



October 2, 2017

Dear SACHI Members:

SACHI celebrates a significant 20-year milestone in Fall 2017, a proud accomplishment! It is also a time for reflection. Small, intimate, and responsive to the needs of the community and its environment, SACHI distinguishes itself in bringing creative learning opportunities for all.

One might ask, what is the driving force that has sustained SACHI as we step into a new generation? It is undoubtedly a core group of passionate volunteers, unflinching in their support to bring an enlightened understanding of India, through humanistic values portrayed in its art and culture. However, it is not a one-way street. The support it receives from individuals, institutional partners and alliances is a measure of friendship that it could not do without. To all who have been a part of the circle of friends, we owe a deep debt of gratitude.

A year ago, the award winning *Rama Epic* exhibition at the Asian Art Museum spearheaded by its distinguished curator, Dr. Forrest McGill inspired a series of SACHI programs: *A Discussion of the Ramayana* with renowned mythologist, writer, illustrator and storyteller, Devdutt Pattanaik drew a full house of over 120 curious learners; *A rare Kathakali Ramayana* enacted over 3 days in Berkeley brought special excerpts from the characters of Hanuman, Sita, and Ravana's wife, Mandodari in a classical dance theater from Kerala; Philip Lutgendorf, translator of Tulsidas's 16th cen. *Ramayana* in English and Hindi, joined hands with local enthusiasts in South Bay in an emotionally charged recitation of *Ramayana* verses and musical dialogue.

Little did we realize the *Ramayana* fever had gripped the Bay Area casting its net in wider and wider circles. It gives us great pleasure that the exhibition and the accompanying *Rama Epic* publication, of which SACHI was a sponsor participant, have won the highest awards of excellence both nationally and internationally. Our many congratulations to Dr. Forrest McGill!

Last year's Annual Event drew Harvard Religious Studies scholar Diana Eck, and architect Rahul Mehrotra in a discussion revolving around the *Kumbh Mela*, and *Mapping the Ephemeral City*, a multi-disciplinary Research Project of the Harvard South Asia Institute. As scholars shared their research findings, the unimaginable scale of the *World's Largest Gathering of Humanity*, left the audience in disbelief!

The Vanishing Stepwells of India by Chicago journalist Victoria Lautman was a treat not to be missed! She has explored the unparalleled architectural beauty of a world that resides underground, through the discovery of over 300 stepwells in India. Interesting how these abandoned spaces transform into civic spaces and social hubs.

Two inspiring textile art events were represented by Sari historian and revivalist Rta Kapur Ghishti from Delhi, and contemporary visual artist, designer, and poet Shelly Jyoti, also Delhi-based, and drawn to ancient *ajrakh* printing traditions, while both engaging in hand-spun, hand woven *khadi* textiles.

In Quest of Sufism, Joe Martin, a playwright, scholar, author, and theater director led an enlightening discussion on Sufi philosophy and practice, a prelude to the major book event sponsored by SACHI at the Annual Bay Area Book Festival in Berkeley which brings 30,000-50,000 people over a weekend. Brad Gooch, a NY bestselling author and biographer was interviewed by Oakland writer, Michael David Lukas on his recent publication, *A Journey into the Life of Rumi* - a very well received program in an impressively organized Festival.

Rahul Acharya, an outstanding Odissi dance exponent from Bhuvanewara in East India performed a series of dance sequences with exquisite commentary, among them a piece which forms the climax of the 12th century work, *Geeta Govinda*, by the poet Jayadeva and Shiva's powerful *Tandava* dances. A Sanskrit scholar, a practitioner of Hatha and Raja Yoga, Rahul descends from a family of priestly Raj Gurus in Jagannath Temple, Puri. An immersive experience.

A Spring Family Day at the Palo Alto Art Center resulted in over 300 attendees, who took in Indian storytelling presented by Gauri Manglik of Kitaab World and participated in folk art painting activities led by Pragati Sharma. The success of the program inspired the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation to plan another Family Day with India focused art theme activities in partnership with SACHI.

