



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

# Expressions of India

From the Ronald M and Catherine H Berndt Collection

Online exhibition from 11 July 2020

The Berndt Museum of Anthropology in collaboration with The University of Western Australia's Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery will present a new online exhibition [\*Expressions of India: From the Ronald M. and Catherine H. Berndt Collection\*](#), launching on the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery website on Saturday 11 July 2020.

Curated by Berndt Museum staff Sofie Nielsen and Michael Houston in consultation with Professor Krishna Sen of the department of Asian Studies, *Expressions of India* features a selection of 54 paintings created in India from across the 18th to 20th centuries and collected by anthropologists Ronald and Catherine Berndt.

Originally intended as a physical exhibition, *Expressions of India* changed shape in response to Covid-19. Featuring high-quality images, accompanying text, new research, animated video and educational activities, the digital exhibition will give audiences the opportunity to explore and learn from this special collection of artworks.

The Berndt Museum's Sofie Nielsen said the exhibition drew upon three distinct styles of painting: Pattachitra, Kalighat and Court styles.

"Brought together, they illustrate the shifting influences across India's history and the different ways artists responded to these influences," she said.

Michael Houston said while the paintings were distinct in style, theme, regional origin and date of creation, an undeniable commonality existed in their illustration and celebration of Indian culture.

"This is likely what so captivated Ronald and Catherine Berndt, on both a personal and academic level," he said.

The works are part of the Berndts' substantial collection of Asian and Aboriginal Australian art and objects, which forms the basis of the Collection of the Berndt Museum of Anthropology.

Mr Houston said Ronald and Catherine Berndt understood the significance of Australia's place within the Indian Ocean Rim.

"They championed the advancement of Asian Studies within Australian universities and cultivated institutional relationships spanning not only the country but oceans as well," he said.

Expressions of India highlights not only a wide range of voices, perspectives and contexts relating to Indian culture, but also the Berndts' own interest in breathing new life into culture through research and social inquiry, a legacy that continues through the Berndt Museum at UWA.

In addition to *Expressions of India*, audiences will also have the opportunity to experience the Berndt Museum's exhibition *Boomerang – A National Symbol*, which will re-open to the public at Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery on Saturday 29 August 2020.

For more information and opening hours, visit the [Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery website](#).

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## Additional Information

Exhibition Website: <http://uwa.edu.au/lwag/exhibitions/expressions-of-india>

Media Images: [High resolution images available here](#)

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## Media Enquiries

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Image: *Narasimha Fighting Hiranyakashipu the Demon King* mid-20th century. Odisha, India. Opaque watercolour on cloth, 12.8 x 20.4 cm. Bequest of RM & CH Berndt, Berndt Museum of Anthropology Collection [1994/0851]



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