

HIMALAYAN PLEIN-AIR 2027

15-Day Master Artist Residency Itinerary & Program Architecture

Residency Dates:	24th February – 10th March 2027 (15 Days)
Host Partner & Venue:	Mastiff Hotel Mastiff Wildcrest Dharamshala, Gopalpur
Curator & Lead:	Arijeet Chanda (Himalayan Plein-Air / Landour Plein-Air)
Program Structure:	Days 1–5: Regional Immersion & Excursions Days 6–13: Outdoor Workshops & Garden Sundowners Day 14: Grand Exhibition Day 15: Exit

Phase 1: Regional Immersion & Field Scouting (Days 1–5)

During the initial 5 days, participating master artists undergo a comprehensive orientation and guided immersion across four primary cultural hubs of the Kangra Valley. This scouting phase allows delegates to study historical monuments, spiritual centers, and artisan villages before commencing outdoor painting workshops.

Day 1 (24th Feb): Arrival, Check-In & Orientation Briefing

- Morning/Afternoon: Airport & railway shuttles from Kangra Gaggal Airport (DHM) and Pathankot Junction (PTK).
- 15:00: Room check-in at Mastiff Wildcrest Dharamshala, Gopalpur.
- 17:00: Orientation meeting, easel allocation, and supply kit distribution in the Meeting Room.
- 19:30: Welcome dinner at Tangelo restaurant hosted by Mastiff Hotel.

Day 2 (25th Feb): Excursion 1: Dharamshala & McLeod Ganj (Norbulingka & Dalai Lama Temple)

- 08:30: Depart for Sidhpur.
- 09:30 – 12:30: Guided walkthrough at Norbulingka Institute. Observe master artisans creating traditional thangka paintings, woodcarvings, and metalcraft.
- 13:00: Lunch break.
- 14:30 – 17:00: Visit McLeod Ganj. Exploration of the Dalai Lama Temple (Namgyal Monastery) and the Kora Walk trail.
- 19:00: Return to Mastiff Wildcrest for group dinner.

Day 3 (26th Feb): Excursion 2: Kangra Fort & Kangra Art Museum

- 08:30: Depart for Kangra.
- 09:30 – 13:00: In-situ heritage walkthrough at Kangra Fort under ASI circle permits. Study ancient stone ramparts, temples, and valley views.
- 13:30: Traditional lunch.
- 15:00 – 17:00: Guided visit to Kangra Art Museum in Dharamshala to examine 18th-century Kangra miniature paintings and woodcarvings.
- 18:30: Evening debrief at Mastiff Wildcrest.

Day 4 (27th Feb): Excursion 3: Andretta Artist Village & Pottery Studio

- 09:00: Depart for Andretta Artist Village near Palampur.
- 09:45 – 12:00: Visit Sobha Singh Art Gallery to view original portraits and oil canvases.
- 12:00 – 14:00: Hands-on clay wheel demonstration at Andretta Pottery and Craft Society.

- 14:30: Walkthrough of Norah Richards' historic Mud House and surrounding village lanes.
- 18:00: Return to resort for evening tea and sketching discussions.

Day 5 (28th Feb): Excursion 4: Yoga Ashram & Site Selection

- 07:00 – 08:30: Morning yoga, pranayama, and meditation session at The Art of Living Kailash Ashram (Village Gujrehra, Gopalpur).
- 09:30: Breakfast at Tangelo.
- 10:30 – 15:00: Guided site selection walk around Gopalpur tea estates, pine forest trails, and Neugal Khad riverbeds.
- 16:30: Materials preparation and studio setup in the Meeting Room ahead of workshop commencement.

Phase 2: Outdoor Plein-Air Workshops & Garden Sundowners (Days 6–13)

With the regional scouting complete, Days 6 through 13 represent the core production phase of the residency. Artists spend their daytime independently painting outdoors en plein air. Every evening, country-specific social evenings and diplomatic sundowners are hosted in the gardens of Mastiff Wildcrest.

