



**The Poetic Saree ~**  
Dance Poems from India

**By Jaya Mehta**

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**An Odissi dancer and international performer, Jaya Mehta's poetry has been danced on stage in international dance productions and is powerfully multi-dimensional.**

Performed at the India Dans Festival in the Hague, The International Poetry Festival in Rotterdam, and published by the Levure Littéraire, Jaya Mehta's art bridges the traditional and modern. The poems leap off the page, born of dance and a deep immersion in Indian art and nature.

This is her first volume of dance-poems. Jaya Mehta and her family currently live in New Delhi. 'The Poetic Saree' can be seen as nature-soaked dance videos on Jaya Mehta's Youtube channel, heard in an audio book, and read in this collection.

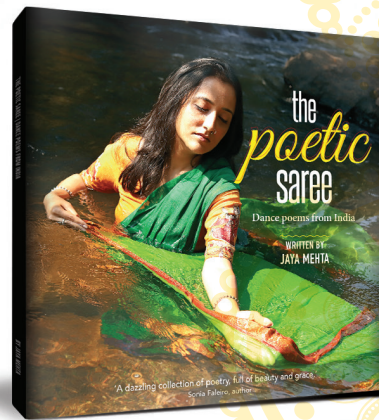
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~ BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT ~



## *Dance Poems that evoke a sensorium of Art*

*"In these poems, the colours, images, elements, rhythm and the flow of nature,  
the spins, swirls and ecstatic movements of the dancer become the poem,  
in which the meaning is dance itself."*

**H S Shivaprakash**

Kannada poet and Sahitya Akademi awardee



'The Poetic Saree' collection of poems present an incredibly rare, unified beauty — a fully-formed psychological, philosophical universe. Through the metaphor of the saree, Jaya Mehta expresses a sensorium of art, where the visual, the aural, the epidermal come together. These poems have a world where all the arts are forever flowing into each other: dance, painting, music, sculpture, poetry are all in conversation. The entire spectrum of nature seems to dance.

In these poems, colour can have fragrance, and sounds become lines: 'a painting that sings', 'life turns into poetry', 'poems that want to paint'. Here, like a saree you choose to wear on a certain day, colours are not just outward expression but inner states of being — they awaken within to swim in and sometimes, like the poet-dancer loves to do in dance, these colours of emotion play with the reader, a Holi of sorts.

These poems illuminate the 'poetic self' we all own, underneath our prosaic selves.

Revealed to us through a sculpture, a javakusum flower or a reflection of the full moon in rice paddy fields, the poetic self is everywhere in the poems. Readers will find a stunning poetry book with exquisite dance visuals, that gives a truly sumptuous feel to poetry, making 'the Poetic Saree' a treat for all the senses.

**Swaati Chattopadhyay**

culture curator, dancer and writer



*"These poems will  
inspire everyone to listen  
to themselves and to  
the world around them."*

**Sayantani Dasgupta**  
author

*"When dance is called  
poetry of the body, we see  
words becoming dance in  
Jaya's poetry"*

**Leo Spreksel**  
artistic director,  
Korzo Theatre, the Hague

*"A dazzling  
collection of poetry,  
full of beauty  
and grace."*

**Sonia Faleiro**  
author

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