

Recent Books of Art and Art History - August 2008

Office

Blk 231, Bain Street
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex
Singapore 180231
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204
Fax : +65-6883-2144
info@marymartin.com
www.marymartin.com

Rustic Ragas : Inner melodies of Thota Vaikuntam / edited by Diana Romany
New Delhi : Timeless Books and AbMaa Publishing, c2008
147 p. : ill. ; 30 cm
81-89497-15-4
978-81-89497-15-6
\$ 45.00

[This book presents fifteen new dramatic paintings by Hyderabad-based artist Vaikuntam. The artist grew up in a village called Boorugupalli in the Karimnagar district within the Telangana heartland of Andhra Pradesh. The people of his village have often been depicted in his work, especially his portrayals of women- they could be his mother, an entertainer, a neighbour, a labourer, a gaze encountered in the teeming bazaar, even a family friend from his childhood. Vaikuntam's Telangana folk meld the memory of his eyes and his fingers. They embody a unique world, of daily rites of life couched within an imaginative terrain.]

Faces of Indian art : Through the lens of Nemai Ghosh / Nemai Ghosh
New Delhi : Art Alive Gallery, c2007
387 p. ; 28 cm.
978-81-901844-5-8
\$ 15.00

[This book takes the reader on a journey that is quite unique. For the first time ever, you are allowed an insider's view of how the artist works in his own private domain - at work in his studio. This is private space of introspection or feverish activity, with the artist in solitude and in dialogue with his work.]

Islamic Art in Cairo : From the Seventh to the Eighteenth Centuries
/ Prisse d'Avennes
Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 2007
228p. ; 24cm.
ISBN : 977416119X
Islamic arts - 18th century
\$ 29.95

"France perfected the art of the dessinateur in the early 19th century, relating it to the newer crafts of lithography, colored printing from metal or stone plates, and eventually photography. This art can be relished in the thousands of drawing assembled in the Description d'Egypte, Napoleon's eternal gift to the civilization of the Nile Valley. Emile Prisse d'Avennes was the contingent their of this legacy; indeed he may be deemed its pinnacle in the color reproduction of ten enhanced his purely linear talents. It would be a courageous Egyptologist at the very end of the twentieth century who would eschew the use of the two volumes of illustrations in his Atlas de l'art Egyptien because many are of buildings or decoration which have disappeared. The very same reasons obtain for his equally monumental L'art arabe

d'après les monuments du Kaire, in three volumes, the subject of this new updated edition."

What's the use of Art? : Asian visual and material culture on context / (eds.) Jan Mrazek and Morgan Pitelka

USA : University of Hawai'i Press, c2008

313p. ; 24cm. Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN : 9780824830632 HC

1. Art objects, Asian.
2. Material culture-Asia.
3. Antiques-Asia.

\$ 58.00

Post-Enlightenment notions of culture, which have been naturalized in the West for centuries, require that art be autonomously beautiful, universal, and devoid of any practical purpose. The authors of this multidisciplinary volume seek to complicate this understanding of art by examining art objects from across Asia with attention to their functional, ritual, and everyday context. From tea bowls used in the Japanese tea ceremony to television broadcasts of Javanese puppet theater, from Indian wedding-chamber paintings to art looted by the British army from the Chinese emperor's palace, from the adventures of a Balinese magical dagger to the political functions of classical Khmer images - the authors challenge prevailing notions of artistic value by introducing new ways of thinking about culture.

Beyond Orientalism : How the west was won over by Islamic Art / Lucien de Guise
Kuala Lumpur : Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, 2008

237p.

978-938-43211-7-8

1. Decorative Arts, Islamic Influences – Exhibitions
2. Decorative Arts, Islamic Influences – Catalogs

\$ 35.00

Alif Ba Ta : The Life and Times of Ahmad Khaild Yusof / Zakaria Ali
Kuala Lumpur : National Art Gallery, 2004

161p.

983-9572-69-5

Malaysian Artists' Series

\$ 6.00

Sri Lanka Sculpture – Buddha / Nandana Chutiwongs (et.al)

Sri Lanka : Central Culture fund of Sri Lanka, c2007

112 p. : ill. ; 46 cm.

Includes plates and bibliography.

CCF Publication No. 419

955-613-207-4

\$ 150.00

Pearls / Simryn Gill

Colombo : Raking leaves, c2008

201 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

978-0-95566740-4

\$ 40.00

Pearls is a photographic record of Gill's ongoing bead-making project, in which she makes books into bead necklaces.

