



Department of History
Motilal Nehru College



University of Delhi

presents

International Seminar

on

Visual Cultures of
Colonial India
A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

under the aegis of IQAC

24th-25th April, 2024

SPONSORED BY

BRITISH ART
subject specialist
NETWORK



PAUL MELLON CENTRE
for Studies in British Art

Yale



Supported using public funding by

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



An imprint of Ratna Sagar P. Ltd

Day 1: 24th April
Inaugural Session
(9:00-10:00 am)

Welcome Address- Dr. Kalpana Malik, Teacher-in-Charge, Department of History
Introduction to the Seminar- Dr Sonal, Asstt. Prof., Department of History and Principal Organizer
Address by Prof. Yogeshwar Sharma, Principal, Motilal Nehru College
Address by Prof. AM Khan, Chairperson IQAC
Address by the Guest of Honor, Shri Abhay Kumar, Diplomat, Poet and Author
Address by the Chief Guest, Shri Prayag Shukla, Art Critic, Writer, and Poet.
Vote of Thanks

TEA BREAK: 10:00-10:30 AM

Inaugural Lecture (10:30-11:30 am)
Chair: Amar Farooqui, Former Prof., Department of History, University of Delhi

Visual Culture and the Interpretation of India's Past
Prof. Parul Pandya Dhar,
Department of History, University of Delhi

Technical Session 1:
Spectacle on the Canvas (11:30 am-1:00 pm)
Chair: Prof. Parul Pandya Dhar
Department of History, University of Delhi

Speakers

Prof. Vijaya Laxmi Singh, Department of History, University of Delhi:
Representation of Sacred Landscape of Colonial Banaras through visual expressions

Dr. Sakhinala Santhosh Kumar, Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan:
Monumental Desires: A Curious Case of Ajanta (online)

Robin Thomas, PhD candidate in History of Architecture Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey: ***Designing a Colonial Spectacle: Architecture of the 1911 Delhi Durbar*** (Online)

Abhinav, PhD candidate, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi: ***BENARES STYLE OF COMPANY PAINTINGS The Occidental View of the City in the British Era***

LUNCH BREAK: 1:00-2:00 PM

Plenary 1: (2:00-3:00 pm)
Chair: Prof. Adhya Saxena,
Department of History, Maharaja Sayajirao
University of Baroda

Visual Arts and the Indian Constitution
Prof. Anju Vali Tikoo,
Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi

Technical Session 2: (3:00-4:45 pm)
Visual Culture in the Age of Imperialism and Nationalism
Chair: Prof. Aparna Vaidik, Department of History,
Ashoka University

Speakers

Yousuf Saeed, Tasveer Ghar: ***Calendar Art and India's Exclusive Nationalism***

Pinak Banik, PhD candidate, Ashoka University: ***Raising National subjects from Infantile Scribbling: Museography, Citizenry and Biopolitics in Havell's Oriental School Drawing books***

Urmila Mondal, student, Department of History, University of Delhi: ***Abanindranath Tagore's Artistic Ideals and the Shifting Visual Culture of Colonial India***

Dr. Abhishek Sarkar, Department of History, Jadavpur University: ***The Context and Abstraction in Visual Documentation: Abedin's Sketches of 1943 Bengal Famine***

TEA BREAK: 4:45-5:00 PM

Technical Session 3: (5:00- 6:30 pm)
Changing Ways of Seeing Things in the Age of Colonialism
Chair: Giles Tillotson, Senior Vice President, Delhi Art Gallery

Speakers

Surya Bowyer, curator and historian, University of London: *Art, Bureaucracy, and Silenced Histories in Colonial India* (Online)

Binoy Bhushan Agarwal, Department of English Aryabhata College: *Year's Frivol in the Sunny East': Scrapbooks and Album Making as Visual Archive*

Prof. Vipul Singh, Department of History, University of Delhi: *Tropical Cyclones, Environmental Anxiety and Colonial Imagination*

Dr. Apurba Chatterjee, Welcome Trust Research Fellow in Humanities and Social Science, Department of History, University of Reading, UK: *A Memsahib's "Natural World": Lady Mary Impey's Collection of Indian Natural History Paintings* (online)

