

*In a continuing exploration of the Deccan theme*



**SACHI**

Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India

*is proud to present*

## *Portraits and Identity in the Deccan, India*

*by*

**Dr. Marika Sardar,**

Curator, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto

*An Illustrated Presentation*

**Saturday  
March 27, 2021**

11 AM (PST); 2 PM (EST)

Free and open to the public

For queries, please email [info@sachi.org](mailto:info@sachi.org)

Malik Ambar of Ahmednagar (c. 1605-1627); artist, Hashim, circa 1624-25; opaque watercolors and gold on paper; Victoria & Albert Museum collection, London, (IM.21-1925); public domain art

A Virtual Zoom webinar. Advance registration required.

To Register, please [click here](#)

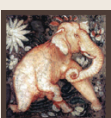
In the complex political landscape of the Indian subcontinent in the 16th and 17th centuries, portraits did more than simply convey a likeness of the sitter. They were produced at the court but then were disseminated to different markets and were exchanged as part of the course of diplomacy. Therefore, they served to also convey important aspects of the subject's ethnic identity, political affiliations and cultural aspirations.

This talk will examine portraits of the monarchs and courtiers of the Deccan Sultanates of Central India, looking at how the backgrounds, clothing and various 'props' included in the painting all served to reinforce a certain image of the person depicted.



**Marika Sardar** is Curator at the Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, having previously worked at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, the San Diego Museum of Art, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. She has contributed to the exhibitions *Interwoven Globe* (2013), focusing on the worldwide textile trade from the 16th-18th century; *Sultans of Deccan India, 1500-1750* (2015), examining the artistic traditions of the Muslim Sultanates of Central India; and was Curator for *Epic Tales from Ancient India* (2016), looking at narrative traditions and the illustration of texts from South Asia.

She has recently published, along with John Seyller and Audrey Truschke, the Mughal-era Persian-language manuscript of the *Ramayana* in the collection of the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha.



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