

Join us



You are invited to attend

Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India

2021 Annual Event

Indian Botanical Medicines in Early Modern Europe

Presented in collaboration with
Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

**Sunday, November 14, 2021
2:00 PM**

Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum
200 Larkin Street, San Francisco

Free with museum admission and open to the public.
Advance registration recommended.

[Please register here.](#)

All county health guidelines will apply
SACHI Annual Meeting at 1:15 PM precedes the Annual Event

Biomedical researcher Annamma Spudich shares her research into the “Hortus Indicus Malabaricus”

(“The Garden of Malabar”), which documents the rich
legacy of Indian botanical medical traditions.

A collaboration between Indian scholars, artists, and
collectors and European translators, engravers, and
publishers, the 12-volume treatise, richly illustrated
with 794 copper

plate engravings,
was published
in Amsterdam
between 1678 and
1693. Although
Indian botanicals
had been
highly valued,
globally traded
commodities
since the first

millennium, it was
only at the end of
the 15th century

that Europeans entered into direct trade with India. In
this presentation, Spudich shows us how the “Hortus”
highlights the contributions of Indian scholarship
to knowledge creation in the modern sciences and
provides a unique view of East-West interactions in the
early modern period.



Carapuli-Garcinia cambogia (Indica) (also called KOKUM)

C. Acosta, “Tratado de las Drogas y Medicinas de las Indias Orientales”,
Burgos, Spain, 1578, p.331
Special Collections, Univ. of California, San Francisco.

“The powder of this fruit is very much in use by midwives who give it to women who have just
given birth to [help them] expel the placenta and to produce milk, and before labor to ease the
process for which they (the peasants) say it has a great effect [it's very effective].”
(Excerpt of translation of the text by L. Wright and A. Spudich)

About the Speaker



Annamma Spudich did her Ph.D. and
postdoctoral work in molecular cell biology
at Stanford University and was a biomedical
researcher for two decades. For the past 20
years, she has focused on how Ayurvedic
Ashtavaidya scholar physicians and folk
medical practitioners of Kerala, India, are
continuing their traditions while coexisting with
biomedicine. Her wide-reaching research has

also examined the impact of botanical/medical knowledge systems of
India in the early modern world. She has curated exhibitions at Cantor
Center for Visual Arts, Stanford University, at the National Center for
Biological Sciences in Bangalore and in Leiden, Netherlands and has
a permanent installation at the Natural History Museum, India.
She is a visiting professor at NCBS/TIFR, Bangalore.

SACHI expresses grateful appreciation to Dr. Anuradha Luther Maitra & Dr. Thomas Kailath,
and to Poornima & Arun Kumar for generous program support.

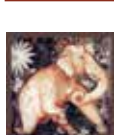


Cover image

Frontispiece, Jardin de Lorixa (1690)

Volume 1 (of 14), Paper and pigments
Artist unknown
Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris

Volume 1 of a 14 volume unpublished,
hand written manuscript in French on the
medicinal plants of Eastern India, with
stylized images of the European author and
seated Indian scholar-physician, illustrator and
plant collector.



SACHI

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Heritage of India**

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