

Frances Kiernan has returned from a residency at the very beautiful Sanskriti Centre in New Delhi, where she and poet Jenny Lewis worked with the distinguished poet, and organiser of the Delhi International Literary Festival, Sudeep Sen. Their intention was to explore, through poetry, imagery and visual art, the power of plants and nature to restore balance and heal the body and mind.



sanskriti

As Jenny explains: "We wanted to explore the medicinal plants of India and the UK and translate their healing properties into poetry and artworks which will result in an installation – to include words and imagery – at the Sanskriti Centre and other galleries, spaces and gardens.

"During our residency we will also be running workshops with the Katha School, Delhi (which provides education for disadvantaged women and children) in writing poetry and in bookmaking – both of which will reflect the plants we are focusing on. The books will be used as part of the exhibition at Sanskriti Centre.

"On our return to the UK we will continue to develop our research. The final work will include limited edition etchings, prints and book art. We hope to return to India in 2010/2011 to exhibit the results of our collaboration, maybe as part of the Delhi International Literary Festival.

"We were drawn to India as the starting point for our research because of the Ayurvedic tradition and the fact that both our fathers were in India for considerable amounts of time (in Deolali, Jaipur and Mussoorie) during the First and Second World Wars. This adds a personal connection to India which will enable us to explore concepts of history, psychology, heredity and the mysterious and transcendental nature of time."

Jenny and Frances with Geeta and Parvinder from Katha School. Geeta tells us they have helped 98,000 children from deprived areas – plus helping to train their mums so they can continue to support their families.



Sudeep takes a look at the prints prior to our presentation at Sanskriti Kendra.



above: Jenny with fellow resident artist Pedro and his nephew Pablo.

