

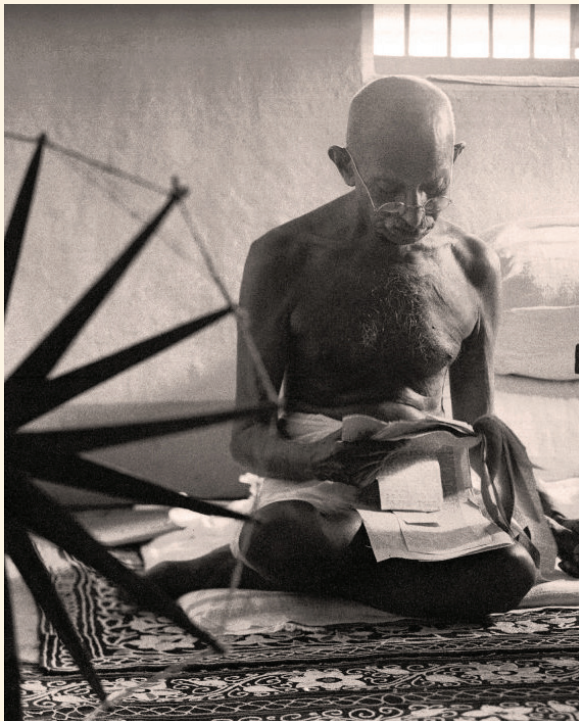
SACHI, Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India
In Partnership with Palo Alto Rinconada Library



Ethel Mairet



Ethel Mairet, Yarn samples on card, coded by Ethel Mairet, Ethel Mairet Textile Portfolio



Mahatma Gandhi

Invites You to An Illuminating
In-Person Presentation
with Mumbai-based Visiting Scholar
Radhi Parekh
Founder Director, Artisans', Mumbai

Please join us for an insightful
and enriching discussion on

***Ideologies that shaped the
Craft Movement in India***
**Ethel Mairet,
Coomaraswamy
and Gandhi**

Friday, July 19, 2024
4:00 - 5:00 PM plus Q&A

Palo Alto Rinconada Library
1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto, CA. 94303

The Event is Free and Open to the Public

Please RSVP: info@sachi.org

"The story of India's quest for independence from foreign rule would be incomplete without acknowledging those from the West who recognized India's unique cultural identity, as it emerged into nationhood", recounts Radhi Parekh in her essay of the same title as the presentation she will share with us.

Discover how the lives of three public figures in late 19th thro' mid-20th cen. intersect in unique and unexpected ways through their particular insights into the crafts tradition of the sub-continent, combined with the evolution of the Arts & Crafts Movement in England. It triggered a newfound respect for the handcrafted textile. For Gandhi, the idea came to symbolize India's fight for freedom.

Little known is the fact how Ethel Mairet, Coomaraswamy's first wife, captured the energy of the period when designers and artisans were deeply engaged with debates surrounding the future of crafts in an industrial world. A modern maker with a modern audience in mind, she remained a pioneer in craft, promoting traditional techniques of hand weaving, spinning, and dyeing, singlehandedly reviving handloom weaving and natural dyeing in Britain.

Ethel Mairet (1872-1952)

Her life was extraordinary on many levels as an influential figure in arts, crafts and education. She was a highly renowned and skilled weaver and natural dyer, and a pioneer in Britain's twentieth century modern craft revival. Mairet was visited by esteemed Japanese ceramicist, Shoji Hamada, a leading figure of the mingei-folk art movement. Her work drew Gandhi's attention as well.

Ananda Coomaraswamy (1877-1947), born in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and educated in England, was a legendary scholar – a pioneer in history of Indian art, and foremost interpreter of Indian culture to the West. As Curator of Indian and Islamic Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston from 1917 on, he established one of the most impressive Indian art collections in the West. His scholarly writings left an indelible imprint on many American museums, scholars, writers, and artists.

Mohandas Gandhi (1869 -1948) was an Indian lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist and political ethicist who employed non-violent resistance to lead the successful campaign for India's independence from British rule. He inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. The honorific *Mahatma* ('great-souled, venerable' in Sanskrit), is respectfully applied to him throughout the world.

Today, the crafts movement struggles to endure in the face of 'faster, cheaper, better' globalized production. The scholar reminds us, the ideologies that shaped the Arts & Crafts Movement, and the Indian Independence Movement, were rooted deeply in larger concerns.

New solutions will similarly emerge in addressing global concerns for a more equitable future for all people.



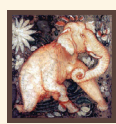
Radhi Parekh

Founder and Director at ARTISANS', **Radhi Parekh**, is a graduate in Visual Communications from the National Institute of Design (NID), India.

She returned home in 2009 from a career spanning two decades, three continents, and multiple technologies. From illustrating children's books at Usborne Publishing, London, to designing multimedia games in San Francisco, to creating user-centered design at Silicon Valley corporations, Radhi champions localization to build truly global products.

In 2011, Radhi founded ARTISANS', a social enterprise, in Mumbai. Located in the historic heart of Mumbai's art district, it now anchors a thriving design destination.

Radhi is a passionate believer in artisanal design.



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