DAY 2: 25TH APRIL

Technical session 4: (9:00 -11:30 am)
Stereotyping The Exotic and the Oriental
Chair: Prof. Vijaya Laxmi Singh, Department of History, University of Delhi

Speakers

Prof. William Pinch, Department of History, Wesleyan University, US: *The Yogi and the Raj: Grappling with an Indian Icon* (Online)

Prof. Seema Bawa, Department of History, University of Delhi: *The 'Nautch Girls' and the Colonial Imagination*

Pooja Fulara Asstt. Prof., Department of History, College of Vocational Studies, University of Delhi: *Religion, 'Hill-People', and Propaganda in the Paintings of James Manson* (1791 - 1862)

Komal Thakran and Sumeha Sharma, PhD Scholar, Department of African Studies, University of Delhi: *Africans in India: A Journey through Visual Art*

11:30-11:45 AM: TEA BREAK

Technical Session 5: (11:45 am-12:45 pm)
Behind the Colonial Imagination
Chair: Prof. Netrapal Singh, Department of History, Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi

Speakers

Prof. Anirudh Deshpande, Department of History, University of Delhi: *Visages of Orientalism, Modernity and Development in Colonial Cinema about India*

Renate Dohmen, Senior Lecturer in Art History, Open University, UK: *Eye-Cracking' and 'Overpoweringly Amazing': Experiencing the sights and spaces of colonial India, British Amateur Art in the age of High Imperialism*

Saloni Bhojani, student, MSU Baroda: *Cross connections and impact of colonialism: A case study of portrait paintings in 20th century Jodhpur court.* (Online)

Prof. Adhya Saxena, Department of History, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda: *Future Past: Visual Culture Scenario of Baroda City (1850s onwards)*

Plenary 2: (12:45-1:30 pm)
Chair: Prof. Seema Bawa, Department of History, University of Delhi

The Forgotten Masters: Indian painting for the East India Company (online)

William Dalrymple, Author, Historian and Fellow at Oxford University, UK

LUNCH BREAK: 1:30-2:30 PM

Technical session 6: (2:30-3:30 pm)
Decolonizing Art History: Issues and Challenges
Chair: Prof. Prabhu Mohapatra, Head,
Department of History, University of Delhi

Speakers

Sraman Mukherji, PhD candidate, Ashoka University:
Challenges of the Copy: Plural Manifestations of the Bamiyan Buddha and its localization in Bangkok

Dr. Manish Karmwar, Asstt. Prof., Department of African Studies, University of Delhi and Abhinav, Research Scholar
Department of African Studies: ***The African Presence in Awadh: Ishqnamah and the Decolonization of Visual History***

Dr. Bidisha Dhar, Asstt. Prof., Tripura University: ***Crafting linkages*** (Online)

TEA BREAK: 3:30-3:45 PM

Technical Session 7: (3:45-5:15 pm)
Aquatints, Chromolithographs, and the Company Period
Chair: Prof. Seema Bawa,
Department of History, University of Delhi

Speakers

Prof. Douglas Fordham, University of Virginia: ***Remaking the World in Aquatint***

Prof. Chander Shekhar, Department of Persian, University of Delhi: ***Elegant Persian calligraphy, Persian writings & Paintings in Early 19th C: Case study of James Skinner's lesser-known works***

Jaya Yadav, Asstt. Prof., Department of English Bharati College, University of Delhi: ***Chromolithographs and Colonialism: Analysing Visuality and Historiography in Colonial India through an Analysis of Photos of the Gods by Christopher Pinney***

TEA BREAK: 5:15-5:30 PM

Plenary 3 (5:30-6:30 pm)
Chair: Prof. Prabhu Mohapatra,
Head, Department of History, University of Delhi

Decentring Art History (Online)

Partha Mitter, Emeritus Prof. in Art History, University of Sussex, Member of Wolfson College, Oxford and Honorary Fellow, Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Valedictory Session
6:30 pm

Martin Myron, Paul Mellon Center, London, UK (online)

Jessica Juckes, British Art Network, UK (online)

Prof. Yogeshwar Sharma, Principal, Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi

Prof. A M Khan, Chairperson, IQAC, Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi

Dr. Kalpana Malik, Teacher-in-Charge, Dept of History, Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi

Dr. Sonal, Principal Organizer