Among a highlight series associated with *Monsoon Wedding* Musical, a Berkeley Rep stage production directed by Mira Nair based on her 2001 *Monsoon Wedding* film, SACHI participated in three captivating Spring events: April 1, *Ovation Gala* honoring Mira Nair; May 15, Conversation evening with Mira Nair, *Page to Stage*, shedding light on how she translated the 2001 film into a stage musical; culminating in an ecstatic June 10 SACHI evening at Berkeley Rep, a coming together of over 100 friends and supporters in a spirit of celebration. An exceptional *Monsoon Wedding* stage performance was preceded by a gathering of friends at a joyful reception hour - an event that left everyone delighted and dancing with joy!

The SACHI closing event on September 10 was an intimate viewing opportunity for paintings displayed in the exhibition, *Divine Visions, Earthly Pleasures: 5,000 Years of Indian Painting* at the Berkeley Art Museum. The excellent Gallery tour led by Guest Curator Robert Del Bonta was filled with rich insights, allowing each participant unhurried viewing time to admire the beauty of a diverse collection of Indian paintings. Inspiring and uplifting, the experience led many to re-visit the exhibition.

The year's program offerings would be incomplete without mention of a very special *Chai* evening hosted by Ambassador & Mrs. Usha Ashok. Philip Lutgendorf shared the exciting story of how *Chai* became the "national drink" of India, with a special focus on the role of the British and Indian

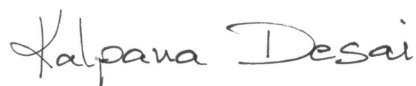
advertising industry in convincing us, *Chai* is indispensable! Followed by conversations over tea and refreshments, the Ambassador & Mrs. Ashok held up the ideal of tea drinking with generous gifts of Darjeeling, Assam, and Nilgiri teas!

We hope your association with SACHI has been enriching and fulfilling! Our warm appreciation to all members for your generous support in enabling SACHI to sustain program excellence. We encourage all to renew memberships between October and December each year.

Please mark your calendar for the 2017 SACHI Annual Meeting and Event scheduled on November 12, 2017. Details of time, place and the agenda are attached. This year's distinguished speaker will be Prof. B.N. Goswamy of Punjab University, Chandigarh, the world's most renowned authority on Indian painting. Please join us for this SACHI Annual Event, *The Unbearable Lightness of Drawing: Tracing the Life and Work of the Great 18th century Painter, Nainsukh.*

We very much look forward to having you at the November 12, 2 PM Annual Event! The 1.15 PM Annual Meeting precedes the program.

With warmest and sincere thanks.



Kalpana Desai
President, Board of Directors, SACHI

Details of the SACHI activities for the year October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017

The Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India, a nonprofit, educational and charitable organization based in the San Francisco Bay Area, was formed to serve as a forum for promoting understanding and appreciation of the rich and diverse art, culture and heritage of India. The Society completes twenty years in September 2017.

SACHI Board

The Society Board of Directors include Kalpana Desai (President and Program Chair), Poornima Kumar (Vice President and Development), Monica Desai-Henderson (Secretary), Sheila Kothari (Treasurer & Membership Chair), Ed Baer (Assistant Treasurer), Aarti Johri (Website Development and Programs), Aggie Brennehan (Membership and Programs). In addition, Prof. Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker served as the Special Advisor to the SACHI Board, giving generously of her time.

Sponsors and Patrons

SACHI's continuing dedicated membership and generous patron support enable outstanding programs. The SACHI Board expresses great appreciation to all its members and patrons.

