Vidya is that rarest of human beings, in that there seems to be nothing at which she is not proficient. She is a superb potter, an inspiring teacher, a renowned performer of Bharata Natyam dance and possesses a lustrous singing voice. It has been my great pleasure and privilege to have witnessed all of these qualities – and more – while working with her on her ground-breaking project, The Clay Connection. This is work that crosses art forms and continents. It is powerful, tender, thrilling and moving, packed with rage, beauty and compassion.

Chris Fogg

Writer, director and dramaturg

I thoroughly enjoyed your performance in the Watts gallery which I attended with my wife, daughter and friends – all of us thoroughly enjoying your wonderful event.

Alistair Burtenshaw

Director, Watts Gallery, Surrey

Performance at Watts gallery, Autumn 2018

In my long-term association with Vidya as my dancing twin, I can gleefully say that it has been nothing but sheer pleasure and fun. Her thoroughness on the subject, her musicality, her immense knowledge on Indian ethos, her commitment to teaching, and above all, her liberal thinking and receptive learning are all apparent through her multifarious artistic existence with dance, music, theatre, and pottery. Vidya is a versatile artist who truly displays an artistic existence.

Geetha Sridhar

Bharata Natyam performer, Lecturer at Universities of Chichester and Kingston

You and team put the audience at the edge of their seats - they said they had never seen such a terrific performance with live music and coordination. They simply loved it and we have several twitter feeds about the performance.

Dr Sabu Padmadas, Associate Dean (International) and Professor of Demography and Global Health, University of Southampton

Organiser of performance, Bharathi, at Turner Sims concert hall, Southampton, Spring 2019.

The Clay Connections workshops shared by Vidya Thirunarayan at Rambert School were filed with a great generosity of spirit and deep humanity sprinkled with a sense of humour and joyfulness.

Vidya opened up a world of play and exploration through the invitation for students to create their own clay creations.

This creative invitation set the tone for the expressive nature that was to follow with the exploration of Bharata Natyam dance vocabulary and its use as a creative inspiration for the students.

The song and dance that was taught by Vidya was infused with a joyful playfulness that helped the students to engage their technique with a strength of expressivity.

Vidya spoke of the importance for our students to command the performance space and draw the audience in with the great beauty and communicative magic that dance can share.

Our students left the studio filled with the strength and beauty of the song, dance and clay creations that they took home with them.

Barry Ganberg, Head of Music

‘’Lives of Clay’ workshop at Rambert School, 2018

Your presentation helped me move deeper into contemplating and realising the materiality of dance. It is about shaping a material that is mercurial and yet immediate and ever immanent - that is, our very bodies and all the rich felt- sensations that radiate in and around us. I saw too how the postures and gestures of the dance extend this substantial self into the space and into the embodied felt-sensations of our audiences. The workshop also made vivid the ways in which the steps and actions of the dance are instrumental in changing the soundscape and the visual field of the performance space. Our dance is a material presence as well as a resonant action. Overtime I hope to explore in myself how working pragmatically with material - clay, paint, wood and my body - might bring me into a deeper understanding of how affective presence arises from concrete acts.

Dr Mark Hamilton, Senior Lecturer in World Stages, Regent’s University, London

Clay Body Sites lecture-demonstration, Oxford, 30 March 2019