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CURRICULUM VITAE

Work Experience

India | Zurich

June 2022-ongoing: Guest Curator, GBF Fellow

Research on *Ragamala* paintings from the **Museum Rietberg, Zurich** collection (June 2023-May 2025) with a focus on materiality and scientific analysis, to be published as a catalog

2023-2024: Guest Curator

Ragamala: Bilder Für Alle Sinne, an exhibition at the **Museum Rietberg, Zurich** (September 2024-January 2025)

Der Überfluss der Welt: Meisterwerke Indischer Malerei aus der Schenkung Horst Metzger, an exhibition at the Museum Rietberg, Zurich (September 2023-January 2024)

2021: Research Scholar, **Rietberg Museum, Zurich**, GBF Fellow

- Granted the first GBF Fellowship for six months for researching mid-18th century Ragamala painting series from Bundi – Kota region. Analyzed the paintings on stylistic, formalistic and scientific factors (UV, IR, FTIR, Microscopic analysis).

2016-2023: Art Conservator and Consultant

- Freelance consultant for private and institutional art conservation projects, such as, Holy Name Cathedral, Mumbai and the Sarmaya Foundation, India.
- Assisted the senior conservator Giri Kumar (2016-2019), based in Pune - learnt the nuances, techniques, materials and methods related to restoration, stabilization, renovation and storage of antiquities and artefacts spanning across thousand years in various private and institutional collections in India

2015-2016: Co-Curator

- Rajputana Nayak, *Paintings from the Royal courts of Rajasthan 1660-1940 CE (The Indian Portrait VIII)* at *Amdavad ni Gufa* (from the private collection of Anil Relia), Ahmedabad - Curated an exhibition from a selection of works from the collection for an exhibition and produced a supplementary catalogue

2016: Co-Curator (Eka Cultural Resources & Research)

Kasturbhai Lalbhai Museum, Ahmedabad

- A permanent exhibition in the newly transformed museum (from a mansion), co-curated with Pramod Kumar KG (Managing Director, Eka, New Delhi)

2015: Coordinator (Eka Cultural Resources & Research)

The Maharani Manhar Kumari Museum: The Ajaibghar, Dungarpur, Rajasthan

- Installed a permanent exhibition in the newly constructed museum in the Palace complex including selected art objects from varied collections

2013-2015: Researcher, Co-Curator (Eka Cultural Resources & Research)

Paintings and Photography at the Jaipur court, Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Trust, The City Palace, Jaipur

- Documented & digitized the painting collection ranging from mid seventeenth to mid twentieth century
- Co-curated a permanent exhibition of selected paintings and photographs in the newly transformed gallery space in the Palace-Museum complex

2012-2014: Researcher & Chief Archivist (Eka Cultural Resources & Research)

Turner Morrison Foundation (Private Art Collection), New Delhi

- Documented & digitized the Indian painting collection ranging from eleventh century to twentieth century

2013: Co-Curator **Silver Linings**

- *An online exhibition* on selected ritualistic and other silver wares from the royal collection of Mewar at the City Palace Museum, Udaipur

2009-2012: Researcher & Documentation Assistant

Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation, The City Palace Museum, Udaipur

- Setting up the archives in the museum complex, day to day operations and compilation of Archival Policy and Procedures Manual
- Worked closely with local resources to comprehend local Mewari dialects scripted on art works. Background research using the first-hand resources at the palace complex ranging from original artefacts, records, publications and knowledgeable staff; inputs for eventual exhibition and publications
- Worked online for five months (2012), managed the archival activities and staff

2012: Curator

Paramparik Chitrakala: A personal perspective on traditional paintings in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh'

- Supported by IFA, at the Faculty of Fine Arts, MSU, Baroda - Extensive research on the existing families of traditional painters in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, assessed their present survival milieus, changing oeuvre and patronage issue

2012: Curator

Rang 2012, Celebrating the tones and hues of our culture at The City Palace Museum, Udaipur

- Convened an annual event in the Museum complex. Exhibited works of three master painters from Udaipur working in different styles along with live demonstrations and workshops

2012: Co-Curator

A Hundred Years Distant: An online exhibition of Postcards of Delhi by H. A. Mirza & Sons - *An online exhibition* of the postcards in chromolithographs of an important historic photography studio

2011: Assistant Curator

Tinted by Tradition, Waswo X. Waswo & Rajesh Soni, Hand Coloured photographs at The City Palace, Udaipur

- An exhibition juxtaposing handcoloured photographs from the Mewar royal collection with the contemporary handcoloured - digital prints by Waswo X. Waswo in collaboration with

Rajesh Soni

2011: Coordinator

Chitram: an exhibition of traditional paintings by Manish Soni at the Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai

2010: Curator

Chitrashali: A setup of traditional painter's workshop, a gallery in the City Palace Museum, Udaipur, supported by Commonwealth Association of Museums, Canada

Academic Qualifications & Credentials

2022-2025: GBF Fellowship, Museum Rietberg, Zurich

Guest Curator, researching on Ragamala paintings from June 2023-May 2025

2021: GBF Fellowship, Museum Rietberg, Zurich

Artist residency from June-December 2021

2017: Post Graduate Diploma in Museology and Conservation from CSMVS, Mumbai

(formerly Prince of Wales Museum). Thesis: '*NAINSUKH, THE INFLUENCER*'

Contextualizing an

eighteenth-century Pahari painter in the twenty first century art and design world: a study entailing formal, spatial and scientific analysis.'

