NACHIKET CHANCHANI

EMPLOYMENT

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Associate Professor of South Asian Art and Visual Culture, History of Art Department, (2021 – present)
Director of the Museum Studies Program, Rackham Graduate School, (2026 – present)
Associate Professor of South Asian Art and Visual Culture, History of Art Department and Asian Languages and Cultures Department, (2018 – 2021)
Adjunct Professor of Law, (2018)
Assistant Professor of South Asian Art and Visual Culture, History of Art Department and Asian Languages and Cultures Department, (2012 – 2018)

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Ph.D. in the History of Art, (2012)

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis-St. Paul
M.A. in Art History, (2007)

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, Kolkata
Research Training Programme, (2005). The Government of India recognizes this programme to be equivalent to a M.Phil. degree.

Muskingum College, New Concord
B.A. Majors: History and Studio Art. Minor English Literature, (2004)

The Doon School, Dehradun
CISCE, Indian School Certificate Examination, (2001)

Additional Education

Ohio State University, Columbus
John Glenn School of Public Affairs, Washington, DC: Washington Academic Internship Program, (2003)

University of California, Irvine
Summer School, (2002)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Mountain Temples and Temple Mountains: Architecture, Religion, and Nature in the Central Himalayas, Seattle: University of Washington Press, (2019)
South Asian edition: Niyogi Books, New Delhi, (2021)

Reviews:

- Satish C. Aikant in *Garhwal Post* (newspaper), June 9, 2024
- Amy-Ruth Holt in *International Journal of Hindu Studies,* 27.1 (2023), 283-285
- Sathya Prakash Varanashi in *Landscape: Journal of Landscape Architecture* 72 (2022), 52-54.
- James Lochtefeld in *Reading Religion,* American Academy of Religion, October 25, 2022
- Lokesh Ohri in *The Book Review,* 41.3 (2022), 26-27
- PTI, *Assam Tribune* (newspaper), February 12, 2022
- Press Trust of India (PTI), (India's largest news agency; like Reuters and Associated Press), February 9, 2022

- Raaja Bhasain in *The Pioneer* (newspaper), January 23, 2022
- David Andolfatto in *European Bulletin of Himalayan Research,* 55 (2020), 80-99
- Valérie Gillet in *Arts Asiatiques,* 75 (2020), 180-182
- Vasudha Pande in *The Indian Economic and Social History Review,* 57.3 (2020), 429-432
- Tamara Sears in *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians,* 79.1 (2020), 104-106
- Joseph Alter in *Journal of Asian Studies*, 79.2 (2020), 455-457
- Nokmedemla Lemtur in *Südasien-Chronik,* 9 (2019), 309-327
- L.L. Lam-Easton in *Choice* 57.2 (2019), 162

Amaruśataka and the Lives of Indian Love Poems (co-authored with Jahnabi Barooah Chanchani) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya: Mumbai, (2022)

India's Composite Heritage: A Workbook for Children and Parents, Aleph Book Company: New Delhi, (2022). Reprinted: 2023

Journal Articles

Forthcoming in 2027: "Vassals and Vessels: Dynamics of Interdependence in Assam's Brahmaputra Valley," *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 90 (17,000 words)

Forthcoming in 2027: "Subversive Smiths: Crafting Sovereignty in a Colonial Age" *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* new series, 37. 1 (15,500 words)

"Buddhas and Bowls" *Archives of Asian Art*, 76.2 (2026) 112-134.

"The Skin of Trees: Escape and Healing in Cambodia," *Journal of Asian Studies*, 84.1 (2025), 205-238

"Modern Postural Yoga in an Expanded Field," *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics,* 78 (2021), 233-249

"Castles of the Heartland: Place-Making in Early Modern Bundelkhand," *Arts Asiatiques*, 76 (2021), 47-66

"Time Machines of Eighteenth-Century Mewar," *Archives of Asian Art,* 70.2 (2021), 219-241
Honorable Mention, Rare Books School, Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography, 2022 Essay Prize

"As Many Pebbles, So Many Shivas," *Artibus Asiae,* 80.2 (2020), 211-238

"Kindred Spirits in a Pahari Painting," *Bulletin of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya*, 3 (2020), 50-63

"Folding and Faulting: The Formation of 'Himalayan Art,'" *South Asian Studies,* 34.2 (2019), 93-113

"Love and Longing in a Mewari Painting," *Aziatische* Kunst, 48.1 (2018), 55-64

"Paper *Prāsāda*s" *Artibus Asiae,* 76.2 (2016), 1-19
Reprinted in Pika Ghosh and Pushkar Sohoni eds., *Chakshudana or Opening the Eyes, Seeing South Asian Art Anew* (Routledge: Abingdon, Oxon 2023), 111-132

