Tambat Ali: A Story of Copper Craft

In the city of Pune in Western India, roughly 30 to 40 copper craftsmen and their families live and work in an area called tambat ali (copper alley). They have been making water containers, vessels for food, religious artifacts and other decorative items with hand-beaten copper for over 400 years. Over the last few years, the number of new apprentices willing to learn the craft has dwindled as the children of these families are choosing to get formal college education, and are entering other professions. In addition, the rising prices of copper and the advent of mass-produced plastic and stainless steel utensils have increased prices of these artifacts, thereby reducing demand. In this presentation, I will talk about the changes this community is going through, and how they are re-imagining their future through innovative economic, social, artistic, and design practices.

No charge. Pizza will be served.