



SACHI

Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India

September 28, 2020

Dear SACHI Members,

SACHI completes its twenty-third financial year on September 30, 2020. It has been a year of unexpected challenges and surprises. While we have been in the grips of a historic pandemic, local wildfires and social activism, we remain inspired and encouraged by our communities that persistently stand by each other. During these times, we cannot be more grateful for your support as we look forward to brighter days ahead.

Given the current public health guidelines, we adapted our live events to a virtual platform and hosted a series of successful, well-attended webinars. The first webinar was a live virtual tour of the Phoenix Art Museum's exhibition *India: Fashion's Muse*. The audience was treated to a walkthrough of the exhibition by curator Helen Jean, who highlighted key garments and the influence of Indian styles on Western fashion design, particularly the Indian *sari*. We expanded our geographical horizons and invited Dr. Arshiya Lokhandwala, art-historian and curator, to speak to us from Mumbai, India on contemporary Indian art. Dr. Lokhandwala focused on the work of six major artists and emphasized their use of both traditional Indian materials and modern media to masterfully weave contemporary themes of politics, religion, social and gender issues. A lively Q&A session followed each webinar to encourage audience inclusion, even as we gathered physically apart.

Last November, at SACHI's Annual Event 2019, we welcomed Shanay Jhaveri, Assistant Curator, South Asian Modern and Contemporary Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Shanay Jhaveri spoke to us about the larger intellectual issues and the challenges of curating and collecting South Asian art in the 21st century. He described his recent commission *Huma Bhabha: We Come in Peace*; the exhibition *Ranjani Shettar, Seven Ponds and a Few Raindrops*, and the retrospective *Phenomenal Nature: Mrinalini Mukherjee*, as well as the Met's collection of transnational artists including Zarina Hashmi, Rashid Choudhary and Lala Rukh. His riveting talk was followed by a discussion with Marc Mayer, Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art at the Asian Art Museum. Abby Chen, Head of Contemporary Art and Senior Associate Curator, Asian Art Museum, highlighted the museum's ongoing transformation project and the expansion of its contemporary art galleries.

Frank Ames, distinguished scholar and author on rare textiles and carpets, led us on a visual journey through the history of the legendary Kashmir shawl from the early Mughal period to the Sikh imperial era of Maharaja Runjit Singh. He explained the artistic expressions that emerged as a result of contemporary social and religious influences, and the symbolism of these designs that continue to be used today. The illuminating talk was followed by a special treat. An intimate group of SACHI participants were able to view the Kashmir shawl collection of local Bay Area collector, Joan Hart. This major collection spans the 17th to 20th century and includes shawls

from the Mughal period as well as those from the Afghan, Sikh and Dogra rules of Kashmir. It was a rare opportunity to see, touch and learn about the origin of these masterpieces.

SACHI participated in the Gandhi-King International Conference at Stanford University, “The Uplift of All: Gandhi, King, and the Global Struggle for Freedom & Justice”, by supporting textile artist Shelly Jyoti’s art display. The stunning artworks, created by *Ajrakh* printing and dying on *khadi* fabric, are inspired by Gandhian principles and ideology for creating moral societies through peaceful collective action. Shelly Jyoti uses fish as motives in these works to represent trillions of tiny fish collaborating to displace bodies of water and create oceanic currents, waves and turbulence.

SACHI was delighted to support the multi-day Kathakali drama performances co-presented by the Paul Dresher Ensemble and Graeme Vanderstoel, as well as the 3rd i South Asian Film Festival in San Francisco. SACHI also co-presented a webinar by Anna Schultz, Associate Professor of Music at the University of Chicago, on Marathi songs written by Jewish women from the Bene-Israeli Jewish community of Mumbai (Bombay). Dr. Schultz described the centuries-old cross-cultural influences, showing, for instance, how a devotional song written on the Hindu god Krishna would be adapted to one dedicated to the biblical Joseph. These songs remain preserved in the 20th century personal diaries of a dwindling population.

We look forward with great enthusiasm to scholar Kay Talwar speaking to us on Nathdwara paintings on October 4, 2020. Her illustrated talk, *Making the Desert Bloom: Paintings of Nathdwara*, will introduce the history and philosophy of a devotional sect, the Pushtimarg, which inspired a distinctive tradition of paintings in adoration of Krishna.

