

PRESS RELEASE

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SAM PRESENTS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS FOR PEACOCK IN THE DESERT: THE ROYAL ARTS OF JODHPUR, INDIA

Explore five centuries of Indian art with talks, film events, music, dance, and art-making



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SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Art Museum presents *Peacock in the Desert: The Royal Arts of Jodhpur, India* (October 18, 2018-January 21, 2019), showcasing five centuries of artistic creation from the kingdom of Marwar-Jodhpur in Rajasthan. Intricate paintings, decorative arts, elaborate tents, canopies, textiles, and jewelry—many of which have not been seen beyond palace walls or traveled to the United States—come to Seattle from The Mehrangarh Museum Trust of Jodhpur.

In conjunction with the exhibition, SAM presents related programs and events, including a series of public programs co-presented with SAM's Gardner Center for Asian Art and Ideas as well as community partners. The programs will highlight performance, visual art, and community traditions from Rajasthan.

PEACOCK IN THE DESERT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Details are subject to change; additional programs or events may be added. Up-to-date information at visitsam.org/peacock.

Wed Oct 17

Peacock in the Desert: Member Preview & Happy Hour

Noon-8 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Free for SAM Members

Exhibition overviews by Dr. Karni Singh Jasol, director of the Mehrangarh Museum Trust, at 12:30 & 6 pm. Happy hour in the Brotman Forum 5-8 pm.

Thu Oct 18

Peacock in the Desert: Fall Educator Preview

4-7pm

Seattle Art Museum

FREE with RSVP for K-12 educators and teaching artists

SAM invites educators, teaching artists, and arts education advocates to preview the special exhibition and receive free resources and lessons while mingling with peers over wine and hors d'oeuvres.

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Thu Oct 18

Peacock in the Desert: Community Celebration

5-9 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Free with RSVP

The whole community is invited to this free, family-friendly opening celebration featuring music, performances, art-making, a curator talk, art market, and more.

Thu Oct 18

SAM Talks: *Peacock in the Desert* with Dr. Karni Singh Jasol & Dr. Sonal Khullar

7-8 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Free with RSVP

Dr. Karni Singh Jasol, director of the Mehrangarh Museum Trust, and Dr. Sonal Khullar, Associate Professor, Art History at University of Washington, discuss the themes and works on view in the new exhibition, *Peacock in the Desert: The Royal Arts of Jodhpur, India*.

Sat Oct 20

Saturday University: Musical Arts of Rajasthan

10-11:30 am

Seattle Art Museum

Full series tickets: \$95/SAM members \$50; individual tickets \$11, SAM members \$6; free at the door for students with ID

Lively and refined musical traditions from the Jodhpur and Jaisalmer regions of Rajasthan, northwestern India, have developed and flourished over many generations of discerning patronage. Amy Catlin-Jairazbhoy, Adjunct Professor of Ethnomusicology, University of California, Los Angeles, will introduce lineages of musicians who perform inherited song repertoires with string and percussion accompaniment, with video excerpts and live demonstration.

Sat Oct 20

Family Fun Workshop: Tiny Tots

10 am-noon

Seattle Art Museum

\$15 for one adult and up to two kids; SAM members \$7.50. Additional participants \$5 each (members included)

Explore the museum menagerie, including images of proud peacocks, elegant elephants, and tenacious tigers. Inspired by the royal regalia on view, create your own adornments for yourself and the animals in your life. For children aged 3-6 and their caregivers.

Sat Oct 20

The 11th Annual Diwali Ball

7:30 pm-12:30 am

Seattle Art Museum

\$175-\$1,000

Bigger and bolder than ever, SAM's annual celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, coincides with the opening of the fall exhibition, *Peacock in the Desert*. Enjoy dance performances, henna, fortune telling, a delicious dinner buffet, and traditional music at this fundraising event to benefit SAM's artistic and community engagement programs.

Mon Oct 29

Indian Film Masterpiece: Song of the Open Road

7:30-9:30 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Full series \$26/\$23 for SAM members & film partner organization members; single film tickets at door \$9

SAM presents India's most renowned cinematic achievement, The Apu Trilogy (1955-60). Writer-director Satyajit Ray, with his meditative eye and humane socio-political insight, traces the boy Apu's spiritual path from his beginning village life in nature to his urban university years, marriage and fatherhood, all accompanied by Ravi Shankar's mesmerizing music. The films have been digitally restored, and are in Bengali with English subtitles.

