



National Museum-
New Delhi



On 30 + 31 October 2018, the National Museum and the National Museum Institute, New Delhi, will welcome you to the international two-day seminar:

COSMOPOLITAN KALAMKARIS

Crafting Connections through 17th-century Figural Fabrics

In the 17th century the Coromandel coast and its hinterlands became a cosmopolitan region where intercultural encounters increased through international trade and court relations. The art of kalamkari making reached unprecedented levels and both style and depicted scenes were influenced by the process of cultural exchange. The eclectic visual language came to reflect the many pictorial traditions of Southern India and the world beyond.

Both Indian and Western men of power commissioned large, figural kalamkaris of intricate detail. By studying these kalamkaris, their scenes and language, and by connecting these to historical sources, murals, miniatures and engravings, we get closer to understanding the international framework of that time and the incredible mastery of the craft.

These early figural kalamkaris, presently preserved in international museums and private collections, are the main subject of this two-day seminar. There is still much to learn about and from these fabrics, both in relation the past and the present. With a multidisciplinary list of speakers and the involvement of contemporary kalamkari artists, we will enjoy two days of tapping into these incredibly rich resources from multiple perspectives.

The seminar is part of a collaborative transmedia project on these early kalamkaris, initiated by Gerda & Dorien Theuns, two Dutch researchers. The aim is to share views and knowledge on a shared history. The seminar is a great start to this purpose and will nourish the contents of a publication and exhibition in the National Museum Delhi, 2020. The production of innovative, digital tools will enable people to explore the fascinating scenes in great detail. The National Museum and National Museum Institute collaborate with multiple European partners, including the Fries Museum (NL), which holds a great kalamkari collection.

Speakers: Gieneke Arnolli (NL), Lennart Bes (NL), Denis Bruna (FR), Omana Eappen (IN), Jos Gommans (NL), Ebeltje Hartkamp-Jonxis (NL), Deepshika Kalsi (IN), Mayank Kaul (IN), Gijs Kruijtzter (NL), Buddha R. Mani (IN), Anamika Pathak (IN), Renuka Reddy (IN), Manvi Seth-Sharma (IN), Praful Shah (IN), Dorien Theuns & Gerda Theuns-de Boer (NL).

Please join us at the seminar, meet Indian and international kalamkari experts, historians, art-historians and artists, and share your views with us!

A DETAILED PROGRAM WILL BE COMMUNICATED LATER

Registration required: seminarkalamkari@gmail.com