A very special note of thanks to our Sponsors and Patrons: Betty & Bruce Alberts, Neaera & Ed Baer, Lynne Brewer, Atri & Anshu Chatterjee, Vaishali Chaddha, Rajen Dalal & Linda Burch, Kalpana & Tushit Desai, Raj & Helen Desai, Monica Desai-Henderson & Steve Henderson, Meena D'Souza & Sriram Ramachandran, Paramesh & Priya Gopi, Naren & Vinita Gupta, Asha Jadeja, Aarti & Sandeep Johri, Anjali Joshi & Sanjay Kasturia, Bharti & Pradyot Kansara, Jennifer Kao & R. Stanley Williams, Ketan & Sheila Kothari, Manish Kothari & Carmen Saura, Lata Krishnan & Ajay Shah, Poornima & Arun Kumar, Prithvi Legha & Shivi Singh, Jane Lurie, Matra Majmundar & Raj Mashruwala, Dipti & Rakesh Mathur, Forrest McGill, Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker, Vinati Mishra, Ritu Panesar, Shakuntala & Bhupendra Patel, Yogini & Mahesh Patel, Sonia & Ashish Patwardhan, Sonya Pelia & Matthew Lutzker, Jaymati & Mahendra Ranchod, Louise Russell, Rini Sen Gupta, Merrill Randol Sherwin & Stephen Sherwin, Gursharan & Elvira Sidhu, Rajvir & Swadesh Singh, Bipin & Rekha Shah, Anna & James Spudich, Gita & Ashok Vaish, Meena Vashee, Graeme & Eve Vanderstoel and Judy Wilbur.

The Jadeja Family Foundation multi-year commitment to SACH programs, and the Brayton Wilbur Jr. Memorial Fellowship enabling support for Dr. BN Goswamy's visit, our featured speaker for SACHI's 20th Anniversary Event, represent new milestones. The Krishnan-Shah Family Foundation support has been a long standing association with SACHI.

In addition, SACHI is grateful for the generous **in-kind support** provided by Ambassador Ashok & Mrs. Usha Ashok in hosting a Chai event with Philip Lutgendorf and accompanying reception. Many thanks, also to Asha Jadeja for hosting a home reception honoring visiting mythologist, Devdutt Pattanaik. Graeme & Eve Vanderstoel brought Kathakali theater, coinciding with *The Rama Epic*, and Paramesh & Priya Gopi hosted a Tulsi Ramayana evening of musical discourse and verse recitation with Philip Lutgendorf. Our thanks to Anjali Joshi for a home viewing of textiles by Rta Kapur Chishti, and to Puneet Pandit & Nehal Mehta for hosting artist designer Shelly Jyoti. SACHI also extends thanks to Odissi dance artist, Rahul Acharya's host, Rohini Dandawate. Linda Hess's home made an enchanting setting for a farewell lunch with Kabir musicians from Malwa, and our most grateful appreciation to the special Flower Decor team at SACHI Monsoon Wedding reception led by Elizabeth Takao and Neaera Baer, accompanied by Evelyn and Maria Raimundo.

SACHI Collaborations with Partner Organizations:

Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, Public Programs & Education
Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, South Asia Curatorial Department
Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, Docent Council
The Asia Foundation, San Francisco
Mills College, Department of Art and Art History, Oakland
Palo Alto Art Center, and PAAC Foundation, Palo Alto
Stanford University, Center for South Asia
Stanford University, Department of Religious Studies
Harvard University, South Asia Institute, Boston
UC Berkeley, Institute for South Asia Studies
UC Berkeley, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies
Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archives (BAMPFA)

Berkeley Repertory Theater
Graeme & Eve Vanderstoel partnership for Kathakali Ramayana
The Livermore Library
Kitaab World: Exploring South Asia through Children's Literature, Menlo Park
SOHARA: sharing arts and tradition, Dallas, TX
INK Talks, Bangalore
EnActe Arts, San Francisco Bay Area
Sangam Arts, Santa Clara
Rasa Academy of Performing Arts
Makers of the Film, *Walls and the Tiger*
Consulate General of India, San Francisco

