

Press note for immediate release.



The Love Songs of Krishna

A JOURNEY OF
KAVYATO KALAM

कृष्ण के प्रणय गीत
काव्य से कलम का सफ़र



Opens December 16, 2023

Krishna Gallery, 1st Floor, Main building, CSMVS

Curated by
Harsha V. Dehejia

Master Artist
Padma Shri Vijay Sharma

The sensually rich and spiritually robust *shringara rasa* of Krishna finds its first textual basis in the 9th century Srimad Bhagvatam. For a thousand years after that, poets and painters, singers and dancers, have celebrated this heart throbbing love in many different ways. This exhibition presents a select group of poets who have celebrated Krishna *shringara*.

From the Bhagavata has flowed a river of *shringara kavya* that celebrates the love of Krishna, with the *gopis* and later with Radha. This river of Krishna *shringara* has flowed through trackless generations and many dynasties, it has touched Vaishnava patrons and reached ateliers of love in Rajasthan and the Pahari regions. The best expression of *kavya* is *chitra* and the journey of *kavya* to *kalam* is where the artists of Krishna paintings had to evolve a visual language that could be reached out to everyone. They use colours not merely to decorate but to evoke emotions, and employ lines not just to create forms but to give these forms a lyrical movement, to create faces that not only reflected pomp and power but that were alive with feeling of love and longing, and with eyes that speak not the language of lust but of tender love and set them in a landscape that resonated with the rich echoes of love, a landscape in which the sap that flowed through the *nayaka* and the *nayika* was no different from that which animated the birds and the blossoms or the opulence of a haveli or a court where courtly love could shine. This is what created a living painting and it is that journey that is being presented.

The exhibition features poetry from the Bhagavata Purana, Gita Govinda, Narsinh Mehta, Vidyapati, Bhanudatta, Bihari, Barahmasa poets, Rasa Khan, Wajid Ali Shah, Tagore, modern poets.

There is robust textual material. A documentary film and audible material through QR codes to enhance the experience.

The gallery is curated by Harsha V. Dehejia. The paintings on display are created by master artist Padma Shri Vijay Sharma.

Come, join us in being touched by the mellifluous words and silken colours of Krishna *shringara*.

