

Recent Books from India – Nov 2022

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Architecture

Courtyard Houses of India / Yatin Pandya
Ahmadabad: Mapin Publishing, 2022
468p.; ill. 26 cm.
Includes Bibliography.
9789385360091
2400gm.
\$ 112.50 / hb

Extensive documentation of courtyard houses, both traditional and contemporary- More than a thousand images, drawings, plans and maps- Overview according to climate, geography, philosophy and religion Indian architecture is not about an object in space; instead it integrates space within the object where the built and the unbuilt become counterpoints to vitalize each other. This engulfed void known as the courtyard lies at the genesis of urban dwellings in India. In this book the author traces the metaphysical, mythical, socio-cultural, environmental and spatial roles of the courtyard in the domestic architecture of India - from early civilization and Vedic times to Islamic and colonial influences. This book documents traditional courtyard dwelling types across India within diverse climatic, cultural as well as geographic zones such as West (Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra), South (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa), East (Bihar, West Bengal), Central (Madhya Pradesh) and North (Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir). Courtyard Houses of India documents, analyzes and infers the attributes and manifestations of traditional courtyard houses and examines the diverse interpretations of those as applied in contemporary homes.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=834682>

Art

The Long Arc of South Asian Art: Essays in Honour of Vidya Dehejia / Annapurna Garimella
New Delhi: Women Unlimited (an associate of Kali for Women), 2022
336p.; ill. 23 cm.
9789385606397
800gm.

\$ 30.00 / hb

The long arc of art historical enquiry in the Indian subcontinent spans several centuries, and virtually all the arts, from temple architecture and sculpture to the striking of coins. The 22 essays in this volume, a tribute to the pioneering work of Vidya Dehejia, cover ancient Buddhist architecture, temple design and construction, Rajput and Mughal paintings and manuscripts, colonial-era photography, ornament, and museology. Each author traverses or furthers a field that Dehejia herself may have opened up for examination, moving beyond contemporary conceptual questions in art history and offering fascinating insights into, for example, Indo-Roman trade and the Dakshinapatha, or the Indic carvings of Quanzhou; the transformation of the body through ritual discipline, or physical attribution; colonial representations of the “native subject” and what they reveal about the colonising project. The volume’s eclecticism extends to questions of materiality and agency; the politics and aesthetics of archaeological restoration; and the forming of divinity by human makers.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=835191>

The Vanishing Point: Moving Images After Video / Rashmi Devi Sawhney (ed)

New Delhi: Tulika Books, 2022

xxiii, 376p.; ill. 24 cm.

9788194717584

1000gm.

\$ 30.00 / hb

The fading out of celluloid cinema, and the arrival of video and the digital image, mark a tectonic shift in our understanding of representation as an aesthetic and political act. As the cinematic image, defined by its indexical relationship to external reality, yields to images comprised of zeros, ones and pixels, the ethical contract between world and image opens up a new range of possibilities and problems. At this juncture, from what appears as the vanishing point, history folds into memory, the spectral performs as the material, and copies cannot be distinguished from the original. This volume casts a retrospective glance from this vantage point, tracing acts of resistance and defiance over the last three decades within the realm of the moving image. Visual and textual work by artists, theorists, historians, curators, and filmmakers from India is presented through mutual interruptions and alignments, enabling new readings of our recent past and signalling possibilities for our immediate futures.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=835192>

Paper Trails: Modern Indian Works on Paper from the Gaur Collection / Tamara Sears (ed)

Ahmadabad: Mapin Publishing, 2022

232p.; ill. 26 cm.

9789394501072

1460gm.

\$ 62.50 / hb

Works on paper by senior Indian modern artists - Spanning the transition from colonial to post-colonial India - From the Collection of Umesh and Sunanda Gaur - Over 100 watercolors, drawings, etchings, sketches and lithographs - Traditional narratives reoriented to engage with India's past, present and future India is a nation of conflicting realities, where the old and the new, the traditional and modern regularly coexist. Here, the artists are concerned not solely with telling their own tales but also with exploring what it means to live in a nation steeped in tradition. Within the context of modern and contemporary India, works on paper offered artists a way of cultivating transnational modernist expression while continuing to explore the potential of a medium that had deeper roots in older artistic traditions native to the subcontinent. This volume features over 100 watercolors, drawings, etchings, sketches and lithographs by senior Indian modernists, born primarily before the 1950s and who came of age in the decades directly following Independence in 1947.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=834681>

