

CHAMBA RUMAL: LIFE TO A DYING ART

19TH DECEMBER 2015 – 12TH JANUARY 2016

Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum in collaboration with Delhi Crafts Council presents Chamba Rumal: Life to a Dying Art on view from 19th December 2015 until 12th January 2016.

About the Exhibition

A unique traditional art form, the *Chamba Rumal* is an embroidered square cloth from Chamba in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The exhibition presents recreated *Chamba Rumals* which are a skillful blend of miniature painting tradition and embroidery.

In the 18th and 19th Centuries, one of the important schools of miniature painting that developed was the Pahari School which heavily influenced the compositions for the embroidery on the *Chamba Rumal*. The subject matter of the Pahari paintings was drawn from Hindu mythology and Indian literary texts. In the words of the renowned scholar Dr. B.N. Goswamy- “visually the connection between the work of the Pahari painters and the *rumals* is so close...that in so many ways it can be seen as *sahodara* (born of the same womb)”.

Chamba Rumals are like paintings in embroidery. They were used for covering platters, as gifts for auspicious occasions and for offerings to deities. These *rumals* are still used as coverings for ceremonial dishes and auspicious gifts. During weddings in Chamba, *rumals* continue to be exchanged between families of the bride and groom as a token of goodwill.

The Delhi Crafts Council has taken up the challenge of reviving this near extinct art. A core collection selected *rumals* from various museums across the country and abroad has been recreated by artisans from Chamba.

About Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum

The Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum was established in 1872 as the erstwhile Victoria and Albert Museum, Bombay. As Mumbai's oldest Museum, it showcases the city's cultural heritage and history through a rare collection of Fine and Decorative Arts that highlight Early Modern Art practices as well as the craftsmanship of various communities of the Bombay Presidency. The permanent collection includes miniature clay models, dioramas, maps, lithographs, photographs, and rare books that document the life of the people of Mumbai and the history of the city from the late eighteenth to early-twentieth centuries.

The Museum, once in a derelict condition, underwent a comprehensive five-year restoration by INTACH supported by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai and the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation. The project won UNESCO's international Award of Excellence for cultural conservation in 2005. The Museum re-opened in 2008 with an extensive exhibition programme and is committed to promoting contemporary art and culture. The Museum hosts an exhibitions programme which explores the importance of the collection and includes a strong focus on contemporary art and culture.

A series of curated exhibitions called 'Engaging Traditions', invites artists to respond to the Museum's collection, history and archives. Several distinguished contemporary artists have participated in this programme such as Sudarshan Shetty, Jitish Kallat, Atul Dodiya, L. N. Tallur, Ranjini Shettar, Sheba Chhachhi, CAMP, Thukral and Tagra. The Museum has also partnered with several international institutions for collaborative exhibitions including the Victoria and Albert Museum, British Council, British Library, Dresden State Art Collections, Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, Museum of Modern Art, Ermenegildo Zegna Group and Guild of the Dome Association in an effort to facilitate international cultural exchange. The Museum has expanded its curatorial initiative to invite external curators, institutions and organisations to present exhibitions related to the focus areas of the collections.

The Museum has an extensive education and outreach programme that aims to build and diversify the Museum's audiences, encouraging repeat visits and engaged participation with its permanent collections, contemporary exhibitions and activities. On offer is a rich selection of programmes including film, music and courses and lectures on history of art focused on providing stimulating, participatory experiences that respond to different age, interest and language groups, and recognize a diversity of backgrounds. These experiences are aimed at encouraging critical engagement with Mumbai's history, and artistic and cultural developments.

The Museum has become an important cultural hub in the city.

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About Delhi Crafts Council

Delhi Crafts Council is a registered, voluntary non-profit organization working for the promotion and development of traditional artisans and craft skills in a contemporary environment. Sustainable livelihoods is the Council's first priority, in a sector recognized as the second largest source of employment in India after agriculture. This is supported by emphasis on marketing, design, identification of and support to young talent as well as sensitive intervention for the revival of languishing crafts.

Delhi Crafts Council is affiliated to the Crafts Council of India and to the World Crafts Council. The Council was founded by Smt Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay in 1967 and takes its inspiration from her extraordinary example. Over the years, DCC has helped represent the country and its artisans across India and overseas, often in partnership with other craft activists and the Government of India.

For Listings:

Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum presents
Chamba Rumal: Life to a Dying Art
In collaboration with Delhi Crafts Council

Exhibition Dates: 19th December 2015 – 12th January 2016

Exhibition Venue:

At the Special Project Space
Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum
91A Rani Baug, Veer Mata Jijabai Bhonsle Udyan
Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Marg,
Byculla East, Mumbai 400027

Timings:

10:00 am to 6:00 pm | last entry 5:30 pm
Closed on Wednesdays and certain public
holidays

For further details, please contact:

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