

PRESS RELEASE

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Three Dimensions of Divinity: Thanjavur Art Revealed

CSMVS presents the exhibition **Three Dimensions of Divinity** that celebrates three aspects - the Collector, the Collection and the Conservation process.



In 2019, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) was gifted a significant collection of 350 Thanjavur and Mysuru paintings from Kuldip Singh, a Delhi-based well-known architect, town planner and an ardent art collector. Sadly, Kuldip Singh passed away in 2020, but has left behind a large and pertinent legacy for students of art history and art enthusiasts. CSMVS has organised an exhibition “Three Dimensions of Divinity: Thanjavur Art Revealed” as a tribute to this passionate collector who believed in sharing the arts with everyone.

The exhibition provides a glimpse of the Thanjavur style paintings from Mysuru, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. It explores the themes of the Thanjavur paintings such as Vaishnava,

Shaiva , Shakta, epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata, popular village deities, stylised architectural plans of important temples, rare representations of Jainism and Sikhism, famous Vaishnava and Shaiva poet saints of the 7th and 9th centuries CE and portrait paintings depicting Serfoji II Bhonsale from the Thanjavur Royal family and Mumtaz Ali Krishna Raja Wodeyar III of Mysuru, the major patrons of this art form in the early 19th century. The exhibition also delves into another medium of expression with examples of reverse glass paintings and ends with a glimpse of calendar art illustrations.



Markandeya Anugrahamurti or Yamantakamurti

Artist: Javagal Narasimhayya

Mysuru, Karnataka

c. 1901

CSMVS 2019.131

The unique technique of Thanjavur paintings is narrated through actual specimens as well as through audio-visual aids. The creative graphics, timeline and interview of the collector make this exhibition more appealing and interesting.

The exhibition is curated by Mrinalini Pathak, Assistant Curator, CSMVS and Anupam Sah, Head, CSMVS Museum Art Conservation Centre and designed by TWO, a Mumbai based design studio. This exhibition is supported by Citi-India under the aegis of ConservArte: Citi-CSMVS Art Conservation Project.

This exhibition is organised in the Special Exhibition Gallery on the first floor of the Extension wing of CSMVS. The exhibition is currently open to the public for viewing until June 30, 2022.

Please contact us for more information, images, and to coordinate editorial stories, interviews, and listings:

- Mrinalini Pathak, Assistant Curator and Curator of the exhibition
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Notes to the Editor

About the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS)

The CSMVS Museum, is a premier museum and cultural institution of India. It is a not-for-profit organisation opened to the public in 1922 and is governed by a Board of Trustees. Designed by George Wittet, a British architect in 1909, the museum building is a Grade I Heritage Structure and is a fine example of the Indo Saracenic style of architecture. The Museum houses a 70,000-strong multicultural collection of artefacts from Asia and Europe.