Cookbooks

Dehgh to Dastarkhwan: Qissas and Recipes from Rampur / Tarana Husain Khan
Haryana: Penguin Random House India Pvt. Ltd., 2022
xvii, 257p.; ill. 22 cm.
9780143451464
300gm.
\$ 10.00 / pb

Tarana was an indifferent eater and an unenthusiastic cook until a chance encounter with a nineteenth-century Persian cookbook in Rampur's fabled Raza Library started her off on a journey into the history of Rampur cuisine and the stories around it. Part food memoir and part celebration of a cuisine, Dehgh to Dastarkhwan answers the question-'what constitutes and distinguishes Rampur cuisine?' Each chapter represents an emotion, an observance or a celebration. The spread of Rampuri food from the grand royal cuisine to the simple daily fare becomes the arena to express love, loss, forgiveness and spirituality. Peopled with compelling characters from all walks of life, the book is a tour de force that includes recollections of a princess to the spiritual ambience of a Sufi shrine, with stories of khansamas, weddings and funerals.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=837040>

Economics/Development Studies

Development: Experiences, Insights and Introspection / Vipin Sharma
New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan Pvt. Ltd., 2022
xx,198p.;22cm.
Includes Bibliography and Index
9789354420900
480gm.
\$ 20.00 / hb

Development thinkers and practitioners remain divided over the debate of 'developing' versus 'developed'; and whether there is a time frame or prescription for a developing country to become developed. The cycle of development seems never ending for developing countries. To join the developed club, developing economies must not only grow, but grow faster than their developed counterparts. What the Western economies achieved in over 200 years post industrialisation in terms of development, the developing economies are expected to achieve in a few decades. Since independence, India has embarked on a journey of ever-evolving composite policy interventions in its quest to become a developed nation. 'Indian model of development' has attempted to address multidimensional development aspirations, based on holistic and sustainable human, social, moral and economic aspects. Development: Experiences, Insights and Introspection by Vipin Sharma offers a direct view into some development experiences and insights, mainly India-centric, with a focus on economic aspects. The themes covered in this book range from pro-poor growth, international finance, public financial management, government as a development actor and market failure, to development cooperation and aid policy. While doing so, the book introspects the development process through different lenses – historical, social, economic, political, financial and administrative.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=800475>

A Brief History of Commercial Capitalism / Jairus Banaji

Haryana: Three Essays Collective, 2020

197p.; 21 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9789383968404

300gm.

\$ 15.00 / pb

The rise of capitalism to global dominance is still largely associated with the advances of the Industrial Revolution. But, as Jairus Banaji shows, this leap was preceded by a long era of 'commercial capitalism,' which reorganized labour and production on a world scale to a degree hitherto rarely appreciated. In Banaji's retelling, the pre-industrial non-European world appears as innovative, dynamic, and thoroughly cosmopolitan.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=835193>

Distress in the Fields: Indian Agriculture After Economic Liberalization / R. Ramakumar (ed)

New Delhi: Tulika Books, 2022

xix, 484p.; 23 cm.

9788195055906

990gm.

\$ 37.50 / hb

In 2021, India completed three decades of implementation of economic liberalization policies. This volume is a composite and critical account of Indian agriculture during liberalization. Agriculture was one of the most contentious arenas of policy making in this period, marked by occasional spurts of growth coexisting with acute agrarian distress.

From the standpoint of political economy, this volume discusses and analyses a range of themes in Indian agriculture including land ownership, tenancy, public investment and expenditure, prices, international trade, crop incomes and profitability, input subsidies, credit, insurance, marketing and food distribution. A key feature of the volume is its simultaneous focus on both a broader macroeconomic outlook and extensive evidence collected through intensive village surveys.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=835194>

History

The Brief History of a Very Big Book: The Making of the Tamil Encyclopaedia / A.R.

Venkatachalapathy

Hyderabad : Permanent Black, 2022

Xvii,149p.;21cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9788178246604

400gm.

