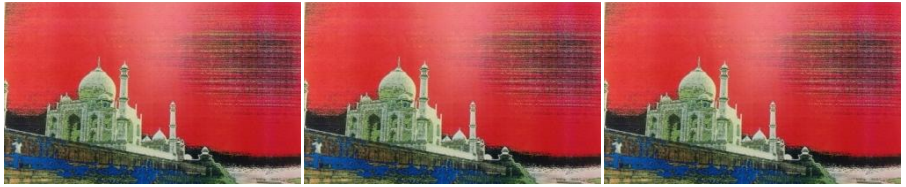


FRIENDS OF SOUTH ASIA



Newsletter | November 2017

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Celebrate your Friendship with the ROM

Members of Friend Groups of the Royal Ontario Museum are warmly invited to a special afternoon with ROM curators. Enjoy a fascinating update of curatorial projects and celebrate your impact as a valued Friend of the ROM. Captivating presentations by **Dr. Chen Shen**, Senior Curator, East Asian Art and Archaeology and **Dr. Arlene Gehmacher**, Curator, Canadian Paintings, Prints & Drawings, will explore ceramic pillows from ancient China and Canadian watercolours.

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

ROM | 100 Queen's Park

4:00 pm Reception | 4:30 pm Remarks and Presentations | 5:30 pm Objects on display & mingling with tea and coffee

President's Choice School Entrance,
Lower Rotunda
Signy and Cléopée Eaton Theatre
Kindly RSVP to Amy Rowbotham at
amy@rom.on.ca or
416.586.5661

Hello!

We are excited to be out of hibernation! After some time of transition and change, the Friends of South Asia have formally joined the ROM's Department of Museum Volunteers (DMV). This is the first of our renewed bi-annual newsletters that we hope is an easy way to catch you up on South Asian goings-on and events at the ROM.

Our other major news is the arrival of the inaugural Annual South Asia Lecture: *Art, Culture, Journalism*, generously supported by the Ancient Echoes/Modern Voices South Asia Programs Fund. This year on November 28 we celebrate the acquisition of a large number of pieces by Burlington-based mixed media artist **Panchal Mansaram**. An engaging chat between Mansaram and Mumbai-based journalist **Sidharth Bhatia** will follow a short documentary about the artist's work.

If you'd like to help us rebuild our team, we'd like to get to know you. Drop us a line (chairfsarom@gmail.com) or let us know in person.

Kind Regards,

Aruna Panday & Deepika Fernandez
FSA Chairs

PS The banner image is Image India #30b by Panchal Mansaram 1993 Paper, ink. 2015.78.33. Gift of the artist

Currently on view: The Natural World in South Asian Painting

In Indian painting, nature, or the countryside, is a space of possibilities—where spiritual retreats, leisure activities, romantic encounters, and tests of skill take place. It is also often considered the abode of the gods, where divine beings go about human-like activities. Elements of nature in these paintings are executed with wondrous detail and skill by masterful artists. The natural world, in the tradition of Indian painting, is as important as the figures who inhabit it.

Currently on view at the Sir Christopher Ondaatje South Asian Gallery. See some of the works and learn more here on the ROM Blog:

<http://www.rom.on.ca/en/blog/the-natural-world-in-south-asian-painting>

Inaugural Ancient Echoes/Modern Voices South Asia Lecture: Art, Culture, Journalism



ROM2017-15772-4

Join Burlington-based artist **Panchal Mansaram** and Mumbai-based journalist **Sidharth Bhatia** of *TheWire.in* to talk art, culture, and journalism in India and the world today at the ROM.

This inaugural lecture celebrates the acquisition of Mansaram's archive into the ROM collection. It will feature an original ROM short documentary followed by presentations by our guests, and a conversation moderated by ROM Curator Dr. **Deepali Dewan**. As Canada marks its 150th birthday and India its 70th, we shine a light on two of the most rapidly growing regions in the world.