"Pandukeshwar, Architectural Knowledge, and An Idea of India," *Ars Orientalis,* 45 (2015), 14-42

"On the Task of Identifying New Archives," *Ars Orientalis,* 45 (2015), 163-166

"Introduction," *Ars Orientalis,* 45 (2015), 7-13 (co-authored with Tamara Sears)

"From Asoda to Almora, The Roads Less Taken: Māru-Gurjara Architecture in the Central Himalayas," *Arts Asiatiques*, 69 (2014), 3-16

"The Jageshwar Valley: Where Death is Conquered," *Archives of Asian Art,* 63. 2 (2013), 133-154

"The Camera Work of Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy and Alfred Stieglitz," *History of Photography,* 37.2, (2013), 204-220

"Telling Tales: The Freer *Vasanta Vilāsa*," *Artibus Asiae*, 72.1 (2012), 123-140

"Gandhi's (In)fidelity: Some Reflections on Art Writing and Translation in Colonial India," *Art in Translation,* 2.2 (2010), 239-252

Editorial and Opinion Pieces in Leading Newspapers

"A display plan for the Piprawaha relics," *The Hindu* (January 19, 2026)

"A conservation manual, drafted by the ordinary citizen," *The Hindu*, (August 18, 2025)

"The issues with state-sponsored street art," *The Hindu,* (July 24, 2024)

"A thumbs down for the 'Adopt a Heritage' scheme," *The Hindu,* (March 1, 2023)

"Tunnel vision that is endangering India's history," *The Hindu,* (July 20, 2022)

"Art museums and the craft of democracy," *The Hindu*, (April 23, 2022)

"The agonizing cost of ham-handed development," *The Hindu,* (February 12, 2021)

"The importance of art in the age of coronavirus," *The Indian Express*, (May 17, 2020)

"India, land of many masks," *The Hindu,* (April 25, 2020)

"Museums without meaning," *The Hindu*, (February 17,2020)

"Where is Nandi's home?," *The Hindu*, (April 10, 2019)

"'Monuments Men' needed in Nepal," *The Hindu*, (May 6, 2015)

"Leaving no stone unturned," *The Hindu,* (August 17, 2013)

Chapters in Edited Volumes

Forthcoming: "Nainsukh: A Horse Trader?" in *Critical Visuality: An Interdisciplinary Turn* edited by Akshaya Kumar, Yousuf Saeed, and Gaurav Kalra (Routledge: Abingdon, 2027 or 2028)

"Of a Porcine Mother and her Tamil Children," *Conversations with the Animate Other: Historical Representations of Human and non-Human Interactions in India*, edited by Aloka Parasher-Sen (Bloomsbury: New Delhi, 2023), 123-139

Reviewed by Kiran Keshavamurthy in *The Frontline* (fortnightly magazine), January 04, 2025

"The Ascendancy of Shiva and the Rise of Wilderness Urbanism," in *A History of Hindu Architecture in India* edited by Cathleen Cummings and Richard Etlin (Berlin: E.B. Verlag, 2022), 141-158

"The Aesthetics of Simultaneity in the Early Deccan," in *Questioning Paradigms, Constructing Histories: A Festschrift for Romila Thapar*, edited by Kumkum Roy and Naina Dalal (New Delhi: Aleph Book Company and The Book Review Literary Trust, 2019), 69-86

Reviewed by Mekola Gomes in *The Economic and Political Weekly* on March 07, 2020

Reviewed by Soumen Mukherjee in *The Telegraph* on June 06, 2019
Reviewed by Suchandra Ghosh in *The Hindu* on May 09, 2019

"Lead, Kindly Light: A Preliminary Study of a Sculpture of a Lamp Bearer from Jageshwar Valley," in *Temple Architecture and Imagery of South and Southeast Asia: Prāsādanidhi: Papers Presented to Professor M.A. Dhaky*, edited by Parul Pandya Dhar and Gerd J.R. Mevissen (New Delhi: Aryan Publishers, 2016), 343-57
Reviewed by Suchandra Ghosh in *The Frontline* on June 8, 2016

"Cultural Cache" in *Jaina Manuscript Painting and Literary Culture*, edited by Julia Hegewald (Berlin: E.B. Verlag, 2015), 129-44

"Revelation in Rock: Thal," in *Art, Icon, and Architecture in South Asia: Studies in Honour of Devangana Desai*, edited by Anna L. Dallapiccola and Anila Verghese (New Delhi: Aryan Publishers, 2015), 348-59

Guest Editorship of Peer Reviewed Journals

South Asian Studies, volume 34 no. 2, guest editor of an issue entitled "Looking Askance at 'Himalayan Art,'" 2019

Ars Orientalis volume 45, co-guest editor (with Tamara I. Sears) of a volume on the "Transmission of Architectural Knowledge in Medieval India," 2015