Sat Nov 3

Fall Educator Workshop: Every Object Tells a Story

10:30 am-4:30pm

Seattle Art Museum

\$40/\$20 SAM members/\$32 students & seniors (65 and over)

Explore connections in this exhibition and SAM's permanent collection for your classroom, hear how other educators use art objects and tactile learning with their students, and develop curriculum with peers. This program is designed for K-12 classroom teachers as an introduction to using art in the classroom.

Sat Nov 3

Diwali Family Festival

11 am-2 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Free with RSVP

Join us in free celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights. Create lanterns crafted in honor of this historic Indian celebration while shining your light on the joy and creativity surrounding today's Diwali festivities.

Mon Nov 5

Indian Film Masterpiece: The Unvanquished

7:30-9:30 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Full series \$26/\$23 for SAM members & film partner organization members; single film tickets at door \$9

SAM presents India's most renowned cinematic achievement, *The Apu Trilogy* (1955-60). Writer-director Satyajit Ray, with his meditative eye and humane socio-political insight, traces the boy Apu's spiritual path from his beginning village life in nature to his urban university years, marriage and fatherhood, all accompanied by Ravi Shankar's mesmerizing music. The films have been digitally restored, and are in Bengali with English subtitles.

Fri Nov 9

SAM Remix

8-11:59 pm

Seattle Art Museum

\$30/\$15 SAM members/\$25 students. Tickets sold in advance only.

Get in on this night of eclectic performances, tours, dancing, creating, and exploring SAM's collection and special exhibitions. Become part of Seattle's creative community of artists, performers, and thinkers through this unique museum experience inspired by *Peacock in the Desert*.

Sat Nov 10

Saturday University: South Indian Court Dance

Seattle Art Museum

10-11:30 am

Full series tickets: \$95/SAM members \$50; individual tickets \$11, SAM members \$6; free at the door for students with ID

Dr. Hari Krishnan presents an interactive lecture-demonstration on South Indian courtly dance traditions. His work is based on decades of research in both Tamil and Telugu-speaking South India. Integrating live performance and lecture, his presentation showcases vernacular histories and rare repertoire inspired by the courtesan dance practices of this region. Two dancers from the inDANCE company will join him.

Sat Nov 10

Family Fun Workshop: Young Artists

10 am-noon

Seattle Art Museum

\$15 for one adult and up to two kids; SAM members \$7.50. Additional participants \$5 each (members included)

Explore the various textiles, patterns, and designs in the exhibition *Peacock in the Desert*, then design your own embroidered patch inspired by the exhibition. For children aged 6-10 and their caregivers.

Sat Nov 10

Family Fun Workshop: Young Artists

1-3 pm

Seattle Art Museum

\$15 for one adult and up to two kids; SAM members \$7.50. Additional participants \$5 each (members included)

Explore the various textiles, patterns, and designs in the exhibition *Peacock in the Desert*, then design your own embroidered patch inspired by the exhibition. For children aged 6-10 and their caregivers.

Sun Nov 11

Asia Talks: Sari Stories

2:30-4:30 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Free

Originally from different regions of India, women living in the Seattle area will share personal stories linked to a sari. Discussion and demonstration of tying a turban will also be featured.

Mon Nov 12

Indian Film Masterpiece: The World of Apu

7:30-9:30 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Full series \$26/\$23 for SAM members & film partner organization members; single film tickets at door \$9

SAM presents India's most renowned cinematic achievement, The Apu Trilogy (1955-60). Writer-director Satyajit Ray, with his meditative eye and humane socio-political insight, traces the boy Apu's spiritual path from his beginning village life in nature to his urban university years, marriage and fatherhood, all accompanied by Ravi Shankar's mesmerizing music. The films have been digitally restored, and are in Bengali with English subtitles.

Thu Nov 15

Asia Performs: Songs of Rajasthan

7-8:30 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Free

Vocalist Srivani Jade and ensemble perform a few beloved songs of Mirabai (Meera bhajans), sung in the Marwari language of Jodhpur, and Rajasthani folk songs, presented in a semi-classical style (maand).