SACHI programming continues to celebrate the vast landscape of Indian art, including modern, contemporary and traditional visual arts. We hope you have enjoyed our programs and webinars this year.

Our first-ever virtual Annual Meeting is on Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 2 p.m. and we invite you to join us. Here is the link to join <https://tinyurl.com/SACHI-Annual-Meeting-2020>. Please register in advance.

At this time, we request you to renew your membership. SACHI thanks you for your support as we look forward to resuming our in-person public events as soon as possible, and to staying digitally engaged with the community in the interim.

I remain hopeful that we shall all meet very soon at a SACHI event near you. Please stay safe, stay healthy and see you online!

With sincere and warm thanks,



Aarti Johri
President, SACHI

SACHI Overview – October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020

The Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India, an educational nonprofit based in the San Francisco Bay Area, was formed to serve as a forum for promoting an understanding and appreciation of the rich and diverse art, culture and heritage of India. The Society completes twenty-three years in September 2020.

SACHI Board

The Society Board of Directors include: Aarti Johri (President), Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker (Vice-President and Advisor), Monica Desai-Henderson (Vice-President, Membership and Secretary), Pragna Mehta (Treasurer), Michelle Baird (Communications), Aggie Brenneman (Programs) and Gita Vaish (Programs). In addition, Kalpana Desai, Former President and Founding Member continued to generously offer her time and guidance.

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 & Edward Baer, Michelle & Jared Baird, Arthi Britto Dorai, Helen & Raj Desai, Kalpana & Tushit Desai, Monica Desai-Henderson & Stephen Henderson, Arvind Iyer & Sharbari Dixit, Aarti & Sandeep Johri, Jennifer Kao-Williams, Barbara & William Kinsey, Manish Kothari & Carmen Saura, Sheila & Ketan Kothari, Lata Krishnan & Ajay Shah, Poornima & Arun Kumar, Pravin & Mythili Kumar, Prithvi Legha & Shivi Singh-Legha, Matra Majmundar & Raj Mashruwala, Forrest McGill, Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker, Anita & Nimish Mehta, Pragna & Madhukar Mehta, Vinati Mishra, Mahesh & Yogini Patel, Shakuntala & Bhupendra Patel, Sonia & Ashish Patwardhan, Sonya Pelia & Matthew Lutzker, Priyanka Rana & Navneet Dalal, Merrill Randol Sherwin & Stephen Sherwin, Sudnya Shroff, Louise Russell, Rekha & Bipin Shah, Chandana Reddy-Sinha, Gita & Ashok Vaish, and Meena Vashee.

SACHI extends special thanks to the Krishnan-Shah Family Foundation for their generous program support and longstanding association with SACHI.

In addition, SACHI is grateful for the generous in-kind support of Sheila & John Dowell who graciously hosted the home event *Celebrating the Kashmir Shawl* with Frank Ames.

SACHI Collaborations with Partner Organizations:

SACHI thanks its partner organizations for their collaborative efforts:

Asian Art Museum, Public Programs & Education, San Francisco, CA
Asia Week Festival, San Francisco, CA
East Asia Library, Stanford University, Stanford, CA
Gandhi-King Global Initiative, Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute,
Stanford, CA
Jewish Community Library, San Francisco, CA
Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ
Society for Asian Art Upper Category Members
3rd i Films, San Francisco, CA

To leaders and supporters of partnering organizations, SACHI extends warm thanks and appreciation:

Asian Art Museum: Dr. Jay Xu, Dr. Robert Mintz, Deborah Clearwaters, Dr. Forrest McGill, Abby Chen, Dr. Qamar Adamjee, Allison Wyckoff, Marc Mayer, Indra Mungal
Asia Week Festival: Lily Chen
East Asia Library: Dr. Josh Capitanio
Gandhi-King Global Initiative, Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute: Dr. Clayborne Carson, Truman Chen
Graeme Vanderstoel
Jewish Community Library: Noa Albaum
Phoenix Art Museum: Helen Jean
Society for Asian Art: Phyllis Kempner, Kalpana Desai, Trista Berkovitz, Susan Lai, Nazneen and Ehler Spliedt
3rd i Films: Ivan Jagirdar

SACHI Programs: October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020

October 12-13, 2019

Bound by Duty: An Idea of Swaraj and Collectiveness 2018-19

In conjunction with the global conference organized by the Gandhi-King Global Initiative, “The Uplift of All: Gandhi, King, and the Global Struggle for Freedom and Justice”, SACHI proudly sponsors the associated art display by artist and conference panelist Shelly Jyoti.