November 28, 2017 | 6:30 pm Doors Open | Lecture 7:00 pm
ROM Members: \$18 | Reception to follow

This annual lecture series brings a cultural innovator from the South Asia region to Canada and is generously supported by the Ancient Echoes/Modern Voices South Asia Programs Fund.

<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/whats-on/inaugural-annual-south-asia-lecture>

2017/18 IARTS Textiles of India Grant



The ROM is pleased to announce that the 2017/18 **IARTS Textiles of India Grant** has been awarded to **Rajarshi Sengupta**, a PhD student at the University of British Columbia. Sengupta will carry out innovative work on the creation and transmission of knowledge amongst block carvers and textile artisans in the Deccan region of South-Central India. Working closely with families who have practised their arts for centuries, Sengupta will shed new light on artisanal perspectives of knowledge production and facilitate a collaborative publication initiative.

In 2018, Sengupta and master block carvers will present a public program at the ROM, where the artists will directly share their practice with Canadian audiences.

The IARTS Textiles of India Grant is a biennial award that will provide scholars, curators, educators, community leaders, artists and citizen enthusiasts with an opportunity to further the preservation, documentation, understanding, encouragement, interpretation or revival of Indian textile arts. The Fund was created in honour of **Arti Chandaria** (1960–2015), whose first love was textiles—each one she wore had a story.

eMuseum Launched at ROM



Lobby card (1959): 2004.60.23

Over 200 South Asian works of art are searchable online now that the ROM has launched its digital collection, an online presentation of objects from the Museum's encyclopedic collection of art, culture and nature. This new digital initiative gives audiences greater access to the Museum's collections and the opportunity to explore, discover and research its digitized collection at any time of day, and from anywhere in the world. Featuring 10,000 digitized objects, the online collection will grow to 80,000 by the year 2022.

To experience this unique digital experience and the ROM's collection like never before, visit collections.rom.on.ca.

The Dan Mishra Gift

On April 27, 2017, the ROM announced a gift of \$5 million from entrepreneur and philanthropist **Dan Mishra**, representing the largest donation to the Museum's South Asian section. With this landmark gift, the **Dan Mishra South Asian Initiative** establishes a newly endowed curatorial position and sustainable funding for exhibitions, public engagement, research, and learning activities that will support and enhance the Museum's commitment to South Asian art and culture.

Dan Mishra, who came to Canada from India as a student in 1969, chose to make the full donation this year. He sees the donation as "an opportunity to give back" to his adopted home. "Throughout its long history, South Asian art and culture has had an important influence on shaping our modern world," says Mr. Mishra. "I am thrilled to support the ROM's commitment to bringing a greater public understanding and appreciation of South Asian culture, and broadening the institution's stewardship and expertise in this area."

The new Dan Mishra Curatorship of South Asian Art & Culture is held by **Dr. Deepali Dewan**. Funding for the new curatorship was generously matched by the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust.

Upcoming Exhibition: Modernism on the Ganges: Raghubir Singh Photographs



Opening July 2018

One of India's most visionary and celebrated pioneers in colour photography, **Raghubir Singh** depicted life in the rapidly changing decades from the late 1960s to the late 1990s. Teeming with incident and fractured by reflections, his work shows the dramatic palette of India's streets, places and peoples, filtered through a unique artistic vision where Western modernism intersects traditional South Asian modes of seeing and representing the world.

The exhibition is organized by The Metropolitan Museum of Art with the cooperation of Succession Raghubir Singh.

Call for Volunteers

We need enthusiastic volunteers who like to hang out at the ROM! If you have some knowledge of the South Asian arts community and would like to create innovative programming or engage in communications or community outreach, and you are able to make a two year commitment, drop us a line at chairfsarom@gmail.com to meet for *chai* and a chat!

The Friends of South Asia (FSA) is a special interest group at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) that supports promoting a deeper understanding, appreciation, and inclusivity of the diverse and rich history of South Asian arts, history, and culture. South Asia at the ROM includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tibet.