Chapters in Textbooks

In press: "Life in Northeast India," chapter in a Social Science Textbook for Grade VI, commissioned by the State Council of Education Research and Training, Government of Assam, India. To be used in middle schools across the state of Assam

Book Reviews

Review of Boreth Ly, *Traces of Trauma: Cambodian Visual Culture and National Identity in the Aftermath of Genocide* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2020) in *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, vol. 32, no. 1 (2022), 272-274

Review of Vijaya Nagarajan, *Feeding a Thousand Souls: Women, Ritual, and Ecology in India – An Exploration of the Kolam* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018) in *Journal of Asian Studies,* vol. 80, no. 2 (2021), 515-516

Review of Valmik Thapar, Romila Thapar, and Yusuf Ansari, *Exotic Aliens: The Lion and Cheetah in India* (New Delhi: Aleph, 2013) in *Marg* vol. 66, no. 3 (2015), 86-88

Review of Alka Hingorani, *Making Faces* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2012) in *The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society,* vol. 23, no. 4 (2013), 589-591

Review of Mary Shepherd Slusser, *The Antiquity of Nepalese Wood Carving: A Reassessment* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2010) in *Journal of Asian Studies,* vol. 71, no. 2, (2012), 576-578

Translations

(from Gujarati, with Babu Suthar): Sarabhai Manilal Nawab, "The Art of Gujarat Patronized by the Jains and its History," *Art in Translation* vol 2, no. 3 (2010), 261-308

(from Sanskrit and Gujarati, with Deven M. Patel): M.A. Dhaky and P.O. Sompura, "A Temple for Ascending to Heaven," *Art in Translation* vol 2, no. 1 (2010), 79-86

Works in Progress

"Empty Vessels Full of Meaning" (edited book, under review)

"Vassals and Vessels" (journal article, under review)

"Bird Artists Confront Partition" (journal article under preparation)

"Vessels and Values: The Arts of Survivance in Riverine Assam" (monograph, under preparation)

SELECT INVITED TALKS

"Harvard University. Department of the History of Art and Architecture Lecture Series: "Fullness of Emptiness in Zomia" (tentative title, 2027)

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. Center for Transcultural Studies. Lecture Series: "Can Bird Artists Change the World?" (2026)

Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá. Historias del Arte Transculturales. "Purva Uttara." (2026)

National Law School University of India, Bangalore. Seminar Series: "Bird Artists Confront Partition." (2026)

India International Centre, New Delhi. Annual S.L. Parasher Memorial Lecture, "Bird Artists Confronting a 'Failed Partition.'" (2026)

University of Toronto, Mississauga. Centre for South Asian Critical Humanities. Seminar Series: "Subversive Smiths."(2026)

University of Toronto, Scarborough. Culinaria Research Centre. "Twenty-Five Vessels and their Histories." (2026)

Ashoka University, Sonepat. Department of History and Center for Interdisciplinary Archaeological Research Seminar Series: "Buddhist Containerization." (2025)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Institute for the Humanities, Hear, Here Series: "The Crafty Bird Men of Poa Mecca."

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. School of Arts and Aesthetics Seminar Series, "The Taxidermy of Trees?" (2025)

University of Delhi, Delhi. Department of History, Seminar Series: "Subversive Smiths." (2025)

Bard Graduate Center, New York. Global Middle Ages Series: "Of Buddhas and Bowls." (2024)

Bard Graduate Center, New York. Lunchtime Seminar Series: "Shaping Vessels, Shaping Lives." (2024)

Bard Graduate Center, New York. Friday Series: "Scrolls, Time, and the Shape of History." (2024)

National Gallery Singapore, Supreme Court Wing: "In the Skin of Trees: Escape and Healing in Cambodia." (2022)

Hamburg University, Hamburg. Center for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, Permanent Seminar Series: "Fast Forward, Play, and Rewind: The Role of a Scroll in Princely Mewar." (2022)

School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London. Department of Art History and Archaeology, Indian Art Circle Lecture Series: "Time Machines of Eighteenth-Century Mewar." (2021)

Ashoka University, Sonepat. Department of History, Seminar Series: "Time and the Shape of History in Mewar." (2021)

Smart Green Cities, an initiative of Tübingen, Germany and Dehradun, India (sister cities): Himalayas as a Sacred Landscape: Reflections on Heritage and Identity." (2020)

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Department of the History of Art, Colloquium Series: "Modern Postural Yoga in an Expanded Field." (2019)

University of Vienna, Vienna. Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Documentation of Inner and South Asian Cultural History and Department of South Asian, Tibetan, and Buddhist Studies, Colloquium: "As Many Pebbles, So Many Shivas: Encounters and Reflections in Lakhamandal." (2019)