2011: IFA Fellowship-2011 for a research project entitled **Paramparik Chitrakala:**

A personal perspective on traditional paintings in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh

2010: Museum Studies with Commonwealth Association of Museums – Certificate course

(Collections management; conservation; education & learning, exhibitions)

2007-2009: M.V.A. (Master of Visual Arts) in Art History, Aesthetics and Criticism from the Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S.University of Baroda with specialization in Indian paintings.

Thesis: '*Trail behind the Frame*, a case study on five artists from traditional painter families in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.'

2005-2009: B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) in Drawing and Paintings, English Literature and

History from M. D. S. University, Ajmer, Rajasthan

Select Conferences, Paper, and Workshops

March 2025: Presented *Ragamala: Pictures for All Senses*, as a case study, at the Bayes Business School, City St. George, University of London

March 2025: An online presentation on *Ragamala, a case study from Museum Rietberg Collection*, at the City College New York

February 2025: Lecture on **Materiality and Manuscript Conservation** for Diploma in Archiving and Museology students at the KJ Somaiya Institute of Dharma Studies, SVU, Mumbai

November 2024, April 2024: Co-Conducted **Toolbox**, one-week intensive workshop on Ragamala

at the Y-Institute, HKB, Berne

April 2024: A presentation on **Ragamala for Beyond Music 24-Present Resonating Past** at the ZHDK, Zurich (with the musician Ken Zuckermann and his team)

February 2023: Presented a paper in an online conference *Reflections on Ramayana*, organized by KJ Somaiya Institute of Dharma Studies, SVU, Mumbai.

December 2021: Curated a presentation titled **Raga Trails on** Indian classical music and paintings in collaboration with the classical singer Vir Dasmahapatra for the annual digital festival **Art is Life: Sound Frames** for the Museum of Art and Photography, Bengaluru, supported by Rietberg Museum, Zurich

November 2021: Invited by the Section de langues et civilisations slaves et d'Asie du Sud, University of Lausanne to give a talk on **Master of the Narayana Ragamala: 18th century painting workshop from Kota-Bundi, Rajasthan**

October 2021: Present two papers at the 5th seminar Friends of Indian Paintings organized by the Rietberg Museum, Zurich, titled:

- a. (as a GBF fellow) **Master and Workshop of the Hadoti-Narayana Ragamala**
- b. (co-presented) **Cosmological relationship status: complicated**

July 2021: Invited by the KJ Somaiya Institute of Dharma Studies, Somaiya Vidyavihar University to conduct a session on **Material and Conservation** for an online workshop on Manuscripts

June 2021: Invited by the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, (Mumbai Research Center) to conduct two lectures, titled: **a) What is in a Museum?, b) Conservation Basics** for an online course 'Dynamics of Museums and Archives'

February 2021: Invited by the KJ Somaiya Institute of Dharma Studies, Somaiya Vidyavihar University to give an online talk, titled **An Illuminated Word/World: Traditional Indian Paintings**

July 2020: Invited by Foundation for Art & Culture, Bhopal, to speak in a virtual conference on the colors and abstraction in the works of a great master artist S.H. Raza, titled **Raza: Ek Paksh**

June 2020: Invited by Gallery Espace, New Delhi to speak in a virtual conference, titled Contemporary Miniature Painting & The Foreign Eye

May 2020: Invited by Eka Cultural Resources and Research to speak in a virtual conference titled What Lies Beneath: Women in Conservation in India

November 2019: Invited by Sarmaya Arts Foundation to speak on a chosen artwork from the Sarmaya Collection on a virtual platform, as a part of the '**70object7curators**' initiative by the National Museum, New Delhi, India

2019: Delivered three talks in Udaipur, Jaipur (MSMS II Museum), and Ahmedabad (Amdavad ni Gufa) for the official launch and promotion of the book **Gauri Dancers**.

