

Recent Books of Art and Art History - February 2008

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Johannes ten Klooster (1873-1940) : A Man With Two Lives / Bea Brommer
Netherlands ; KIT Publishers, 2007
96pp. , 10 " x 10" 15 color and 222 b/w Ill.
9789068324860
\$ 55.00

Johannes ten Klooster was born in 1873 in Java, to a Javanese/Chinese mother and a Dutch father. He was educated in the Netherlands and, while cherishing a deep desire to become an artist, was forced to work for a living; from 1897 to 1914 he served as a military officer in the Dutch East Indies and was stationed in Java, Sumatra and New Guinea. It was only after his return to the Netherlands and his retirement in 1919 that he was able to devote his life to art.

His prolific and widely acclaimed oeuvre ranges from intriguing oil paintings to expressive woodcuts and exquisite ink drawings, which echo classical Chinese and Japanese art as well as art deco motifs. Nature, in all its aspects, was his main inspiration and he was able to draw upon the innumerable sketches he made during his years in the lush, tropical environment of the Dutch East Indies.

Ten Klooster was a successful artist in his time and his work was purchased by a number of major museums in the Netherlands, Great Britain and the United States. This abundantly illustrated publication discusses all aspects of ten Klooster's life and work and includes a complete catalog of his 175 woodcuts.

Recent Researches in INDIAN ART AND ICONOGRAPHY : Dr. C P Sinha Felicitation
Volume / Edited by Bhagwant Sahai
New Delhi : Kaveri Books, 2008
xviii+286, (42) illus, (126) pls ; 29cm.
978 81 7479 087 3
\$ 65.00

This collection of fifty-one articles brings to light the recent trends in the study of sculptural art, iconography and architecture and focuses on the different aspects of Indian Art. These papers are contributed by the eminent scholars expert in their fields from different parts of India and presented in honour of in honour of Dr. C.P. Sinha, former Director of the prestigious K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna. The papers, written in wide and expressive style are supported with several photographs and illustrations. This book will prove to be an invaluable asset to the art historians, researchers, libraries and also to the students.

Contents:

1. Concept and Motifs of Prehistoric Rock Art in India/ Atul Chandra Bhowmick;
2. Musical Elements in Indian Rock Paintings/ Kumar Anand;
3. A Culture Based on OSTEOKERATIC Artefacts, Unearthed from Pandurajar Dhibi, Burdwan/ Tapas Banerjee;