Kunsthistorisches Institut-Max Planck Institute, Florence. Scientific Advisory Board Meeting, Talk: "From Sangameshwar to Sambor Prei Kuk: Chalukyan Temples in Cambodia." (2019)

Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Berlin. Institute of Art and Visual History, Fellow Talk Series: "Art of Yoga." (2019)

Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin. Art Histories Seminar: "Picture Recitation and the Remaking of Western India." (2019)

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. Center for Transcultural Studies, Cluster of Excellence, Asia and Europe in a Global Context, Lecture: "Modern Postural Yoga in an Expanded Field." (2019)

Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms Universität Bonn, Department of Asian and Islamic Art History, Institute of Oriental and Asian Studies, Lecture: "Beethoven and Bellur: Yehudi Menuhin and the Art of Yoga." (2019)

Hamburg Universität, Hamburg, NE Tamil and Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, Lecture: "Citralekha: Painting with Words and Writing with Letters in Western India." (2019)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Institute for the Humanities, Humanities and Environments Series: "The Rise of Wilderness Urbanism in Medieval India." (2018)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Department of the History Art, Seminar Series: "Modern Postural Yoga in an Expanded Field." (2018)

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Department of English, Seminar Series on the History of Material Texts: "Orality and Visuality in the *Vasanta Vilāsa*." (with Deven M. Patel), (2017)

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai. Endowed Special Lecture: "Aesthetic Practices in Western India in the Vernacular Millennium." (2017).

Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit. Arts and Minds Lecture Series: "Moving Mountains: The Construction of Sacrality in the Central Himalayas." (2016)

India International Centre, New Delhi. Lecture Series: "Monumental Mountains: The Making of the Char Dham Yatra." (2016)

Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien, Vienna. Lecture Series: "Conservation Challenges in India and the Himalayas: Policies and Practices." (2016)

Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms Universität Bonn, Bonn. Institute of Oriental and Asian Studies: "Crafting Devabhumi, A Land of the Gods in the World of Men." (2016)

Universiteit Leiden, Leiden. Kern Institute, Lecture Series: "The Emergence of the Himalayas as a Sacred Landscape." (2016)

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Centre for Historical Studies, Seminar Series: "Pandukeshwar, Architectural Knowledge, and an Idea of India." (2015)

University of Delhi, Delhi. Department of History, Seminar Series: "The Emergence of the Himalayas as a Sacred Landscape." (2015)

Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi. Seminar Series: "From Kiradu to Kumaon: Architectural Mobility and the Making of India." (2015)

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai. Endowed Special Lecture: "Emergence of the Himalayas as a Sacred Landscape," (2015)

University of Chicago, Mumbai. South Asia Center, Lecture Series: "The Descent of the Ganga and the Ascent of the Dravida." (2015)

Princeton University, Princeton. Program in South Asian Studies, Seminar Series: "Figures of Speech: Picturing Poetry in Fifteenth Century Gujarat." (2013)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Centre for South Asian Studies, Seminar Series: "Figures of Speech: Picturing Poetry in Fifteenth Century Gujarat." (2013)

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai. Endowed Special Lecture: "The Camera Work of Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy and the Stieglitz Circle." (2013)

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, Kolkata. Seminar Series: "Multiple Exposure: Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy and the Stieglitz Circle." (2013)

Jnanapravaha, Mumbai. Special Lectures Series: "Maru-Gurjara Monuments in the Central Himalayas." (2013)

National Museum of Asian Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Research-in-Progress Lecture Series: "Paint and Pleasure." (2013)

Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Curatorial Work-in-Progress Seminar: "Play, Performance, and Prestige: The Belles Lettres of Medieval Gujarat." (2012)

Jnanapravaha, Mumbai, Special Lecture Series: "Telling Tales: The Freer *Vasanta Vilasa*." (2011)

Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute, Pune. Annual Day Lecture: "Forms and Meanings in Hindu Temple Architecture." (2011)

Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), New Delhi. Lecture Series: "Where the Wild Things Are: Animals in Indian Art." (2011)

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Center for Historical Studies, Faculty Seminar Series: "Text and Textile: The Freer *Vasanta Vilasa*." (2010)

Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. Special Lecture Series: "An Enduring Diversity." (2009)

SELECT CONFERENCE PAPERS, PANELS ORGANIZED AND CHAIRED

Empty Vessels Full of Meaning: Faculty Symposium at the Center for Ancient Studies. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia" Divine Vessels and their Alternations in Vaishnava Assam." (invited)

114th Annual Conference of the College Art Association, Chicago: Chair and organizer of a panel, "Altared States: Relationships, Rituals, and Resistance of Altars in South and Southeast Asia." Paper title: "Altars and Alternations in Assam." (2026)

