

THE MUSEUM



**ConservArte**

**Phase II**

**Citi-CSMVS Art Conservation Project**

In partnership with Citi India

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# Corona Times

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ConservArte : Citi-CSMVS Art Conservation Project

Work done during the Pandemic in 2020

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## **CSMVS Museum Art Conservation Centre Mission Statement**

CSMVS Museum Art Conservation Centre aims to spearhead heritage conservation-restoration, research & development, and training in India as well as in other nations in the region, through its work, as well as by encouraging collaborations and sharing of expertise.

## **ConservArte Project**

Following successful implementation of Citi-CSMVS ConservArte Phase-I (2015-18) during which more than 900 art objects were conserved, with 150 objects being of national importance, and showcased in two exhibitions and publications, Phase II of ConservArte was approved. The components being a total of 1500 artefacts of which 300 are iconic objects, 60 months of conservation apprenticeships, Art Storage reorganization, digital interphase between conservation and curation, as well as enhanced knowledge sharing by placing 400 case studies for professional referencing, publishing 10 technical papers, 5 books, and creating 5 exhibitions. The first 2 years (2018-2020) of Phase II of Citi-CSMVS partnership has created highly skilled conservators, and therefore, in 2020-21 we are increasing trained staff and infrastructure to conserve over 500 art treasures (and a total of 3000 over 5 years), create 2 ‘reserve collection / art storage’ areas, implement preventive conservation for 20,000 objects, introduce artefact recognition software, expand international outreach, exhibitions, and publications.

*This year of the pandemic is coming to a close and one of the most important things in these times has been the fact how closely Citi has stayed with us, supporting us and our activities, with great understanding and proactive engagement.*

*As you can see from the report of the work done in the ConservArte project during the pandemic, we worked on fulfilling our commitments to the best of our abilities and to the limits of as much as the circumstances would allow.*

*I am happy to say that I am proud of my team at CSMVS and proud of our association with Citi India.*

*This is an impromptu booklet created to apprise all of you of the work that has been done during these Corono times.*

**Sabyasachi Mukherjee**

**Director General**

**Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya**

*Wholesome and positive activity can be sustained in a System as there are always spaces and opportunities in any crisis like situation such as the one which the CoVID-19 pandemic has precipitated. While the CSMVS and other institutions have been in partial shutdown since March, and are slowly opening up to more activity, the staff of CSMVS has been actively keeping a watch on the art collection and ensuring its upkeep as part of the Citi-CSMVS Art Conservation Project. At the same time, groundwork for the various proposed activities of this program is being laid for implementation in the last quarter of 2020-2021.*

*After months of lockdown, CSMVS ConservArte project physical activities have commenced and we are now making preparations of opening our doors once again to the public. The conservation team along with the curatorial team is jointly working towards this goal keeping in mind physical distancing protocols.*

**Anupam Sah**

**Head of Art Conservation, Research, and Training**

**Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya**



- More than a week before the lockdown in India began, the CSMVS Museum had closed its doors to the public and had already started making plans and taking preventive measures for the safety of the objects at the CSMVS. The conservation and curatorial department implemented their Risk Management Protocol. The protocol began with securing the perimeters of the museum and identifying the staff who had agreed to live on site. The ConservArte team comprising of conservators, associated curatorial teams and technical staff gave the museum galleries a thorough clean-up, electrical units and climate control units were checked, the different galleries were carefully checked for potential risks to the collections and teams were organised for the translocation of fragile and priority objects into high security areas.

- Resident staff in the museum premises along with other senior functionaries monitored the objects and their environs and implemented preventive conservation action.

- A select team of senior curators along with conservators moved selected fragile and delicate objects from the galleries into storage. Some objects that were housed in the Conservation centre were also moved to the storage areas for safekeeping.

- The month of June saw the advent of monsoons, and the Citi-CSMVS ConservArte project team increased their checks and vigils in all the galleries and storages taking turns and going in small batches to the museum, keeping the Government's physical distancing norms in mind. A hawk eye watch was kept on the CSMVS Collections by the curators and conservators responsible for the respective collections. Senior officers in the administrative department also regularly monitored the museum collection. Remedial conservation work also commenced in this period.
- July onwards the conservation staff started going to the museum regularly on rotation in small batches as per Government norms and the preventive and remedial conservation work proceeded with greater vigour.
- Physical maintenance of all the paintings housed in the Sir Dorab Tata Gallery was done. Antifungal treatment was applied in the Karl Khandalwala Gallery and the Sculpture Gallery. The fabrics and costumes on display in the Textile Gallery were de-installed and housed in the storage section after their condition check was completed.



Summary of the activities that have been implemented during the period April 01 - December 31, 2020.

Activities	Proposed deliverables	Achieved
<b>Objects Conserved</b>	450 yearly 338/ 9 months	288/338
<b>Iconic Objects</b>	80 60/ 9 months	44/60
<b>Personnel</b>	36	26
<b>Exhibitions</b> ConservArte exhibition and Online exhibition	2	The fourth of the Conserving the Collection Exhibition is being planned in collaboration with CEPT University, Ahmedabad. Discussions and preparations have commenced. March 2021 is the tentative date decided upon. This will be an online exhibition along with interactive outreach. The theme and objects selected for this exhibition will highlight the conservation philosophies, approaches, scientific methods and techniques applied in art conservation and extended to conservation of historic interiors.  Another fifth exhibition will be organized at the CSMVS in the month of February 2020. The theme for this exhibition will be based on Tanjore Paintings. This exhibition will showcase iconic tanjore paintings that were gifted to the museum by the famous and eminent collector Late Mr. Kuldip Singh. This will be an exhibition open to the public. The conservation of the paintings has commenced.
<b>Publications</b>	2	The work is in progress
<b>Research Papers</b>	2	Work on 3 papers ongoing
<b>Conference</b>	1	An online national conference on conservation case studies is being planned March 2021
<b>Apprenticeships</b>	12 months	Applications have been received, but apprenticeships may only start once the museum allows enough persons to work keeping in mind physical distancing and health and safety considerations

