

## THREAD ART/WEAVING DREAMS WORKSHOP

Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, SAKET

In collaboration with NCERT

26<sup>th</sup> May 2013

What a fabulous experience, teaching this workshop at the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Saket was. This workshop had between 80 to 100 participants, aged 6 years and above, who came from all walks of life. Of the teachers, students, home-makers and children present, some had never having had any exposure to **Textiles As Art**. They were introduced to the work of international textile artists via power points slide presentation, as well as visuals of my own work – some of which were on display in the workshop space.

In order to encourage the participants to work with fabric, we did a series of exercises that involved experimenting with the structure of the fabric - trying to manipulate it in different ways – some of which were demonstrated, and they also learned to express their thoughts and feelings through the medium using words that were given to them and also explained. The participants were encouraged to play with fabric - tearing, burning, cutting and manipulating this in various ways to understand its nature and natural inclinations as well as what could be done to change this. The materials used throughout the workshop. were needle, thread and fabric – using them independent of each other as well as together. Technical support and inputs were provided through volunteers and myself.

After the initial exercises the participants identified a basic concept – choosing from those given to them or deciding on their own and they made a fabric collage - incorporating ideas and techniques they had worked with in the earlier part of the programme, taking this home with them.

In all my 20+ years of teaching, I have never enjoyed it as much as I did today. Children are so receptive and the influence they had on the grown-ups present was really amazing! It's hard to believe they produced this work in less than an hour, and that too, just two hours before they were introduced to needle, thread and fabric.