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70 years of Indian Independence marked with two summer exhibitions and a new book at the Fitzwilliam Museum



Rama returns in victory to Ayodhya (detail), Pahari (Punjab Hills), Kangra, c.1780-1790

From Kabul to Kolkata: Highlights of Indian painting in the Fitzwilliam Museum

On show until 03/09/2017 | Shiba Gallery (I4)

NEW PUBLICATION: Catalogue written by Marcus Fraser

ISBN: 978-1-910731-08-6

Elephants, Deities and Ashoka's Pillar: Coins of India from antiquity to the present

On show until 01/10/2017 | Octagon Gallery (I0)

Two exhibitions and a new book have launched at the Fitzwilliam Museum to mark the 70th anniversary of Indian Independence. The displays celebrate Cambridge's links with Indian culture with examples from the Museum's world-class holdings of coins and its rarely seen collection of Indian miniature painting.

2017 is the UK-India Year of Culture, a year of events to celebrate UK's cultural ties with India.

The two exhibitions are part of the University of Cambridge Museums' *India Unboxed* series, affiliated to the UK/India 2017 programme run by the British Council.

From Kabul to Kolkata: Highlights of Indian painting in the Fitzwilliam Museum, showcases a selection of Indian miniature paintings and drawings from the 16th to 19th centuries. Works produced under the patronage of the Mughal dynasty and other princely rulers are included, as well as several acquired by early British patrons and collectors in India.

Press | The Fitzwilliam Museum

Religious epic and myth, history, royal portraiture, animals and birds, music, dance and architecture are all included in the themes of the paintings and drawings on show. A new handsomely illustrated catalogue exploring the themes of the exhibition has been written by Marcus Fraser, Honorary Keeper of Islamic and Indian Manuscripts and Miniatures at the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Elephants, Deities and Ashoka's Pillar: Coins of India from antiquity to the present explores the history of India through coins produced from the 4th century BC until recent times. Cultural, religious, economic and political developments are richly illustrated by the coins on show. They focus on representative periods of India's history, ending with a display of banknotes and coins produced since India became independent in 1947.

The exhibitions are accompanied by a full programme of public events, including handling sessions of historic coins, lunchtime talks, art workshops and family events.

The Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Tim Knox said: "The Fitzwilliam Museum has a significant collection of Indian miniature paintings and drawings, the majority unpublished and little known. Many of these exquisite, finely detailed works are going on display for the first time. Our numismatic collections are internationally celebrated - we are delighted to join this important year of Indian culture with some of our finest Indian treasures."

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UNBOXED.

#IndiaUnboxed

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- Ends -

Notes to editors (continues overleaf):

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Southern Deccan, Gold Gajapati Pagoda
circa 1080-1135



Ramakali Ragini, Illustration to a
Ragamala series Bengal, Murshidabad,
c.1755



The royal elephant Madhukar, By Hashim,
Mughal, probably Agra, c.1630-1640

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About UK/India 2017

UK/India2017 is a year-long celebration of the long-standing relationship between India and the UK, which will see a vast programme of cultural exchange and activity take place in cities across both countries. Working with a huge number of partners and institutions, the British Council is developing a programme of cultural activity which will connect and inspire people in both countries; and strengthen and celebrate the UK and India's cultural ties. For more information on UK/India 2017 please visit www.britishcouncil.in

About the Fitzwilliam Museum

Founded in 1816 the Fitzwilliam Museum is the principal museum of the University of Cambridge and lead partner for the University of Cambridge Museums (UCM) Major Partner Museum programme, funded by The Arts Council. The Fitzwilliam's collections explore world history and art from antiquity to the present day. It houses over half a million objects from ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman artefacts, to medieval illuminated manuscripts, masterpiece paintings from the Renaissance to the 21st century, world class prints and drawings, and outstanding collections of coins, Asian arts, ceramics and other applied arts. The Fitzwilliam presents a wide ranging public programme of major exhibitions, events and education activities, and is an internationally recognised institute of learning, research and conservation. www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB | Free admission

OPEN: Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 – 17.00

CLOSED: 24-26 & 31 December, 1 January, Good Friday

Business Partners

The Museum is supported by our Business Partners during 2017; TTP Group plc, ACE Cultural Tours, Hewitsons LLP, and Sotheby's.