4. A Terracotta Art Model of a Double-Edged-Axe Served as Votive Object from Maner (Bihar)/ S C Saran;
5. Eguvakantala Cheruvu: A Unique Megalithic Complex in Chittoor District/ V Ramabrahman;
6. Taurine Symbol on Stone Discs from Murtaziganj and other Places/ A L Srivastava;
7. Significance of Symbolizing First Sermon of the Buddha at Sarnath/ Bimalendra Kumar;
8. Bead Craft during Maurya Period/ Durga Basu;
9. Relief Sculptures from Bharhut and Sanchi: A Stylistic Study/ Basudeo Narain;
10. Lotus in Early Buddhist Art of Sanchi/ Manjusri Roy;
11. Urban Delineation in Sanchi Panels: Fanciful or Real/ U N Roy;
12. Buddha's Life-Scenes from Pauni, District Bhandara/ Chandrashekhar Gupta;
13. Further Discovery of a Plaque Representing Rhinoceros Unicornis from Dum Dum Excavation, West Bengal: An Observation/ Chhanda Das;
14. A New Light on a Unique Syncretistic Deity in the Collection of the Indian Museum/ Mangala Chakrabarti;
15. Ancestor-Worship in Ancient India/ M L Nigam;
16. Art of Terracottas in the Gangetic Valley during the Kushanas and the Guptas (C. 1st century to the 6th century A.D.)/ Samir Kumar Mukherjee;
17. Some Principal Fertility Terracotta Figurines in the Collection of State Archaeological Museum, West Bengal/ Sumita Guha Sarkar;
18. Some Genetic Factors in the Evolution of Indian Classical Art/ P Gupta;
19. Life of Master (Buddha) on Stone through the Ages/ Milan K Chauley;
20. A Comparative Study of Art of a Hari Hara Sculpture from Shahabad District, Bihar and a Hari Hara Sculpture, Golaghat District, Assam/ Hemendranath Dutta;
21. Vishnu Temple and Other Sculptures at Garhwa/ B L Nagarch;
22. Geo-Political Impact on Chandella Art/ S K Sullerey;
23. Manifestations of Siva in the Calukyan Temples of Andhradesa: A Study/ V Sakunthala;
24. Art on Seals of the Kalachuri Kings/ Satya Prakash Srivastava;
25. Ode on the Temple of Teli Ka Mandir at Gwalior/ Ratan Parimoo;
26. Revatikunda in Junagadh: A Treasure House of Twenty-four Forms of Visnu/ Haripriya Rangarajan;
27. Saivism and the Uma-Mahesvara Icons/ Pranabananda Jash;
28. Pancavaktra of Kirtimukha or Grasa (Illustrations from Bihar-Bengal)/ Gouriswar Bhattacharya;
29. In Indian Literature, Inscription, Coin and Sculptures: Ardhanarisvara-The Composition of Siva and Sakti/ Gourisankar De;
30. The Bronzes From Ikra (Kishanganj)/ Rashmi Sinha;
31. Bronzes of Eastern India: Archaeotechnical Studies/ Pranab K Chattopadhyay;
32. Vasudhara in the Art of Bihar/ Bhagwant Sahai;
33. Sculptures of Bhairava and Virabhadra from the Archaeological Museum, Chandragiri: An Iconographical Study/ P N Naidu;
34. Rare Karana Sculptures form Tirumalapadi/ M Nailini & R Kalaikkovan;
35. Mithuna Figures in the Temples of the Hoysalas/ G C Chauley;
36. Exquisite Works of Art and Architecture in Kanyakumari District/ S Padmanabhan;
37. An Image of Adivaraha in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford/ M Krishna Kumari;
38. The Sculptural Panorama of the Sacred Springs of Jammu Shivaliks/ Lalit Gupta;
39. Architecture of Bihar in 17th Century A.D./ N K Shrivastava;
40. Genesis of Dolls and Toys/ Kakoli Sinha;
41. Metal Sculptures of Seven Martyrs/ N M P Srivastava;
42. Mahakala in the Art of Eastern India/ Jalaj Kumar Tiwari;

43. Tree-of-Life/ Bhaswati Bandopadhaya;
44. Gupta Art on Stone and Bronzes: An Epitome of Classical Art and Zenith of Artistic Evolution/ Hari Kishore Prasad;
45. Religious Art in Ancient Cambodia/ Vijay Shankar Shrivastav;
46. Rohtasgarh: A New Perspective/ Abha Rani;
47. Alwara Bronzes/ Ajit Kumar Prasad;
48. Jeevantswami Moorti-parmpara/ Maurti Nandan Prasad Tiwari;
49. Patna Sangrahalaya ki Asadharan Vishnu Pratima/ R C Agrawal;
50. Madhyakalin Nagar Bhangarh ki Nagar Samrachana evam Sarakshan/ R D Singh;
51. Colonial Statues in the Patna Museum, Patna/ Sujata Sinha.

Expressions in Indian Art – In 2 Volumes / Edited by B.R. Mani and Alok Tripathi
New Delhi : Agam Kala Prakashan, 2007
2v.
978-81-7320-070-0
\$ 137.50 (Set)

[Expressions in Indian Art contains essays on art and architecture. Seventy-five articles in the volume cover various aspects of Indian art and architecture through the ages.

Famous centers of art and architecture dealt with are Mohenjo-dara, Dholavira, Banawali, Lothal, Amravati, Sanchi, Sanghol, Mathura, Sarnath, Deogarh, Ratnagiri, Lalitgiri, Mahasthan, Bangarh, Khajuraho, Bhubneswar, Kanchipuram, Badami, Ajanta, Udaipur, Sirpur, Modhera, Ramgarh, Gwalior-Chambal area, Bikaner, Kolkata, etc. Geographically it covers vast areas.

Two volumes cover varied aspects and forms of art such as prehistoric rock-art, rock-paintings, rock engravings, Bronze Age seals and Sealings, Copper Hoards, bass-relief, sculptures, colossal images, terracotta figurines, bronzes, coins, murals and miniature paintings, excavated antiquities, folk-art, architecture, textiles, boat architecture, etc. Articles on scientific preservation, structural conservation and legislative provisions for the protection of the art heritage are also included.]