2019: Invited to present two papers at the 4th seminar Friends of Indian Paintings organized by the Rietberg Museum, Zurich, titled:

- a) Caterā, Kārkhānā & the Devī: An Exploration of the Jaipur Durgā Pāth, 1798 CE; b) Scratching the layers: Understanding different aspects of fakes and reproductions in Indian paintings
- 2018:** Invited to speak on the traditional Indian paintings as a part of the exhibition **Luminously Between Eternities** at the Gallery Ark, Vadodara
- 2014:** Coordinated a workshop **Learning at the Museum**, Jaipur for the students of British School, New Delhi
- 2014:** Coordinated **A Children's workshop, Passionate eye: Textiles, paintings and sculptures from the Bharany donation**, National Museum, New Delhi
- 2013:** Presented a paper **Pilgrimage of Roop Rawal: An unseen Tirtha series from the City Palace Museum, Udaipur** at an international seminar on Rajasthani Paintings held at the National Museum, New Delhi.
- 2012:** Coordinated a workshop **Learning at the City Palace Museum, Udaipur** for the students of British School, New Delhi
- 2012:** Invited to talk on **Traditional pigments and paper for Indian paintings and Museological problems** by the Museology Department, Faculty of Fine Arts, MSU, Vadodara
- 2012:** Coordinated **Learning at the City Palace Museum, Udaipur** (Workshop for the students of Maharana Mewar Public School, Udaipur)
- 2012:** Prepared a report on the annual event **Rang 2012**, published by the City Palace Museum, Udaipur.
- 2011:** Presented two papers at the Guide training programme organized by the City Palace Museum, Udaipur, titled:
- a) Painting tradition in Mewar
- b) Visual references in the City Palace Museum, Udaipur**
- 2010:** Presented a paper **Mewar Ramayana Tradition and Raghuvamsha series** at a national conference organized by the Sahitya Akademi in the Bhuri Singh Museum, Chamba
- 2010:** Presented a paper and authored **Re-incarnated imagery of Radha in 19th century Mewar paintings** at a national conference organized by the School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU, New Delhi

Select Publications:

- 2024: Co-authored (with Johannes Beltz and Annette Bhagwati), **Ragamala: Pictures for All Senses**, exhibition catalog, published by Hatje Cantz Verlag GmbH, Germany, and Museum Rietberg, Zurich
- 2024: Co-authored an article (with Surucchi Khubchandani), **Best of Both Worlds**, published by *Art India Magazine*, Volume 27, Issue 01, 2024, as a teaser on the Ragamala exhibition.
- 2024: **Foreword** for *Alchemy: Contemporary Indian Painting and miniature Tradition*, authored by Geeti Sen, published by Mapin, India.

2023: Co-authored (with Dr. Eberhard Fischer) **Not Yet Identified: Indian Master Painters and Workshops, A Visual Inventory of the Horst Mezger Collection, Museum Rietberg, Zurich.** Published by Artibus Asiae Publishers Supplementum 57 and GBF Studies on South Asian Arts and Artists, No. 1, Museum Rietberg Zurich.

2022: An article, **A Closer Look at Ragamala Paintings**, for *Asian Art: A newspaper for Collectors, Dealers, Museums, and Galleries*, September 2022.

2022: An article, **Portrait of Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh** in *Masterpieces at the Jaipur Court*, edited by Mrinalini Venkateswaran and Giles Tillotson, published by Niyogi Books, New Delhi, 2022

2022: An article, titled **Ramgopal Vijayvargiya** in the catalogue *Iconic Masterpieces of Indian Modern Art*, published by the Delhi Art Gallery

2022-Ongoing: (on halt) Co-authoring a catalogue on a collection of Indian paintings from a private collection in Udaipur, Rajasthan

2016: Co-authored the catalogue **Painting and Photography at the Jaipur Court**, published by Niyogi International and Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Trust

2016: Co-authored the catalogue **Rajputana Nayak, Paintings from the Royal courts of Rajasthan 1660-1940 CE**, published by Archer India Ltd.

2019: Co-author (with Waswo X. Waswo) **Gauri Dancers**, published by Mapin India, supported by MAP Academy, Bengaluru.

2011: An article, **Medley of tradition**, featuring a Jaipur based textile designer 'Brigitte Singh', published in the **Art Etc.** magazine

2010: Co-authored the article **Painting of Twelve Goddesses**; in a special issue *Treasures of the Oriental Museum - Durham University*

Other Skills:

- Can translate old scripts from Rajasthan *Dingal* and *Mahajani* from Mewar, *Dhundhari* from Jaipur, *Takri* from Himachal, *Awadhi* and *Braj* written on paintings. Learning and practicing *Urdu*
- Photography (mainly digital)
- Learning print techniques like *Cyanotype*
- Computer: proficient in Adobe Photoshop CS, MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Collections Management System (CMS)
- Learnt traditional pigment preparations and techniques of various styles of Indian paintings under a renowned painter Late Shilp Guru Shri Badri Lal Chitrakar