Day 6 (1st Mar): Plein-Air Workshop Day 1 | Welcome Himachali Cultural Sundowner

- 08:30 – 16:30: Outdoor plein-air painting session in Gopalpur tea gardens and resort grounds.
- 17:30 – 20:30: Host Welcome Sundowner in Mastiff Wildcrest Gardens. Featuring live Himachali folk music and traditional Kangri Dham buffet dinner at Tangelo.

Day 7 (2nd Mar): Plein-Air Workshop Day 2 | Lithuanian Diplomatic & Cultural Evening

- 08:30 – 16:30: Independent field painting at Neugal Khad and Palampur pine trails.
- 17:30 – 20:30: Lithuanian Cultural Sundowner in the gardens. Presentation on Baltic plein-air traditions (Vilnius & Nida), Lithuanian art spotlight, and diplomatic reception.

Day 8 (3rd Mar): Plein-Air Workshop Day 3 | Polish Cultural & Fine Art Night

- 08:30 – 16:30: Outdoor plein-air painting at Gopalpur hillsides and tea estate vantage points.
- 17:30 – 20:30: Polish Cultural Evening in the gardens. Discussion on Polish outdoor painting legacy (Kazimierz Dolny & Zakopane) with visiting delegates and cultural partners.

Day 9 (4th Mar): Plein-Air Workshop Day 4 | Indian Heritage & Miniature Traditions Evening

- 08:30 – 16:30: Full-day landscape painting on site.
- 17:30 – 20:30: Indian Heritage Sundowner. Interactive session on Kangra miniature painting history and traditional natural pigment art techniques.

Day 10 (5th Mar): Plein-Air Workshop Day 5 | Indo-European Fusion & Partner Recognition Night

- 08:30 – 16:30: Independent plein-air studies across tea estate locations.
- 17:30 – 20:30: Indo-European Fusion Night in the gardens. Formal recognition of Title Host Partner (Mastiff Hotel), institutional partners, and corporate supporters.

Day 11 (6th Mar): Plein-Air Workshop Day 6 | TIPA Tibetan Performing Arts Evening

- 08:30 – 16:30: Outdoor painting session focused on architecture and mountain vistas.
- 17:30 – 20:30: Special Tibetan Performing Arts Evening in the garden featuring live folk music, lhamo opera excerpts, and traditional dance by artists from TIPA McLeod Ganj.

Day 12 (7th Mar): Plein-Air Workshop Day 7 | Collectors & Patrons Preview Sundowner

- 08:30 – 16:30: Final outdoor painting touches and studio touch-ups.
- 17:30 – 20:30: Private Collectors & Patrons Preview Sundowner. Exclusive early viewing of completed works in progress for hotel VIP guests, press, and art buyers.

Day 13 (8th Mar): Studio Completion & Framing | Curator's Roundtable Dinner

- 08:30 – 15:00: Artwork submission, curatorial selection, drying, and professional framing in the Meeting Room studio.
- 17:30 – 20:30: Pre-Exhibition Artists' Roundtable & Curator's Dinner. Catalogue documentation and final preparation for the public gala.

Phase 3: Public Exhibition, Fine Art Sale & Exit (Days 14–15)

Day 14 (9th Mar): Grand Pop-Up Exhibition, Public Fine Art Sale & Gala Dinner

- 10:00: Grand Public Opening of the Himalayan Plein-Air 2027 Exhibition on the lawns and Meeting Room of Mastiff Wildcrest, Gopalpur.
- 11:00 – 18:00: Public viewing, press conference, catalog release, and direct fine art sales/auction.
- 19:30: Closing Gala Dinner & Certificate Presentation Ceremony honoring participating master artists.

Day 15 (10th Mar): Check-Out, Collection Acquisition & Departure

- 09:00 – 11:00: Formal acquisition handover of selected original canvases for the Mastiff Hotel Fine Art Collection.
- 12:00: Hotel check-out.
- Afternoon: Dedicated shuttles via GHAS fleet to Kangra Gaggal Airport (DHM) and Pathankot Junction (PTK) for return travel.