Managing Museums : a study of the National Museum, New Delhi / Lalima Dhar Chakrabarti
New Delhi : Sundeep Prakashan, 2007
xviii, 283 p.
Includes Bibliography and Index
81-7574-176-7
\$ 37.50

[The Museum has now more than two hundred thousand collections, some of them rarest of the rare, but hardly four percent of the collections are displayed. Not more than hundred fifty thousand people visit the museum annually, compared to nearly 60 million visitors to the Louvre in Paris and 50 million to the British Museum of London.]

Jeypore enamels / S.S. Jacob and T.H. Hendley
New Delhi : Aryan Books International, 2007
52p. Plates ; 34cm.
978-81-7305-338-2
\$ 45.00

[The art of enamelling on metal is successfully practiced in many parts of India, but it is universally acknowledged that the best work on gold is produced at Jeypore, in

Rajputana. The colours employed rival the tints of the rainbow in purity and brilliancy, and they are laid on the gold by the Jeypore artists with such exquisite taste that there is never a want of harmony; even when jewels are also used they serve but to enhance the beauty of the enamel.]

Indian and East Asian art and iconography / A.K. Bhattacharyya

New Delhi : Bharatiya Kala Prakashan, 2007

xxviii, 370 p. : ill.

978-81-8090-181-2

\$ 75.00

[The collection of studies in Indian and East Asian Art and Iconography is a considerable assemblage of essays. Though it deals with selected topics relating to iconographic and archaeological art, it touches, sporadically though, almost the entire range of Indian Art history and salient periods of East Asia. Nonetheless, the treatment although can claim to be distinctly thorough and documented. Though by character the studies are not an all-inclusive one, they afford a glimpse of the artendeavours of most regions covered. With thirty and odd essays, appelled as chapters classed under sections, the subjects are surely as varied as they are interesting. Though art is known to be mostly inspired by religion, these essays reveal often a transcending trend over all bounds of cults and faiths.]

Vishvarupa : paintings on the cosmic form of Krishna-Vasudeva / Neena Ranjan

New Delhi : Aryan Books International, 2008

xviii, 166 p. : ill.

Includes Bibliography

978-81-7305-333-7

\$ 62.50

[Vishvarupa is popularly known as the cosmic form that Krishna revealed to Arjuna in the battlefield of Kurushetra in India in the Mahabharata, circa 500 BC. This was captured in verse in two chapters of the Bhagavad Gita. The concept of Vishvarupa is rooted in the Indian philosophical traditions since the Vedic times and represents a holistic interdependence in the manifested universe at all levels. Vishvarupa explores the relationship of man with the Cosmic being- the microcosm and the macrocosm.]

Early sculptural Art - in Indian Coastlands / Sunil Gupta

New Delhi : D.K. Printworld (P) Ltd., 2008

xxix, 210 p. : ill. ; 25 cm

Includes Bibliography, Maps and Index.

81-246-0438-X

\$ 30.00

[This work attempts to show that the coastlands, while influenced by the great schools of art, were nevertheless cultural melting pots in their own right, often transcending the art of the interiors. As staging areas of long distance maritime exchange, the Indian coastlands have long mediated between the far civilizations of the Indian Ocean world (Egyptian, Arabian, Persian, East African and Southeast Asian) and the Indic cultural sphere. The coastlands are viewed as cross-cultural realms, places most conducive for absorption of new ideas and for syncretic manifestations. The discussions in the nine chapters cover a broad range of sculptural are created in the Indian littoral regions between 300 BCE and CE 500. These include friezes in the rock cut caves of the Western and Eastern Ghats, decorated pillar capitals and free standing creations in stone and terracotta. Many of the observations are based on the author's fieldwork on the Indian coastlands.]

