

A TAPESTRY OF DREAMS

Five distinguished women poets, representing the Indian Diaspora, who also write in English, will speak about influences on their writing, how the English language has shaped their creative output, their experience of making a home abroad, including responses to their work from the motherland and their adopted homeland. The poetry reading will be followed by a Q&A session with the audience.



The poets participating are Shanta Acharya (Chair), Usha Akella, Meena Alexander, Mona Dash and Kavita A. Jindal.

Shanta Acharya DPhil (Oxon) is the author of ten books, including five volumes of poetry. An internationally published poet, critic, reviewer and scholar, her work features in major anthologies in the UK, USA and India. Her *New & Selected Poems* will be published in 2017. She has twice served on the board of trustees of the Poetry Society, UK. www.shantaacharya.com

Usha Akella has authored four books, the most recent being *Rosary of Latitudes*, a collection of prose and poetry inspired by travel. A participant at several poetry festivals, she hosted the first South Asian Poets Festival 'Matwaala' in the US in 2015. Selected as a creative ambassador for Austin in 2014-15, she is the founder of Poetry Caravan, an organization offering poetry readings at women shelters and senior homes.

Meena Alexander described in The Statesman (India) as "undoubtedly one of the finest poets in contemporary times" is the author of *Atmospheric Embroidery* (Hachette India, 2015). Her awards include those from the Guggenheim, Fulbright and Rockefeller Foundations and the Arts Council of England. She has published eight books of poetry, two novels, two volumes of essays and the memoir *Fault Lines*. www.meenaalexander.com

Mona Dash has one collection of poetry, *Dawn Drops*; her second collection will be published by Skylark Publications UK. Her first novel, *Untamed Heart*, is due for publication in 2016. Mona works in Technology and Management, and has a Masters (with distinction) in Creative Writing from the London Metropolitan University. www.monadash.net

Kavita A. Jindal is a prize-winning short story writer and author of the critically acclaimed poetry collection, *Raincheck Renewed*. Her work has appeared in journals, anthologies and newspapers around the world and been translated into Arabic, German, Punjabi, Spanish and Romanian. She is a Senior Editor at *Asia Literary Review*. www.kavitajindal.com

Venue: The Nehru Centre, 8 South Audley Street, London W1K 1HF

Date: Thursday, 23 June 2016; Time: 6.15pm for 6.30pm start; ends at 8.30pm