<b>Technical Meetings/ Workshops/ Lectures</b>	8	Staff is participating in capacity building through online lectures. Schedule of Citi-CSMVS online technical meetings and lectures shall be implemented from January 2021.
<b>People Trained / Visits</b>	700	An online training programme is being designed
<b>Outreach in Cities</b>	3	—
<b>International Museum Collaborations</b>	1	—
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Proposed deliverables</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>Public interactive with conserved object</b>	1	The public interactive is being prepared
<b>Social Outreach (National/ International)</b>		Facebook: Page followers- 17,320 Instagram Page Followers - 16,249 Twitter Page Followers - 5,665  (The Social Media Handles are of CSMVS)
<b>PART 2: ART STORAGE UPGRADATION</b>		
<b>Re- Organisation Of Storages</b>	2	Storage areas have been confirmed and plans are being prepared.
<b>Preventive Conservation</b>	20,000 yearly 15,000/9 months	7307 objects/15,000 in various galleries as well as storages  This quarter focused on preventive conservation of our collection. Here we conserved the collections of Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation(JNAF) – 702 Objects, Bombay School paintings of CSMVS – 23 objects, 5516 objects in miniature and textile storage
<b>Personnel</b>	10	11

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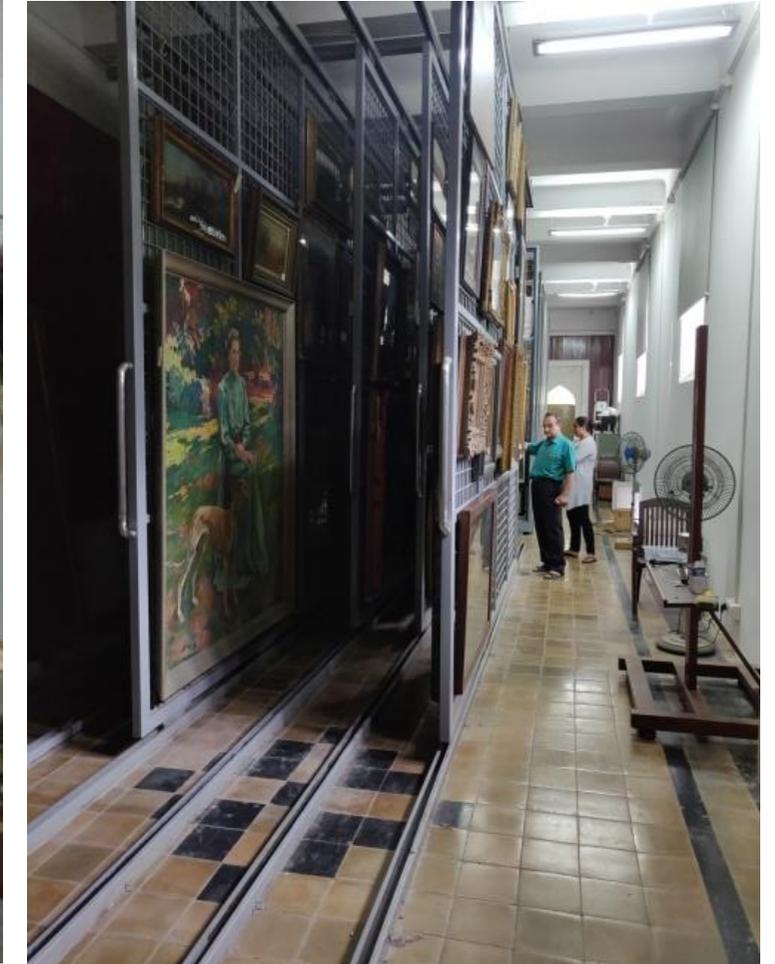
## REORGANIZATION OF STORAGE

Under the ConservArte Project, reorganization work of the following storage spaces has commenced.

Natural History Specimens Storage

European Paintings Storage

Historic Coins and Jewelry Vault



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## Exhibition

In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the need to give a fillip to digital avenues to showcase cultural heritage collections to the public arises. Keeping that in mind we have decided to go digital and showcase our conservation work to the world through a digital online exhibition. The fourth of the Conserving the Collection Exhibition is being planned in collaboration with CEPT University, Ahmedabad. Discussions and preparations have commenced. March 2021 is the tentative date decided upon. This will be an online exhibition along with interactive outreach. The theme and objects selected for this exhibition will highlight the conservation philosophies, approaches, scientific methods and techniques applied in art conservation and extended to conservation of historic interiors.

## First Vantage Point of the Online Conserving The Collection Exhibition



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The fifth exhibition under ConservArte project will be organized at the CSMVS in the month of February 2020. The theme for this exhibition will be based on Tanjore Paintings. This exhibition will showcase iconic tanjore paintings that were gifted to the museum by the famous and eminent collector Late Mr. Kuldip Singh. This will be an exhibition open to the public. The conservation of the paintings has commenced so that they can be displayed in full splendor at the exhibition.

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Monitoring of project activities by Citi India officials continued online and with physical visits as soon as restrictions were lifted.

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*The CSMVS Museum Art Conservation Centre sincerely thanks Citi India for its support and backing during these trying times, and it thanks the CSMVS leadership and administration for addressing the past months in a calm and premeditated manner, supporting its staff and activities.*