Feminine beauty : in Indian Art and Literature / T.N. Mishra

New Delhi : D.K. Printworld (P) Ltd., 2007

xiv, 82 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

Includes Bibliography and Index

Contours of Indian Art and Architecture, no.3

81-246-0387-1

\$ 18.75

[The book is a study of Indian art representing devotion, love, human moods and sentiments, especially in its depiction of female sculptures on ancient temples. It begins with a discussion on Indian art as synthesis of the sublime in nature and the human physical from that conveys the sublime. With numerous illustrations of art, iconography and sculptures from different regions of India, it examines a breathtaking variety of female forms of divinities, celestial nymphs and others symbolizing youth, beauty and sensuousness. Referring to features of art of different periods under various dynasties, like the Gupta art, it focuses on representation of female forms and couples particularly erotic realizations in art, i.e., nude figures and mithuna scenes. It studies the figures carved on various materials and in different styles, highlighting the salient features of each. The influence of religious traditions, as Tantrism, on the art depicted is painstakingly traced. Giving examples from famous temples of Khajuraho, Bhubaneshwar, Puri, Konarka, Nagda, Belur, Halebid, Ajanta and Ambarnath, the work examines expressions, postures and attitudes of figures to show that they reflect physical bliss, emotional and psychological expressions, and the spiritual state.]

Close to events – Works of Bikash Bhattacharjee / Manasij Majumder

New Delhi : Niyogi Offset Pvt. Ltd., 2007

250 p. : ill.

978-81-89738-24-2

\$ 50.00

[Close to events: Works of Bikash Bhattacharjee deals with Bikash's early life in an old North Calcutta locality, the urban social ambience that shaped his creative personality and explores why he chose to remain 'close to events' and free from the dominant trends in post-Independence Indian art. It also analyses the technical and stylistic development of art with detailed exposition of some of the themes and subjects in the major series of his paintings.]

Raja Ravi Varma : Life and Times in colonial India / Rupika Chawla

Ahmedabad, India : Mapin Publishing Pvt Ltd., 2008

416 p. : ill.

978-81-89995-08-9

\$ 87.50

[This book is an account of Ravi varma's traditional background and environment and the manner in which they related to the modernization of colonial India: his profession as an aristocratic itinerant painter, his royal patrons, his portraits and the analysis of his mythological and iconic paintings: his influence on the Indian mindset, the sources used by him and his controversial status from the late nineteenth century till today even while contemporary painters continue to be inspired by his art and his attitude. There is also a chapter devoted to the technical examination of his paintings, their conservation, his methodology of painting and the problem of fakes and copies. The book is lavishly illustrated with pictures taken from princely and private collections and museums. Several royal states of India as well as the rich and powerful were patrons of Ravi Varma whose portraits he painted in large numbers.]

These also appear in the book among the works that have been seen before, previously undisclosed maps, letters, photographs and other archival material.]

Moving Pictures : the Rickshaw Art of Bangladesh / Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt and David J Williams

Ahmedabad, India : Mapin Publishing Pvt Ltd., 2008

96 p. : ill.

978-81-88204-80-9

\$ 15.00

[The book presents an account as well as an informed interpretation of the paintings done by local artists on cycle- and auto-rickshaws of urban Bangladesh, with a socio-cultural background of its artistic traditions. It is a visual feast, containing a selection of colour photographic images of heavily painted rickshaws, artists and the art panels. It will be of great interest to Asia scholars, media, popular, visual and cultural studies experts. Anthropologists, sociologists and art critics as well as art enthusiasts.]

Indian art in detail / A.L. Dallapiccola

Ahmedabad, India : Mapin Publishing Pvt Ltd., 2007

144 p. : ill.

978-81-88204-69-4

\$ 18.75

[This beautiful book offers a striking and unusual view of a wide array of Indian art. It highlights- Close up and in colour- outstanding examples of design, workmanship and craft in dramatic sculptures of metal, stone and wood as well as sumptuous paintings and textiles. By illustrating the complete artefact as well as exceptional features through the use of enlarged details- sometimes virtually invisible to the naked eye- intriguing insights and unusual comparisons can be made. Ideal as a souvenir or introduction to any museum or gallery visit, this book will also provide endless creative inspiration.]

India 20 : Conversations with Contemporary Artists / Anupa Mehta

Ahmedabad, India : Mapin Publishing Pvt Ltd., 2007

216 p. : ill.

