



The Director, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi
Ministry of Culture, Government of India

Cordially invites you to a Lecture entitled

“Sino-Indian Cultural Diffusion through Trade in the Nineteenth Century”

by Dr. Madhavi Thampi

in conjunction with the on-going exhibition

PAINTED ENCOUNTERS
PARSI TRADERS AND THE COMMUNITY

Saturday, 7th May, 2016 at 4:00 pm
at NGMA, New Delhi

Please join us for tea before the lecture

Museum entry fee is applicable

MADHAVI THAMPI

Madhavi Thampi is Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, and Editor of the journal *China Report*. She taught Chinese History for many years at the Department of East Asian Studies of the University of Delhi until 2014. Her major publications include *Indians in China, 1800-1949* (2005) and *China and the Making of Bombay* (2010). She also edited the volume *India and China in the Colonial World* (2005). She is currently working jointly with other Indian and foreign scholars on a multi-volume project on the relations between India and early twentieth century China, and has been coordinating an effort to catalogue materials related to modern China in the National Archives of India.

“Sino-Indian Cultural Diffusion through Trade in the Nineteenth Century”

Trade has been a powerful medium for the exchange of cultural influences across different societies and regions throughout history. The flourishing trade between India and China in the nineteenth century, however, has not until recently received much attention as a vehicle for the exchange of cultural values between the two countries. While there exists a considerable amount of literature on the collections of China Trade art in the West, the truth is that ‘export art’ from China was valued not just in the West but was also imported by Parsi and other Indian merchants who flocked to China’s shores, for an appreciative clientele back home. Moreover, the Indian demand for Chinese art in this period did not merely ape Western tastes, but also reflected Indian tastes and values. Chinese artists and their famous workshops in the port of Canton (Guangzhou) became experts at producing art and cultural products catering to the tastes of Indian customers, just as they did for Western customers. As the popularity of these products from China grew in India, Indian artists and craftsmen themselves mastered the art forms and skills required, and further developed them in keeping with their particular genius. We see this most clearly in the case of embroidery, textile weaving and reverse glass painting. Ultimately, we can say that this process resulted in some altogether new, hybrid forms of art and crafts in India, which, while they were undoubtedly Chinese in origin and inspiration, nevertheless have become an enduring part of the Indian cultural tradition.



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> 10 am - 5 pm > Open Tuesday to Sunday > Monday closed