Societe Europeenne pour l'Etude des Civilisations de l'Himalaya et de l'Asie Centrale Biennial Symposium. Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Munich: "A Bird's Eye View of Some Encounters, Conversations, and Co-Creative Enterprises in the Brahmaputra Valley." (2025)

Coded: A Somewhat Emotional State. Symposium at the Kunsthistorisches Institut-Max Planck Institut, Florence: "Coded Cups: Agents of Anticolonial Struggles." (2025) (invited)

Tangible Truths. Symposium, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi Center and Department of Philosophy, California State University, Fresno. Paper title: "Touch me (Not)." (invited)

Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Seattle. Organizer and chair of panel, "Recovering Metals and Retracing Lives." Paper title: "Where Metals and Plants Interact." (2024)

Vessels Beyond Containment. Symposium at the Kunsthistorisches Institut-Max Planck Institut, Florence: "Forging Vessels and Values in a Borderland," (2023) (invited)

XX Biennial Symposium of the American Council of Southern Asian Art, Emory University, Atlanta: Organizer and chair of panel "Matrices and Flows." Paper title "Empty Bowls Full of Meaning," (2022)

14th International Burma Studies Conference, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb: "From the Irrawaddy to the Brahmaputra: Toward a Connected History of Offering Bowls," (2021)

Temple Cultures and Premodern Worlds, Yale University, New Haven: Roundtable and Book Forum, (2021) (invited)

108th Annual Conference of the College Art Association, Chicago: "Castles of the Heartland: Placemaking in Early Modern Bundelkhand," (2020)

Trace: Artisanal Intelligence, Material Agency, and Ritual Technology in South Asian Art, Harvard University, Cambridge: "As Many Pebbles, So Many Shivas," (2018). (invited)

Questioning Paradigms, Constructing Histories: A Conference in Honor of Romila Thapar, India International Centre, New Delhi: "Stones and Songs: The Aesthetics and Politics of Simultaneity in the Early Deccan," (2018). (invited)

Arts of Islam Symposium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor: Panel chair, (2018). (invited)

XVII Biannual Symposium of the American Council of Southern Asian Art Symposium, Harvard University, Cambridge and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston: "Modern Postural Yoga in an Expanded Field," (2017)

46th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison: Organizer of panel "Images in Flux." Paper title, "Asanas in Flux," (2017)

104th Annual Conference of the College Art Association, New York: Chair and organizer of two panels sponsored by the Board of American Council of Southern Asian Art, (1) "Looking Askance at 'Himalayan Art'" and (2) "Conservation Challenges in India and the Himalayas, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" (2016)

103rd Annual Conference of the College Art Association, New York: "The Book-builders of Early Modern Gujarat," (2015)

Symposium on Sacred Landscape and Pre-Modern Architecture in South Asia, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Harvard University, Washington, DC: "Pandukeshwar, Architectural Knowledge, and an Idea of India," (2014) (invited)

Symposium at the Centre for World Performance Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor: "Visual Music," (2014)

Chakshudana: Conversations in Honor of Professor Michael W. Meister, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia: "Paper *Prasadas*," (2014) (invited)

International Conference on Rajasthani Paintings, National Museum, New Delhi: "Purva Uttara: Interrogating the Cultural Logics of the Freer *Vasanta Vilasa*," (2014) (invited)

101st Annual Conference of the College Art Association, New York: "Where Death is Conquered," (2013)

XV Biannual Symposium of the American Council of Southern Asian Art Symposium, Minneapolis: Chair and co-organizer of panel "Mobility, Mercantile Communities, and the Transmission of Architectural Knowledge in Medieval India." Paper title, "From Asoda to Almora, The Roads Less Taken: Māru-Gurjara Architecture in the Central Himalayas," (2011)

"Looking Within/Looking Without: An International Conference on Exploring Households in the Subcontinent," Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi: "Homes of the Living, the Dead, and the Never-dying: A Reading of Early Lithic Architecture in the Himalayas," (2011) (invited)

40th Annual Middle Atlantic Symposium, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, Washington, DC: "Double Exposure: The Camera *Work* of Ananda Coomaraswamy and Alfred Stieglitz," (2010) (invited)

Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia: "Telling Tales: The Freer *Vasanta Vilasa*," (2010)

Dialogues on Animality, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia: "Stable Identities? Housing Horses in the Age of Humanism," (2009)

Symposium on Art Writing: Translations, Adaptations, Modalities, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh: "Gandhi's (In) fidelity: Reflections on Art Writing and Translation in Colonial India," (2009) (invited)

219th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Albuquerque: "Armies of Prayer and Removers of Darkness: The Development of a Genre in Mughal Painting," (2009)

35th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison: "Continuity and Innovation in Madhubani Painting," (2006)

International Conference on The Dreyfus Affair, Race, Religion, and National Identity, Wittenberg University, Springfield: "Exploding a Scientific Myth," (2003)

Asian Studies Symposium, Marietta College, Marietta: "Exploding a Scientific Myth: Reconsidering the Aryan Invasion Theory," (2002)

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND MULTI-DAY TRAINING PROGRAMS ORGANIZED

Convenor (with Deven M. Patel) of"Empty Vessels Full of Meaning," a two-day international symposium that brought 16 speakers from across the world to the Centre for Ancient Studies at the University of Pennsylvania (2026).

