



## Azim Premji University Faculty Seminar

**Topic: Art in Education**

**Speaker: Catherine Z. Elgin** (*Professor of the Philosophy of Education, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, USA*)

**Date: January 16, 2015 (Friday)**

**Time: 4.00 pm to 5:30 pm**

**Venue: 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium, Pixel A, (Azim Premji University)**

### **About the Topic**

I will argue that the study of the arts plays a central role in education.

One reason is that encounters with the arts are intrinsically valuable: they enrich people's lives by sensitizing them to aspects of the world that they would otherwise overlook. Our lives are better when we can see more deeply into things. A second reason is more instrumental. Encounters with the arts foster skills, incentives and orientations that are valuable in science, human relations and everyday life. Because works of art are symbols, students need to learn to use and interpret them in order to take advantage of the opportunities that the arts afford. The abilities students gain through the study of art transfers to other disciplines.

### **About the Speaker**

**Professor Elgin** is a philosopher whose focus is the theory of knowledge and the philosophies of art and science and language. She holds a Ph.D. from Brandeis University. She is well known for her several joint works with philosopher Nelson Goodman. Her seminal work has addressed the questions like '*what makes something cognitively valuable?*' As an epistemologist, she considers the pursuit of understanding to be of higher value than the pursuit of knowledge. In her influential book '*Considered Judgement*', she argues for "a reconception that takes reflective equilibrium as the standard of rational acceptability. Her other work include *Between the Absolute and the Arbitrary*, *With Reference to Reference*, and co-author (with Nelson Goodman) of *Reconceptions in Philosophy and Other Arts and Sciences*.