\$ 15.00 / HB

In the age of Wikipedia, it has been forgotten how important the Encyclopaedia Britannica once was in the mind of the English-reading Indian. Seen as the supreme repository of knowledge, it was also a status symbol sought as bookshelf adornment. What most people do not know at all is how an intrepid band of Tamil intellectuals, inspired seventy-five years ago by the Britannica, decided to create an encyclopaedia in their own language. They felt a linguistic system as advanced as theirs, with a literary history stretching two millennia, needed to showcase its civilisational achievement: it was imperative that Tamil boast its own encyclopaedia. The odds against realising this ideal were impossible. And yet the project of compiling the Kalaikkalanjiyam – the Tamil Encyclopaedia – began and was soon unstoppable. This intriguing episode of Indian intellectual life is as forgotten as its narration here is compelling. Book history comes brilliantly alive in A.R.

Venkatachalapathy's vibrant chronicling – from the conception of an extravagant idea to its execution as a printed work. This story of lofty ideals and financial scandals, bruised egos and ideological conflicts reveals a fascinating world of cultural enterprise, political struggle, and regional nationalism.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=833666>

The Planetary King: Humayun Padshah Inventor and Visionary on the Mughal Throne /
Ebba Koch

Ahmadabad: Mapin Publishing, 2022

384p.; ill. 30 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9789385360985

2350gm.

\$ 98.75 / hb

Humayun, the son of Babur and the second Mughal ruler, reigned in Agra from 1530 to 1540 and then in Delhi from 1555 to 1556. Until now, his numerous achievements, including winning back the throne of Hindustan, have not been well recorded. The Planetary King follows Humayun's travels and campaigns during the political and social disturbances of the early 16th century. It delves into Humayun's extraordinary social and intellectual life; demystifies his magico-scientific world view, draws attention to his deep involvement with literature, poetry, painting, architecture, mathematics, astronomy, astrology, occultism and extraordinary inventions, and offers a new analysis of Humayun's mausoleum as the posthumous sum of his visions and dreams. The book accompanies the new site museum at Humayun's tomb created by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture upon the culmination of two decades of conservation work on the World Heritage Site. Co-published with Aga Khan Trust for Culture, New Delhi.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=834680>

Students Won't Be Quiet / Satarupa Chakraborty, Pindiga Ambedkar (ed)

New Delhi: LeftWord Books, 2022

354p.; 22 cm.

9788195354634

350gm.

\$ 13.50 / pb

Students Won't Be Quiet is a book that documents the stories of how students across the country have fought to define our idea of India. Students Won't Be Quiet records some historic student movements, which began with issues at the local level but became national issues. Each of the struggles documented in this book is fought on two levels, simultaneously separate yet integrated – they raise the immediate demands of the students, and they fight to keep Indian democracy alive. At the heart of these struggles is the fight to defend the inheritance of the freedom movement and of the early decades of nation-building: democracy, pluralism, secularism, and socialism. The book has a pan-India character, with essays on Banaras Hindu University, Delhi University, Film and Television Institute of India (Pune), Hyderabad Central University, Indian Institute of Science (Bengaluru), Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Jadavpur University (Kolkata), Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi), Pondicherry University, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai), as well as on students' struggles in Assam, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=837028>

Sabarimala: Social History of a Temple in Kerala / Jitheesh P.M. Introduction by Meera Velayudhan

New Delhi: Leftword Books, 2022

155p.; 22 cm.

Includes Bibliography.

9788194077831

250gm.

\$ 6.50 / pb

Several surprising facts about the Sabarimala temple have been drowned out by the noise over the need to protect its traditions. Some relate to the tradition regarding the entry of women, and others put a question mark over the very validity of any and all of its traditions. The author uses news reports, court judgments, and a variety of other sources to show that the controversy around women's entry into the temple is of very recent origin. The second part of the book, *Before Sabarimala Became Sabarimala*, discusses in detail the history of the temple, its deep connections to the local community and traces of Christian and Muslim influence, as well as how the Ayyappa legend was co-opted by Brahminical Hinduism, and later by right-wing Hindutva forces. As the book shows, not only does this create a communally charged atmosphere but, more importantly, it claims for Hinduism an essentially tribal cult. This book . . . provides a rich story. . . . A well-documented book such as this one will, hopefully, generate more informed debates in the tradition of Kerala's Renaissance. Meera Velayudhan.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=837039>

Indology

Vedic Sakhas: Past, Present, Future (Proceedings of the Fifth International Vedic Workshop Bucharest 2011) / E.M. Houben, Julieta Rotaru & Michael Witzel

New Delhi: Dev Publishers and Distributors, 2023

ix, 1050p.; 25 cm.

