Bhairavi Varnam 10 day workshop in Tiruvarur district
curated by Saskia Kersenboom - www.parampara.eu

The famous Padavarnam „Mohamana…” by Ponniah (*1804, Tanjore Quartet) is the favourite of many dancers. Shiva as Tyagarajasvami still holds the contemporary Bharata Natyam stage under a spell.
Yet, how many dancers, musicians or rasikas do realise that this processional image of Shiva in Tiruvarur is but one out of seven icons of Tyagaraja. The other six have taken their abode in and around Tiruvarur district. Several shrines are connected by underground corridors but most importantly by their common descent to the world of mortals as a gift of Indra to King Mucukunda.

This workshop aims to tell the story behind the mystery of the seven images, called ‘Vitankan’ that means: ‘not chiselled by any human hand’ but delivered straight from the world of the gods. In this row of seven Shri VITIVITANKAN Tyagarajasvami of Tiruvarur comes first.
This story will not just be told…rather, it will be traced down to the seven shrines that hold identical Vitankan images spread over Tamilnadu. www.templenet.com/Tamilnadu/Tiruvarur/sapta_vitanka.html

Based in Tirupugalur at www.mangalaheritagehome.in near Tiruvarur town, we will travel daily to one of these different shrines and witness the evening worship there.

Our mornings will be filled with painting, poetry, music and dance: with Bhairavi Varnam „Mohamana…” that holds the key to understanding the Tyagaraja cult, with padams and dance dramas by classical composers who invoke his beautiful face, his gracious feet and his primordial dance - the AJAPA Natanam.
Tiruvarur town and its temple complex tell the story of the descent of Shri Tyagarajasvami through murals in the Devashraya mandapa. Temple musicians can show us the exact place where Tyagaraja arrived.

https://vimeo.com/28490607

The “root of Shiva’s presence” in Tiruvarur is an ancient anthill where he agreed to take his abode. In our times, his presence has taken the form of an emerald LINGA; yet, Shiva’s name Valmikinatha ‘Lord of the Anthill’ testifies the origins of today’s central shrine. In other Tyagaraja Vitankan temples we may find a real anthill on the temple grounds - holding the sacred cobra.
This sacred snake energizes the Seven Dances performed individually by the seven Tyagaraja Vitankans. The mystery of their descent, sevenfold form and seven dances delves even deeper: it uncovers the ascent of the KUNDALINI snake dancing upwards in the seven chakras along the human spine. The blessing of seeing Tyagaraja’s dance, the AJAPA Natanam, as he is carried on the shoulders of his devotees, is beyond words.

Our 10 day stay in and around Tiruvarur culminates in the night of Pankuni Uttiram (March-April) when Shiva Tyagaraja sets out to wed Shakti: Goddess Kamalamba.

www.poetrywithprakriti.in/event/pallaki-seva-prabandhamu

On that night Tyagaraja shows his left foot, his SHAKTI PADA. This is the blessing that we will take home after our deep immersion in the „Worlds of MOHAMANA...”.
REFERENCES:


CONTACT: for workshop time schedule www.paramparai.eu *WHEN for further information: info@paramparai.eu