding based visuals integrated into physical cardboard prototypes.
July 2020 - ongoing	**[Recreating with p5js @ various organisation and independently](#) (ONLINE AND OFFLINE) -** A 10 hour (staggered) workshop module that introduces creative coding and interactive artworks to designers and artists.

Education

Project Management Professional (PMP), The Project Management Institute (PMI), *December 2016*

Bachelor's of Design (Communication Design), National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, India - *2006 - 2010*