978-81-88204-99-1

\$ 30.00

[India 20 is a crisp and lively compilation of interviews with twenty contemporary landmark Indian artists who are internationally recognized for their cutting edge work. The interview format and a wide selection of images allow the reader to map their progression. An introductory essay and a representative timeline provide an overview of developments within the field of Indian contemporary art. A pertinent listing of solo participations makes the book invaluable for anyone interested in gaining a perspective on Indian contemporary art as mirrored in the work of these twenty artists. The specially commissioned portraits by Nrupen Madhvani and others make the interviews come alive in a unique way.]

Lines from an Artistic Life : the drawings of Adimoolam / Krishen Khanna, Aditi De and Jehangir Sabavala

Ahmedabad, India : Mapin Publishing Pvt Ltd., 2007

164 p. : ill.

978-81-88204-94-6

\$ 30.00

[Lines from an Artistic Life explores the drawings of eminent Indian artist KM Adimoolam, well-known in India and internationally for his meticulous pen-and-ink drawings on subjects ranging from realistic portraits of Mahatma Gandhi to idealized portrayals of Indian kings and warriors, and semi-abstract depictions of Hindu gods informed by Cubism]

The great procession : A mural by Krishen Khanna / Norbert Lynton
Ahmedabad, India : Mapin Publishing Pvt Ltd., 2007
120 p. : ill.
978-81-88204-97-7
\$ 37.50

[The Maurya empire, ruled by the Mauryan dynasty, was the largest and most powerful political and military empire of ancient India. The mural is not exactly contemporary life, but a fusion of the Mauryan past with the present of the 1980s, without any obvious parading of modern achievements such as skyscrapers and traffic jams. Khanna's relaxed art, still fresh and rich in cultural roots, stands testimony to his artistic intelligence and appetite for creative work]

Chola Migrations / Krishen Khanna and Norbert Lynton
Ahmedabad, India : Mapin Publishing Pvt Ltd., 2007
978-81-88204-98-4
\$ 37.50

[Chola migrations reproduces, in an accordion format, the large 6.75 feet high by 72.5 feet long mural done by Krishen Khanna in pencil. It is a celebration of the wonderful history and achievements of the Cholas of Southern India during, roughly, the tenth to the fourteenth centuries. The theme Khanna chose for this mural is historical rather than mythical, celebrating the outgoing activities of the Chola. Filled with strong, majestic figures, the negative tonal idiom shows how compositions rendered with quiet control, like the leaves of palm trees, or a dramatic blackbird, give the world its rhythmical cohesion.]

Banaras : Eternity watches time / Manu Parekh
Ahmedabad, India : Mapin Publishing Pvt Ltd., 2007
218 p. : ill.
978-81-88204-93-9
\$ 50.00

[Manu Parekh has executed a series of paintings inspired by the holy city of Banaras. In turn, this book is a collection of the essays by eight writers who have been inspired by his work in this series. These essays offer a thorough assessment of his themes and motivations. Painted in the Indian Expressionist style these works have a significant role in the development of modern Indian painting.]

Abstraction in Indian Painting / Post Independence Era / Badar Jahan
New Delhi : Kaveri Books, 2008
978-81-7479-081-1
81-7479-081-0
\$ 50.00

[This book provides an analytical view of Abstract Art Movement and its assimilation in Indian Contemporary Painting. It also highlights the interactions and influences of both over each other. The author identifies the significance of Abstraction in Indian Painting, applied constantly throughout the post independence era. She also stresses importance of folk and other traditional art, pointing towards its continuity echoing in the contemporary art of the whole world. Major differences between artists and their

influences are discussed with due seriousness and are seen as an honest and intellectual attempt to make Indian contemporary art a significant portal. The choice of illustrations is wide and truly testifies the richness and diversity of the subject and a bibliography provides useful reference material.]

Threads & Voices : Behind the Indian Textile Tradition / Edited by Laila Tyabji

Mumbai : Marg Publications, 2007

144 p. ill.

81-85026-79-3

978-81-85026-79-4

\$ 62.50

[This is a volume with a difference interpreting the textile through the contemporary craftspeople that make it, as well as including the voices of the designers and craft interventionaries who work with them. The emphasis is on contemporary pieces and practice, contrasted with heirlooms. A single theme-the story behind the stitches, the people behind the product – runs through the book. The articles, by textile historians and designers, cover the spinning, weaving, dyeing, and embroidery traditions of Kashmir, Punjab, Lucknow, Rajasthan, Bihar, Kachchh, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka.]