The One Year drawing project : May 2005-October 2007 / Edited by Sharmini Pereira
Colombo : Raking leaves, c2008

v. : ill. ; 27 cm.

978-0-9556674-1-1

\$ 45.00

[The book brings together the exchange that ensued between the four artists in response, and as a consequence, to the initial four drawings. It includes all 208 drawings from the project, presented in sequence and in their entirety. As a book, the project documents an exchange of view-points-artistic and ideological-sustained during a period of violent conflict in Sri Lanka. A chronology, compiled by the artists, recalls the background of events against which this project infolded.]

Sigiriya : Kassapa's homage to beauty / Siri Gunasinghe

Colombo : Vijitha yapa publications, c2008

112 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

Includes bibliography and index.

978-955-665-003-7

\$ 35.00

[This fascinating royal residence has been thought of as a fortress providing Kassapa refuge from his vengeful brother (did Kassapa suffer from 'fatriphobia'), as a monastery and also as a replica of the heavenly abode of the god of wealth; all these thoughts underscore Sigiriya's propensity to overwhelm the seeker for meaning. Whatever Sigiriya is not, it is undoubtedly a great seat of joy both for its creator and the likes of him. Sigiriya's concern is beauty, both natural and man made.]

Making Visible the Invisible ; Three Decades of the Singapore Arts Festival / Venka Purushothaman

Singapore : National Arts Council, 2007

251p.

978-981-05-9564-7

\$ 20.00

Unusual Encounters : Javanese Batik in Krakow = Niezwykle Spotkania : Jawajski Batik W Krakowie / (ed.) Teresa Lesniak

Poland : Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology, Krakow, 2007

62p. ; 30cm.

9788392440765

Bilingual in English & Polish.

\$ 35.00

This catalogue complements the ongoing 2007/2008 exhibitions of Javanese and Polish batik at the Manggha Museum in Krakow. Javanese batik was enjoyed and collected by Polish employees and officers of the Dutch administration in Java and some of these artefacts are in Polish collections. A workshop for creating batik was successfully started in Krakow in 1920. Fifteen examples of the Krakow work in cloth and ceramic are illustrated along with 22 examples from Java. With explanatory essays and bibliography. Bilingual in Polish.

Indonesian Odyssey : A Private Journey Through Indonesia's Most Fine Art Collections / Helena Spanjaard.

Singapore : Equinox Publishing (Asia) Pte Ltd, c2008

320p. ; 31cm.

ISBN -13 : 978979378061

\$ 65.00

IT IS WELL-KNOWN that Indonesia is blessed with very rich and varied cultural traditions. From Aceh in West to Papua in the East, one finds spectacular creativity expressed through song, dance and in particular, art. It is only in recent years that the international art market has awakened to these treasures created throughout the archipelago, but due to the scarcity of well-developed and properly maintained public museums, the majority of these masterpieces are obtained by private collectors for their homes. This results in scores of private museums scattered around the country where the treasures are carefully preserved in the notoriously humid tropical climate. In the past, the only way to view these artworks would be via a personal invitation to these private homes. This book, *Indonesian Odyssey*, opens the doors to these collections for the world to see and enjoy.

Modern Indonesian Art: From Raden Saleh to the Present Day / Suwarno Wisetrotomo (introduction)

Bali: Koes Artbooks, 2006

336p,; 31cm

ISBN: 9789798704024

\$ 80.00

Modern Indonesian Art provides the reader with a comprehensive guide to Indonesian artists and their works, from the mid 19th century to the present day.

The text has combined the essential biographical data for each artist with a selective description of their work. The entries are concise and informative, and provide essential knowledge to give access to the work of the artist. The hope is to excite and inspire reaction to the state of the art as well as offering useful reference information. The structure is in chronological order, older before younger, showing an exciting mix of various art movements, styles, periods, techniques and leading to interesting comparisons between artists.