Convenor and Chair of the Symposium Organizing Committee, XXIst Biennial Symposium of the

American Council for Southern Asian Art (ACSAA), a four-day international conference that brought together nearly 100 art historians and museum curators from all over the world, (2024)

Conceived and led a four-day workshop on the promises and pitfalls of curating Indian art in the 21st century at Dakshina Chitra Museum, Chennai. 30 individuals (mix of doctoral and postdoctoral students enrolled in various universities and curators working at museums across India were selected to participate, (2023)

Conceptualized and led a three-day curatorial training workshop in Singapore in collaboration in the National University of Singapore and the Asian Civilizations Museum. 30 individuals (mix of students enrolled in various universities and curators working at museums across the region were selected to participate, (2022)

Convener of a week-long Transregional Academy on the theme, "India and the World: New Arcs of Knowledge" that brought together about 50 doctoral students, postdoctoral scholars, mid-career professionals, senior academics, and museum leaders. Organized in collaboration with the Forum Transregionale Studien (Berlin), Kunsthistorisches Institut – Max-Planck-Institut (Florence),Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, (Kolkata) Dakshina Chitra Museum (Chennai), and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya,(Mumbai), (2019)

Directed a three-day curatorial training workshop under the aegis of the Devangana Desai Endowment at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai. 32 museum professionals from across India were selected to participate, (2019)

Directed a five-day workshop, "Early Indian Architecture: Theory and Practice," at the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) University, Ahmedabad, India. 27 graduate students studying architecture, landscape design, and urban planning at five institutions attended, (2016)

SELECT FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

External

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, Visiting Fellow (2026 – present)

The Getty Foundation, Connecting Art Histories Grant to establish, "Connected Teams: Practicing Transcultural Art Histories under the Conditions of Ecological Crises and Digital Transformations: India, Latin America, and Europe," a research and fellowship program organized in close collaboration with the Kunsthistorisches Institute in Florenz, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta and Art History Department at the University of the Andes in Bogota (Principal Investigator, 2025 – present)

Ashoka University, Center for Interdisciplinary Archaeological Research, Ashoka Fellowship in Ancient and Medieval Indian Archaeology and History (2024 – 2025)

E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Grant for the *Angkor Complex* exhibition, (2023)

U.S. National Endowment for the Arts, Grant for Art Projects, (2023) for the *Angkor Complex* exhibition

Michigan Arts and Cultural Council Project Support Grant, (2023) for the *Angkor Complex* exhibition

National University of Singapore, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Issac Mannaseh Meyer Fellowship (2022)

Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung Award and Art Histories and Aesthetic Practices Program, Forum Transregionale Studien and Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institute to convene a Transregional Academy in Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, (2019)

Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin and Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz–Max-Planck-Institute Art Histories and Aesthetic Practices Fellowship, (2019)

College Art Association, New York. Millard Meiss Publication Fund Grant, (2018)

Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Amsterdam and the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University, Leiden, Jan Gonda Fellowship, (2016)

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, Smithsonian Institution Postdoctoral Fellowship, (2012 – 2013)

Victoria and Albert Museum, and Charles Wallace Trust, London, Nehru Trust Fellowship, (2013)

American Friends of the J.B. Harley Fellowship in the History of Cartography, Travel Grant, (2011, declined)

Asian Cultural Council, New York, Asian Artists and Specialists Fellowship, (2010)

Internal

University of Michigan, History of Art Research Grant Program (2026)

University of Michigan, Institute for the Humanities, Helmut F. Stern Faculty Fellowship (2025 – 2026)

University of Michigan, History of Art Research Grant Program (2025)

University of Michigan, Global Islamic Study Center Faculty Grant (2025)

University of Michigan, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Amnuay-Samonsri Viravan Endowment for Thai Studies Grant (2024)

University of Michigan, History of Art Research Grant Program (2023)

University of Michigan, ADVANCE Faculty Grant Award (2023)

University of Michigan, College of Literature, Sciences and Arts, Humanities Initiative Grant (2022)

University of Michigan, History of Art monograph subvention (2022)

University of Michigan, History of Art Research Grant Program (2022)

University of Michigan, Centre for World Performance Studies, Faculty Research Fellowship, (2022)