To leaders/supporters of partnering organizations, SACHI extends warm thanks and appreciation:
Asian Art Museum: Jay Xu, Deborah Clearwaters, Forrest McGill, Qamar Adamjee, Allison Wyckoff, Silvia Chang and Paula Rampe; **Asian Art Museum Docent Council:** Mary Powell, Neaera Baer, Mary Mead, Linda Lei; **The Asia Foundation:** David Arnold, Gerald Martin; **Mills College, Department of Art and Art History:** Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker; **Palo Alto Art Center:** Karen Kienzle, Suzanne Ramirez; **Stanford University, Center for South Asia:** Thomas Hansen and Sangeeta Mediratta; **Stanford University, Department of Religious Studies:** Linda Hess; **Harvard University, South Asia Institute:** Meena Hewett, Tarun Khanna; **UC Berkeley, Institute for South Asia Studies:** Lawrence Cohen, Munis Faruqui, Sanchita Saxena, Puneeta Kala; **UC Berkeley, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies:** Robert Goldman, Sally Sutherland Goldman; **Berkeley Art Museum:** Lawrence Rinder; **Berkeley Rep Theater:** Polly Ikonen, Lynn Eve Komaromi, Samanta Cubias; **Kathakali Ramayana:** Courtesy, Graeme & Eve Vanderstoel; **Livermore Library:** Paul Sevilla; **Kitaab World:** Gauri Manglik; **SOHARA:** Rekha & Prakash Rao; **INK Talks:** Lakshmi Prathury; **EnActe Arts:** Vinita Belani; **Sangam Arts:** Usha Srinivasan; **Rasa Academy:** Shubha Aithal; **Makers of "Walls and the Tiger":** Sushma Kallam, Liam O'Connor, Daibashish Ganguly; **Indian Consulate:** Consul General Venkatesan Ashok & Mrs. Usha Ashok

SACHI Programs, October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017

October 4, 2016

A Discussion of the Ramayana with

Renowned author, illustrator, storyteller and mythologist, Devdutt Pattanaik

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center

Co-sponsored by SACHI and INK talks

October 7, 2016

San Francisco Asia Week Festival Event

Subterranean Ghosts: Vanishing Stepwells of India

An Illustrated presentation by renowned Chicago journalist Victoria Lautman

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Palo Alto Art Center

October 17-19, 2016

Kathakali Ramayana with special excerpts on Hanuman-Sita-Mandodari

Classical Dance Theater from Kerala

Venue: Hillside Club, Berkeley

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Graeme & Eve Vanderstoel

November 5, 2016

SACHI Annual Event

Mapping the Kumbh Mela: World's Largest Gathering of Humanity

Presentations and Panel Discussion based on 2013 Kumbh Mela Research Project, a Harvard University multi-disciplinary initiative of the South Asia Institute.

Presented by Prof. Diana Eck (Harvard Divinity School) and Prof. Rahul Mehrotra (Graduate School of Design, Harvard), with Lisa Kristine, Bay Area photographer of the Kumbh; moderated by Prof. Robert Goldman (Prof. of Sanskrit and Religious Studies, UC Berkeley)

Venue: Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

Co-sponsored by SACHI, Asian Art Museum, and Harvard South Asia Institute

November 19, 2016

Diving into the Lake: On the Joys & Challenges of Translating the Ramcharitmanas

with Philip Lutgendorf, University of Iowa, Department of Hindi and Modern Indian Studies

Music accompaniment by Priya & Paramesh Gopi, Vivek Datar, Ravi Gulata

Venue: Home of Paramesh & Priya Gopi

Co-presented by SACHI and the Gopi family

December 10, 2016

Canons of Dance & Music in Medieval Temple Sculptures of South Asia

with Visiting Scholar, Rohitha Shastry

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center

Co-sponsored by Sangam Arts and SACHI in partnership with Rasa Academy of Performing Arts

February 2, 2017

The Rama Epic Appreciation Lunch

with Asian Art Museum Curatorial and Program staff

Venue: Amber India Restaurant, San Francisco

Sponsored by SACHI

February 18, 2017

Walls and the Tiger Documentary Screening

Followed by Q & A with Director Sushma Kallam, Producer Liam O'Connor, and Music Director Daibashish Ganguly

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Makers of the Film, *Walls and the Tiger*

March 19, 2017

In Quest of Sufism

A Conversation event with Joe Martin

Senior Lecturer in Theater Studies, Johns Hopkins University and Playwright, theater director and author of several publications