The Influence of Turkic Culture on Mamluk Carpets / Sumiyo Okumura

Istanbul: Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), 2007

277p,; 31cm

Includes bibliographical references

Bibliography: p. 269-276

ISBN: 9789290631644

Islamic Art Series : 11

1. Carpets, Mamluk.
2. Carpets, Mamluk—Catalogs.
3. Art, Mamluk—Turkic influences.
4. Civilization, Turkic.

\$ 120.00

This book introduces the Mamluk carpets to us from an original perspective. These carpets were renowned throughout the world and considered as most valuable both by Mamluk sultans and western aristocrats until the sixteenth century. Mamluk carpets are thought to have been woven in Egypt, Syria and Southeast Anatolia and can be distinguished from other carpets in their many unique characteristics, which the author examines comprehensively and in detailed manner. The analysis is enriched by an evaluation of the influence of Turkic cultures on Mamluk carpets in the light of the historical relationship between the Mongols, the Ikhans and the Mamluks. The book will appeal to the researcher as well as to the general reader.

From Surface to Origin: Journeys Through Recent Art from India & Thailand

Bangkok: Gallery Souflower, 2008
160p,; 28cm
ISBN: 9789741367498
\$ 25.00

Here There Now: Contemporary Art from India / Brian Curtin
Bangkok: Gallery Souflower, 2007
147p,; 27cm
ISBN-13: 9789747046632
\$ 35.00

Spiritual Spaces: An Art Exhibition to Celebrate Thavibu Gallery's 10th Anniversary
Bangkok: Thavibu Gallery Co. Ltd, 2008
57p,; 31cm
\$ 40.00

In Transition: Contemporary Cambodian Artists
Phnom Penh: Reyum Institute, 2008
73p,; 20cm
ISBN 9789995055370
In English & Khmer
\$ 25.00

Ritual Art of the Kingdom of Mithila : Traditional Paintings by Janakpur Women in
Nepal / Alessandra Campoli
Kathmandu : Vaijra Publications, c2008
158 p. ; 17 cm.
978-9937-506-09-0
\$ 30.00

[Over the Millennia, a still vibrant school of painting has been handed down in the female line in what used to be the ancient Kingdom of Mithila. Janakpur, located in the Terai region in southern Nepal, is thought to have been the capital of the kingdom of Mithila from its foundation. The paintings have the purpose of attracting the deity's presence during the celebrations in his or her honour and a blessing on the family members of the house where they are painted.]

Osians's Swaraj for the Arts
Mumbai : Osian's Connoisseurs of Art Pvt.Ltd., 2008
241 p. ; ill. ; 27 cm.
81-8174-024-6
Art Auction Catalogue
\$ 50.00

[Contents :
Lots 1 -20 : Modern Masters and The Bengal School
Lots 21-106 : Post-War Master and Modernism
Lots 107-132 : Contemporary Art
Lots 133-155 : Rare Book on Modern Art from the Indian Sub-continent
Lots 156-201 : Vintage Film Memorabilia

Symphonies in stone (Kakatiya Sculpture) / Kasi Bhatla Viswanadham
Hanamkonda: K.Vijayalakshmi, 2008
107 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Includes references.

\$ 5.00

Kathputli : the world of Rajasthani Puppeteers / Nazir Ali Jairazbhoy

Ahmedabad : Rainbow Publishers, c2007

viii, 280 p. : ill. ; 25 cm

Includes Bibliography and Index

1-88051-30-5 (HB)

\$ 31.25

[The book explores elements of Rajasthani Kathputli puppetry- one of several traditions of string or marionette puppetry that evolved in Europe, Asia and Africa. In addition to performance techniques, it focuses on the views and attitudes expressed by the hereditary puppeteers, the Kathputli Bhats, through their art as well as through their verbal expressions. Interviews with forty-seven puppeteers, photographs, and audio and video recordings of Kathputli events form the basis of the book, collected during field research from 1978 to 1995 in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Mumbai, New Delhi, Pakistan, and Washington, D.C]

Rajput Painting : Romantic, divine and courtly art from India / Roda Ahluwalia

Ahmedabad : Mapin publishing, c2008

176 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

Includes bibliography, references and index.

978-81-89995-16-4

\$ 37.50

Bharat Mata : India's Freedom movement in popular art / Erwin Neumayer

New Delhi : Oxford University Press, c2008

xx, 218 p. : ill ; 30 cm

Includes Bibliography and Index

978-0-19-568518-3

0-19-568518-0

\$ 68.75

[This volume presents a collection of display prints that were omnipresent during India's struggle for independence, and have fundamentally revolutionized our understanding of the role of visual narrative. Serving as a visual tour d'horizon to various facets of the Indian freedom movement, it allows readers space to interpret this tumultuous historical experience of the twentieth century. It also helps us explore, on the 60th anniversary of India's freedom struggle, new facets of the movement that may have gone unnoticed until now.]

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