Includes Index.

9789394852204

1750gm.

\$ 162.50 / hb

The 41 papers in the present volume by Vedic scholars from Europe (Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, U.K.), from the U.S.A., from India and from Japan, contribute to "the study of a civilization based on its texts" – the brief definition of philology given in Michael Witzel's Introduction to the Proceedings of the First International Vedic Workshop edited by Michael Witzel (1997). The papers, although many may cover more than one field or topic, are placed in three broad categories. The second category is further divided Veda-wise. : 1) GENERAL STUDIES AND TOPICS ON ŚĀKHĀS: twelve papers in connection with the theme of the conference, Vedic Śākhās: past, present, future; 2) Twenty three SPECIFIC STUDIES ON ŚĀKHĀS: five on ṛg Veda, ten on Yajur Veda, three on Sāma Veda, five on Atharva Veda; 3) LINGUISTIC STUDIES: six studies on linguistic issues in connection with the Vedas and the Vedic Śākhās.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=835196>

Literature

Stories of the True / Jeyamohan; Priyamvada Ramkumar (Translator)

New Delhi : Juggernaut Books, 2022

xix, 303p.; 24cm.

9789393986177

600gm.

\$ 20.00 / HB

Containing iconic stories like 'Elephant Doctor' and 'A Hundred Armchairs', this collection by the great Tamil writer Jeyamohan, brings together twelve inspiring and imaginative narratives, all based on the lives of real people. These stories explore the capacity of humans to hold on to their intrinsic goodness in the face of both the everyday and the extraordinary, and how their response in such moments of truth finds expression in multitudinous ways. Gripping, often raw and deeply moving, this striking collection, the first major translation of Jeyamohan's work in English, will renew your faith in humanity.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=833665>

The Education of Yuri / Jerry Pinto

New Delhi: Speaking Tiger Book LLP, 2022

403p.; 23 cm.

9789354472688

460gm.

\$ 15.00 / pb

At fifteen, Yuri Fonseca of downmarket Mahim—sometimes awkward, sometimes lonely—gets lucky. He finds a friend, Muzammil Merchant of upmarket Pedder Road. Then he loses him, and almost finds him again. In between, he learns something about jealousy, shame, desire and guilt. He stumbles into his first sexual encounter, and he thinks he has fallen in love. He understands how one can hurt and be hurt, and how one can give and find unexplained happiness. He struggles to write poetry, worries if he will ever get and hold a job, and flirts briefly with Naxalism.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=835195>

Performing Arts

Natyamandapams and Kuttampalams / Parameswaran Murthiyedath

New Delhi: Sangeet Natak Akademi, 2022

xxiv, 224p.; ill. 24 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9788195560226

800gm.

\$ 40.00 / pb

Natyasöstra by Bharatamuni is believed to have been written circa 2nd c. BC and describes the natyamandapa, where the performances were meant to be held. The concepts and requirements of the construction of the natyamandapas have been prescribed in good detail in the Natyasöstra. The author follows a meticulous documentation of the natyamandapas and kuttampalams in different parts of the southern State of Kerala. Since a natyamandapa as described in the Ndyofdsta is not found anywhere else in India, this book should create a new interest in the subject. All the architectural and engineering data presented in the book have been culled from the respective design files of each

küttampalam. It is hoped that this book would receive acceptance and will be accessed by the discerning readers who are interested in the subject.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=837041>

Politics

The Sheathed Sword: From Nuclear Brink to No First Use / Prakash Menon, Aditya Ramanathan (Ed)

New Delhi: Bloombury Publishing India Pvt. Ltd., 2022

ix, 305p.; 22 cm.

Includes Index.

9789354355806

660gm.

\$ 32.50 / hb

After a brief interlude following the Cold War, nuclear weapons have regained their prominent place in world affairs. Yet our current nuclear age will not be a replay of the Cold War. New technologies, changing political contexts and the death of old arms-control agreements mean that today's nuclear strategists have to navigate uncharted waters filled with fresh perils. Unfortunately, the consequences of failure in the nuclear world can be catastrophic. The immediate imperative today is to lower the possibility of nuclear weapons use during a crisis or conflict involving nuclear powers. While deliberate or pre-emptive nuclear use is less likely, the rising danger of our time is that nuclear weapons will be employed due to some combination of miscommunication, misjudgment, misperception and sheer accident.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=832928>