University of Michigan, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Amnuay-Samonsri Viravan Endowment for Thai Studies Grant (2022) (declined)

University of Michigan, History of Art Research Grant Program (2021)

University of Michigan, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies Southeast Asia Travel Grant, (2018)

University of Michigan, Centre for World Performance Studies, Faculty Research Fellowship, (2018)

University of Michigan, Office of Research Faculty Grants and Awards Program, (2018)

University of Michigan, History of Art Department, monograph subvention, (2017)

University of Michigan, Centre for South Asian Studies, Faculty Grant, (2016)

University of Michigan, Office of Research Faculty Grants and Awards Program, (2015)

University of Michigan, Center for World Performance Studies Research Fellowship, (2015)

University of Michigan, Office of Research Faculty Grants and Awards Program, (2014)

University of Michigan, Center for World Performance Studies Research Fellowship, (2014)

University of Michigan, Centre for South Asian Studies, Faculty Grant, (2013)

University of Pennsylvania, History of Art Department, Goldman Grant, (2010)

University of Pennsylvania, History of Art Department, Campbell-McCoubrey Grant, (2009)

University of Pennsylvania, History of Art Department, Latner Fund Grant, (2009)

University of Pennsylvania, South Asia Studies Department, PhD Topic Development Grant, (2008)

University of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, (2007 – 2012, full tuition + stipend)

University of Minnesota, Art History Department, Puffer Fund Grant (2006)

University of Minnesota, University Fellowship, (2005 – 2007, full-tuition + stipend)

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta Scholarship, (2004 – 2005, full-tuition)

Muskingum College, John H. Glenn Jr. Scholarship, (2001 – 2004, full-tuition)

WORKSHOPS ATTENDED (upon invitation)

Creative Agency and Environmental Humanities
University of Oslo and other partners in Norway (August 25 – 27, 2026)

Cartographies of Coloniality, Seasonal School
Universidad de los Andes and other partners in Bogota and elsewhere in Colombia (July 16 – 30, 2027)

Salon for Slow Reading and Deep Looking
Heidelberg University and other partners in Germany (June 27 – 28, 2019)

Art Histories and Aesthetic Practices Traveling Seminar
Kunsthistorisches Institut-Max Planck Institut in Florenz and other partners in Cambodia and Singapore (March 14 – 25, 2019)

SELECT MUSEUM AND CURATORIAL WORK

University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor
Guest Curator, "Angkor Complex: Cultural Heritage and Post-Genocide Memory in Cambodia," (2020 – 2024). On view from February 3 thru July 28, 2024, this exhibition occupied 5,000 sq. ft. and brought together eighty artworks spanning a millennium, on loan from collections worldwide.

Assam State Museum, Guwahati
Invited by the Government of Assam to design and create wall texts, captions, and other bilingual interpretive materials for about 125 medieval temple sculptures from the Brahmaputra Valley displayed in the museum's sculpture galleries. Secured CSR funds for the project and partnered with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, (2020 – 2021)

Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit
Consulting Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art, (2016 – 2018)

University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia
Graduate Student Coordinator, (2008)

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia
Research Associate in the Indian and Himalayan Art Department, (2007 – 2009)

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Consultant in the Department of the Art of Asia, Africa, and Oceania, (Summer 2007)

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Curatorial Intern in the Department of the Art of Asia, Africa, and Oceania, (Summer 2006)

National Museum of Asian Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
John H. Glenn Jr. Fellow in the Department of South and Southeast Asian Art, (Fall 2003)

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia
Summer Intern in the Indian and Himalayan Art Department, (Summer 2003)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan *(Instructor of Record)*
Introduction to South Asian Art, (History of Art 243/Asian Languages and Cultures 243)

Art of Yoga, (History of Art 304/Asian Languages and Cultures 304)

Himalayas: An Aesthetic Exploration, (History of Art 489/505 Asian Languages and Cultures 439/589/Environmental Science 304/International Studies 384)

Ocean of Stories: Telling Tales in India, (History of Art 495/ Asian Languages and Cultures 494)

Curatorial Seminar: Gallery Installation at the Detroit Institute of Arts, (Museums 498/History of Art 689)

Law, Development, and Heritage Preservation in India, (Environmental Science 731, Economics 741, School of Education 717, School of Law 741, School of Public Health 741, School of Public Policy 710, School of Information 605, and School of Social Work 741)

Bodies and Buildings: Studies in the Temple Architecture and Sculpture of India, (History of Art 577/Asian Languages and Cultures 577)

Curatorial Seminar: Gallery Installation at the Art Institute of Chicago, (Museums 498/History of Art 689)

Cultural Heritage and Post-Genocide Memory in Cambodia, (History of Art 689/Southeast Asian Studies 655)