Fri Nov 16

Teen Night Out

7-10 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Free for all high-school aged teens

Planned for teens by teens! Join us for an evening inspired by the special exhibition *Peacock in the Desert*, listen to some of Seattle's hottest DJs, take in teen art tours, live music performances, workshops, and art-making activities led by Seattle's celebrated contemporary artists.

Sat Nov 17

Asia Talks: Power and Pleasure in Indian Painting

2-4 pm

University of Washington

Free

Held at the University of Washington, this symposium examines 17th-19th century paintings produced for Rajput rulers of Northern India and elites of the Mughal Empire. Presented by the South Asia Center, University of Washington, and cosponsored by SAM's Gardner Center for Asian Art and Ideas.

Sat Dec 1

SAM Shop Presents: Seattle Jewelry Designer Shamila Jiwa

Noon-4 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Free

A self-taught designer and avid gem collector, Shamila Jiwa incorporates unusual stones in her designs, revealing radiance in the often overlooked. Incorporating quality precious and semi-precious gemstones in distinct shapes and colors sets her work apart. Includes a chai tea tasting by Jaipur Chai.

Sat Dec 1

Family Fun Workshop: Tiny Tots

10 am-noon

Seattle Art Museum

\$15 for one adult and up to two kids; SAM members \$7.50. Additional participants \$5 each (members included)

Be inspired by the miniature paintings in *Peacock in the Desert*, then create your own miniature scenes from recycled and re-purposed materials. For children aged 3-6 and their caregivers.

Sat Dec 1

Family Fun Workshop: Tiny Tots

1-3 pm

Seattle Art Museum

\$15 for one adult and up to two kids; SAM members \$7.50. Additional participants \$5 each (members included)

Be inspired by the miniature paintings in *Peacock in the Desert*, then create your own miniature scenes from recycled and re-purposed materials. For children aged 3-6 and their caregivers.

Sat Dec 8

Family Fun Workshop: Young Artists

10 am-noon

Seattle Art Museum

\$15 for one adult and up to two kids; SAM members \$7.50. Additional participants \$5 each (members included)

Go on a treasure hunt around the museum to discover the many precious materials artists use, then create your own metallic masterpiece inspired by what you've seen. For children aged 6-10 and their caregivers.

Sat Dec 8

SAM Shop Presents: Payal Parekh Bugbee's Indian Textiles

12-4 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Free

Please join SAM Shop and second-generation Indian textile designer Payal Parekh Bugbee for a trunk show of Indian textiles presented in our Special Exhibition Shop, located on the fourth floor. Bugbee will share her knowledge of the industry and have unique textiles available for viewing and sale.

Sat Jan 12

Family Fun Workshop: Tiny Tots

10 am-noon

Seattle Art Museum

\$15 for one adult and up to two kids; SAM members \$7.50. Additional participants \$5 each (members included)

Listen to a story and then explore *Peacock in the Desert*. In the studio, illustrate your own book inspired by the tales you've seen and heard. For children aged 3-6 and their caregivers.

Sat Jan 12 and Sat Jan 19

Asia Talks: Tasveer South Asian Lit Fest

2-5 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Films and discussions with writers from South Asian diasporas are featured in this festival presented with Tasveer and Elliott Bay Books.

Sun Jan 13

Asia Films: A Throw of Dice

2-3:30 pm

Seattle Art Museum

\$10/\$5 SAM members

Directed by Himansu Rai and Franz Osten, this film presents the tale of Ranjit and Sohan, two kings gambling for the love of Sunita, the daughter of a hermit. The two men decide to play a round of craps to determine who will marry her, but the game does not end there. Shot in 1920s Rajasthan with Indian cinema stars and presented with new music.

EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT

Peacock in the Desert: The Royal Arts of Jodhpur, India is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in collaboration with Mehrangarh Museum Trust, Jodhpur, India.

Special exhibitions at SAM are made possible by donors to

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Image credits: Installation view of *Peacock in the Desert: The Royal Arts of Jodhpur, India* at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Maharaja Man Singh Playing Polo with Royal Ladies, ca. 1827, Jodhpur, opaque watercolor and gold on paper, Mehrangarh Museum Trust, photo: Neil Greentree.

ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and reopened as the Asian Art Museum in 1994. SAM's desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a "museum without walls," free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion. The Olympic Sculpture Park and SAM's downtown expansion celebrated their tenth anniversary in 2017.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM's collection of approximately 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures, and time periods.