Venue: Home and garden of Vinita & Ashok Belani, Los Altos Hills
Co-sponsored by SACHI and EnActe Arts

March 26, 2017

Spring Family Day at the Palo Alto Art Center

Children's Activities: Storytelling, Art Making Activities, and Dance Performance
Indian Storytelling led by Gauri Manglik of Kitaab World and traditional Pithora Painting Activity led by Pragati Sharma
Venue: Palo Alto Art Center
Sponsored by Palo Alto Art Center Foundation and co-presented by SACHI

April 1, 2017

Berkeley Rep Theater Ovation Gala, Honoring Director Mira Nair

Venue: Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco
SACHI sponsored Gala Table

April 12, 2017

Chai, The Making of the Indian "National Drink"

with Philp Lutgendorf, University of Iowa
Venue: Home of Ambassador Venkatesan Ashok & Mrs. Usha Ashok, San Francisco
Co-presented by SACHI and Ambassador & Mrs. Ashok

April 22, 2017

Odissi Dance Exponent Rahul Acharya in a Lecture Demonstration

Classical Dancer, Sanskrit scholar, and descendant from the priestly family of Raj Gurus, Jagannath Temple, Puri
Venue: Palo Alto Art Center
Sponsored by SACHI

May 6, 2017

Sari: The Magic of the Unstitched Garment

with Sari historian Rta Kapur Chishti
Venue: Palo Alto Art Center
Co-sponsored by SACHI and SOAHARA

May 7, 2017

Appreciation Lunch, Visiting Kabir Musicians from Malwa

Prahladji Tipanya and team, in Tribute to Prof. Linda Hess, Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University
Venue: Home of Prof. Linda Hess, Berkeley
Sponsored by SACHI and hosted by Linda Hess & family

May 15, 2017

An Invitation to SACHI Members:

Page to Stage: A Conversation with Mira Nair

An insightful Discussion on how Mira Nair adapted the 2001 *Monsoon Wedding* Film into a Stage Musical
Venue: Peet's Theater, Berkeley Rep complex, downtown Berkeley

June 3-4, 2017

Annual Bay Area Weekend Book Festival, downtown Berkeley

A Journey into the Life of Rumi

Brad Gooch, New York based best selling author and biographer, in an interview with Oakland writer, Michael David Lukas

Venue: Berkeley City College Auditorium, downtown Berkeley

Author Interview Sponsored by SACHI in partnership with Bay Area Book Festival

June 10, 2017

SACHI 20-Year Celebration Evening

Monsoon Wedding Stage Musical directed by Mira Nair

Pre-event Dinner Reception and special appearance by *Monsoon Wedding* cast

Venue: Roda Theater, Berkeley Rep complex, downtown Berkeley

A SACHI celebration in partnership with Berkeley Rep Theater

August 31, 2017

Indigo, Salt and Khadi: Textile Art as an Expression of National Identity

An Illustrated presentation by Delhi based visual artist, designer, poet and exhibition curator, Shelly Jyoti

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Palo Alto Art Center

September 10, 2017

Divine Visions, Earthly Pleasures: 5,000 Years of Indian Painting

A Guided Exhibition Tour with Guest Curator Robert Del Bonta

Venue: Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archives

Sponsored by SACHI in collaboration with BAMPFA

Upcoming Fall Programs, October & November 2017:

October 30, 2017

A Journey from Czechoslovakia to the Buddhist Himalayas

by Jaroslav Poncar

40 Years of Exploring Himalayan Monasteries: A Photographic Documentation of Murals and Wall Paintings in

Alchi, Tabo, and West Tibet

Venue: TBD

Sponsored by SACHI

November 12, 2017

SACHI 20th Anniversary Annual Event

The Unbearable Lightness of Drawing

Tracing the Life and Work of the Great 18th Century Painter, Nainsukh

by internationally renowned and distinguished art historian Prof. B.N. Goswamy

Venue: Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum

Co-sponsored by SACHI, Asian Art Museum and The Asia Foundation