The exhibition

This exhibition showcases a selection of items from a major donation made to the National Museum in 1976 by Shri C. L. Bharany, in memory of his father, Shri R. K. Bharany. Supported by some items from the Bharany private collection, it highlights the role played by private collectors in enriching the nation's public museums. It is the first special exhibition at the National Museum to explore this subject.

The Bharany donation to the National Museum comprises many hundreds of items across a wide variety of types: sculptures in stone, bronze, terracotta and wood; paintings on paper and cloth; manuscripts, textiles and coins. These objects represent every era from the 1st to the 20th centuries, and every region of India from Kashmir to Kerala, and from Gujarat to Bengal. They are diverse in terms of social context too, ranging from courtly art and elite items to rural and folk art. Indeed Mr. Bharany’s breadth of vision is a notable feature of his collecting: irrespective of where and when works were made, and for whom, his eye alights on anything of beauty.

Through its design, the exhibition seeks to reflect this variety and eclecticism. Objects are grouped sometimes by material such as textile and at other times by subject matter or themes such as asceticism, irrespective of provenance and date, to highlight the varied and layered links that inspire collecting.

The exhibition is co-curated by Dr. Giles Tillotson with Pramod Kumar KG and Mrinalini Venkateswaran of Eka Archiving Services, and designed by Siddhartha Chatterjee of Seechange. Some items have been lent by the Bharany family.

The team

EXHIBITION CURATORS
Dr. Giles Tillotson
Pramod Kumar KG and Mrinalini Venkateswaran
(Eka Archiving Services)

EXHIBITION + GRAPHIC DESIGN
Siddhartha Chatterjee
(Seechange)

EXHIBITION TEAM
Deepshikha Kalsi (Textile conservation consultant)
Sonika Soni (Eka Archiving Services)
Anitha Balachandran (Motion graphics)

NATIONAL MUSEUM TEAM
Dr Venu Vasudevan, Director General
R P Savita, Director (Conservation)
K K S Deori, Curator (Display)
Anamika Pathak, Curator (Decorative Arts)
Dr S V Tripathi, Curator (Manuscripts)
Dr Vijay Mathur, Curator (Lecturing and Education)
Tejpal Singh, Deputy Curator (Archaeology)
Anju Sachdeva, Deputy Curator (Anthropology)
R K Verma, Deputy Curator (Exhibition Cell)
Renu Nawani, Hindi Officer
Kuldeep Prasad, Layout Artist
Rige Shiba, Assistant Curator (Education)
Yogesh M, Assistant Curator (Publications)
Mahesh Kumar and Anand Kumar, Assistant Conservators
Sudhakar Sharma, Conservation Assistant
Shiv Kumar and carpentry team
Priya, Artist
Joyoti Roy, Outreach Consultant
Swati Singh and Vasundhra Sangwan (Outreach Cell)
Bipul Burman, A Yadav and Sudhanshu (Audiovisuans)

A Passionate Eye

Textiles, Paintings and Sculptures from the Bharany Donation

National Museum
Janpath, New Delhi 110001
Image: Santana, Two Women Watercolour on paper, Bengal mid 20th c. Private Collection

National Museum-New Delhi
12 July - 14 August 2014
A few highlights

Kathakali villain figure
Painted wood, Kerala, early 20th c
91x33x35.5 cm, Acc 76.491/3

Santana
Two Women
Watercolour on paper, Bengal, mid 20th c
38x30 cm, Private Collection

Ragini Kamodi
Gouache on paper, Rajasthan, late 19th c
26.5x17.5 cm, Acc 76.271

Vishnu resting on Adishesh
Painted wood, Kerala, 18th c
91x193x7.5 cm (including frame), Acc 76.484

Programmes

Saturday, 19th July, 4:00 pm, Exhibition Galleries
Curator’s walk by Dr. Giles Tillotson

Sunday, 20th July, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Exhibition Galleries and Kota Mural Room
Children’s workshop on Collecting
Conducted by Mrinalini Venkateswaran & Eka

Saturday, 26th July, 4:00 pm, Exhibition Galleries
Gallery talk on Paintings by Rajeshwari Shah

Sunday, 27th July, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Exhibition Galleries and Kota Mural Room
Children’s workshop on Paintings
Conducted by Sonika Soni & Eka

Wednesday, 30th July, 5:30 pm, Auditorium
Seventh National Museum Lecture by Dr. Giles Tillotson

Saturday, 2nd August, 4:00 pm, Exhibition Galleries
Gallery talk on Textiles by Dr. Vandana Bhandari

Sunday, 3rd August, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Exhibition Galleries and Kota Mural Room
Children’s workshop on Textiles
Conducted by Kritika Narula & Eka

Saturday, 9th August, 4:00 pm, Exhibition Galleries
Gallery talk on Design by Dr. Vibhuti Sachdev

Sunday, 10th August, 4:00 pm, Exhibition Galleries
Curator’s walk by Pramod Kumar KG

All talks and gallery tours are free and open to all.
Children's workshops (intended for ages 9-12) are free and require registration by email only.
Contact Swati Singh: nationalmuseumoutreach@gmail.com
Registration open till 24 hours before the workshop, not later than 10:00 am a day before the workshop date.
Please note that each workshop can accommodate 35 children. Last minute admissions will not be possible.