



SACHI
 Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India
 155 15th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94118
 415.386.3491 • www.sachi.org

Background:

Mr. Chester Herwitz first visited India with his wife, Davida, in 1961 during a pivotal period of transition following Indian independence, returning to the country often. In the mid-1960's, they began to collect paintings first by M. F. Husain, and soon embraced other leading artists. Their varied collection is considered among the foremost, and largest collection of Indian art outside of India.

Works from the Herwitz collection have been exhibited at the Tate Gallery in London, the Pompidou Center in Paris, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Worcester Art Museum, the Grey Gallery in Manhattan, the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among others.

The Herwitz Collection

The Chester and Davida Herwitz Collection of modern Indian art in the Peabody Essex Museum comprises 1,200 works by more than 70 of India's leading artists of the second half of the 20th century. They include M. F. Husain, S. H. Raza, Manjit Bawa, Tyeb Mehta, Ganesh Pyne, K. Laxma Goud, Jogen Chowdhury, Nalini Malani, Nasreen Mohammed, Bhupen Khakhar, Gieve Patel, Sudhir Patwardhan, Gulammohammed Sheikh, and Arpita Singh. This groundbreaking collection also includes a major international art library and an archive of letters, papers, and other documents.

In 2003, the Peabody Essex Museum opened the Chester and Davida Herwitz Gallery of Contemporary Indian Art, the first gallery dedicated to India's modern and contemporary art by an American museum, featuring changing installations from the collection.

SACHI and Teamwork extend generous thanks to individual sponsors Anna & James Spudich, and Jane Lurie.

Cover image:
 Sequence, 1981, Tyeb Mehta (1925-2009), Oil on Canvas, 69 X 102 1/2 in.
 Peabody Essex Museum, Gift of the Chester & Davida Herwitz Collection,
 Image courtesy, Peabody Essex Museum



About the Speaker:

Daniel Herwitz is a distinguished scholar and the author of books in aesthetics, politics and modern and contemporary art, most recently *Heritage, Culture and Politics in the Postcolony* (2012) and *The Star as Icon* (2008). From 1996-2002 he was Chair in Philosophy at the University of Natal, South Africa where he participated in the process of democratic transition, and which led to his book of essays, *Race and Reconciliation* (2003). His first book, on the modern painter of India, M.F. Husain (Husain, Tata Press) produced in consort with the painter, won a National Book Award in India (1988). From 2002-2012 he Directed the Institute for the Humanities at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he is now professor.

Contemporary Indian art world rose from zero to maturity in a matter of forty years. The year 1947 marked the moment of India's independence. There were few galleries, few collectors, and no museums of art. Modern art was viewed as globally derivative, the voice of the colony behind the times. Paradoxically, this freed artists to invent a unique art that grafted the depth of Indian tradition to the whirl of western modernisms.

Then emerged the growth of museums, academies, new art schools, critics, and international exhibitions. A vibrant new art no longer seen as a neo-colonial derivative, and the rise of a wealthy class of patrons, led to the famous Christie's Art Auction of 1987. The English auctioneer gave India the imprimatur of a unique brand, and prices rose tenfold.

The Herwitz family was privileged to play a role throughout the history of this emergence, and then to face the question of bequest: where their collection should end up, and for whom?

This talk will speak to the role of collector in this rapidly emerging art world half a world away, a world now as familiar to Surrey and Silicon Valley as to Bombay or Baroda.



SACHI, Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India
Teamwork, and Center for South Asia at Stanford University

Present:

An Art & Literary Festival, Eye on India

Please join us in launching the program with an Art and Collecting theme

American Collectors in an Emergent Indian Art World: Contemporary Indian Art in the Chester & Davida Herwitz Family Collection

An illustrated talk by Prof. Daniel Herwitz

Saturday, June 1, 2.00 p.m.

Cubberly Hall, School of Education,
485 Lasuen Mall, Stanford University

A Literary Panel Discussion follows at 3.30 p.m. with authors
Sonia Faleiro, Vikram Chandra and Saikat Majumdar

(Cubberly Auditorium is located in Education Bldg, intersection of Lasuen and Escondido Mall)

Free parking; info@sachi.org; tel. 650-918-6335