Venue: Stanford University, Stanford, CA

Sponsored by SACHI

October 17-20, 2019

The Golden Swan and The Princess: A Kathakali Drama

The Paul Dresher Ensemble co-produces four intimate performances featuring artists

Kalamandalam Manoj, Roshni Pillai, Janhavi Pillai and Jan Zeitlin.

Venue: Dresher Ensemble Studio, Oakland, CA

Co-Sponsored by Paul Dresher Ensemble, Graeme Vanderstoel, and supported by SACHI

October 19, 2019

Celebrating the Kashmir Shawl

Frank Ames, distinguished scholar, author and researcher on rare textiles and carpets gives an illustrated presentation on the history of the Kashmir shawl from the early Mughal period to the Sikh imperial era of India’s last great Maharaja, Runjit Singh (1799-1839).

Venue: Home of Sheila and John Dowell, San Francisco, CA

Sponsored by SACHI

November 2, 2019

SACHI Annual Event 2019. South Asian Modern and Contemporary Art at the Met

Shanay Jhaveri, Assistant Curator of South Asian Modern and Contemporary Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, brings into focus some of the larger intellectual issues and practical challenges around curating and collecting in the 21st century.

Venue: Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA

Co-Sponsored by SACHI and the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

November 7-9, 2019

San Francisco International South Asian Film Festival 2019

SACHI supports three films: *Bulbul Can Sing*, *Namdev Bhau: In Search of Silence* and *Bombay Rose*

Venue: Castro Theatre and New People Cinema, San Francisco, CA

Co-Sponsored by SACHI and 3rd i Films

February 1, 2020

A SACHI Group Visit to View Joan Hart’s 17th-20th century Kashmir Shawl collection

A close and rare viewing of shawls with an accompanying talk by Bay Area collector Joan Hart. This major private collection comprises of a vast array of moon shawls, prayer hangings and embroidered *amlis*, among many others.

Venue: Private home, Berkeley, CA

Sponsored by SACHI

June 22, 2020

India: Fashion's Muse

Helen Jean, the Jacquie Dorrance Curator of Fashion Design at Phoenix Art Museum, gives an exclusive live, virtual tour of *India: Fashion's Muse*, a Special Exhibition display at the Phoenix Art Museum, Arizona, complete with in-depth descriptions about key garments, and behind-the-scenes looks at the installation process.

Venue: Online Webinar

Co-Sponsored by SACHI and Society for Asian Art Upper Category Members

September 3, 2020

The Future is Here: Art in Contemporary India

Arshiya Lokhandwala, art-historian and curator, unpacks the complex, multi-layered artistic practices and works of contemporary artists Shilpa Gupta, Anita Dube, Subodh Gupta, Bharti Kher, Jitish Kallat and Mithu Sen, across various mediums including new media.

Venue: Online Webinar

Sponsored by SACHI

September 13, 2020

Marathi Jewish Women's Song: Between Text and Orality

Anna Schultz, Associate Professor of Music at the University of Chicago, presents an introduction to the Marathi language songs of the Bene Israel of Bombay (Mumbai) and discusses the role of these songs in articulating identities that are both Indian and Jewish.

Venue: Online Webinar

Co-Presented by the Jewish Community Library, San Francisco and SACHI

Postponed Events

March 30, 2020 (to be re-scheduled)

An Introduction to Tibetan Buddhist Canons

In this presentation, Dr. Josh Capitanio, Stanford Libraries' subject specialist in Buddhism and Asian religions, will give an introduction to the different textual canons of Tibetan Buddhism.

Venue: Stanford East Asia Library, Stanford University, CA

Sponsored by SACHI

Upcoming Events

October 4, 2020

Making the Desert Bloom: Paintings of Nathdwara

Scholar Kay Talwar will introduce the history and philosophy of a devotional sect, the Pushtimarg, which inspired a distinctive tradition of paintings in adoration of Krishna.

Venue: Online Webinar

Sponsored by SACHI