Museums Seminar (MSP 601)

University of Pennsylvania *Teaching Assistant*
Architect and History, Renaissance/Modern, and Introduction to South Asian Art

University of Minnesota *Teaching Assistant*
Art of Islam, Roman Art and Archaeology, Classical Myth in Western Art, Art of Film, and Hollywood Musicals

Muskingum College (Spring 2004) *Teaching Assistant*
Introducing the Arts and Humanities of the Western World

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW SUPERVISION

Swapna Joshi, Connected Teams Postdoctoral Fellow (2026 – present)
Parshati Datta, Connected Teams Postdoctoral Fellow (2026 – present)

Akshaya Tankha, Forsyth Postdoctoral Fellow in South Asian Art (2022 – 2024)

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION

PhD Dissertation Supervisor (Dissertations Completed)

Ross Bernhaut, University of Michigan, "City on a Hill: Constructing Edifices and Carving Identity in Gwalior" (2026)

PhD Dissertation Supervisor (Dissertations in Progress)

Suyog Prajapati, University of Michigan, "Monasticism and Urbanism in the Kathmandu Valley"

PhD Committee Member (Dissertations in Progress)

Kaeun Park, University of Michigan "Capturing the Crisis of Landscapes: Documentary Photography in the 1960s and 1970s in South Korea"

Róisín Lacey-McCormac, University of Michigan, "The Material Culture of Ritual Processions in Medieval Japan, Eighth to Fourteenth Centuries"

Meichen Liu, University of Michigan "Radiant Matter: Earthly Substance and the Making of the Buddhist Body at the Qianlong Court"

Ariana Pemberton, University of California, Berkeley, "Ivory in South Asia"

Anneliese Hardman, University of Illinois, Chicago. "Ecological Engagements in Contemporary Cambodian Art" (2026 – present)

PhD Committee Member (Dissertations Completed)

Dipti Sherchan, University of Illinois, Chicago, "The Contested Academy and Proliferating Modernities: The Art of Nation Building in Nepal"

Swapna Joshi, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, "Celestial Impact: A Cultural Narrative of Lonar Crater through Architectural Forms," (2024)

Nirupama Singh, Jawaharlal Nehru University, "Tīrthas in the Central Himalayan Region: An Analysis of Cults, Myths, and Patronage, c. 300 – 1300 CE," (2022)

Susan Dine, University of Michigan, "Seeing Speech, Reading Bodies: Manifestations of the Nenbutsu in Japanese Buddhist Culture from 1100-1400," (2021)

Dev Kumar Jhanjh, Jawaharlal Nehru University, "Political Processes in the Central Himalayan Region, From Pre-State to State," (2021)

Natasha Kimmet, Universität Wien, "Nako – The Village Adorned with Temples: Residential Architecture on the West Tibetan Frontier (c. 18th to 21st centuries)," (2019)

Allison Martino, University of Michigan, "Stamping History: Stories of Social Change in Ghana's Adinkra Cloth," (2018)

Chun Wa Chan, University of Michigan, "Female Sovereign, Immigrant Technologies: The Opportunity of Buddhism in Early Japan," (2018)

PhD Preliminary Exam Committee

Meichen Liu, Anneliese Hardiman, Róisín Lacey-McCormac, Suyog Prajapati, Kaeun Park, Srishti Sankaranarayanan, Ross Bernhaut, Emily Cornish, Susan Dine, and Rebecca Bloom

M.A. Thesis Co-Director

Jacob Dingman, University of Michigan, "Visual Persuasion in China and Tibet, ca. 1750-1970" (2014)

B.A. Thesis Director

Ross Bernhaut, University of Michigan, "Nicholas Roerich: A Russian Yogi in the Himalayas?" (2016)

Other

Ariana Pemberton, PhD Candidate, University of California-Berkeley, research supervisor during her one-year stay in Ann Arbor as a Forsyth Visiting Graduate Student, (2025 –2026)

Dipti Sherchan, PhD Candidate, University of Illinois, research supervisor during her one-year stay in Ann Arbor as a Forsyth Visiting Graduate Student, (2024 – 2025)

Shreya Hari Nurani, PhD Candidate, Virginia Tech, research supervisor during her one-year stay in Ann Arbor as a Forsyth Visiting Graduate Student, (2023 –2024)

David Andolfatto, PhD Candidate, Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV), research supervisor during his four-month stay in Ann Arbor as a Freer Visiting Graduate Student, (2013)

SELECT DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Member, Tenure and Promotion Committee for Professor Nicola Cronin-Barham, (2026 – 2027)

Member, Graduate Committee, Department of the History of Art (2024 Forsyth Visiting Graduate Student, (2024-25) 2025)

Member, Allocations Committee, Department of the History of Art (2024 – 2025)

Member, Launch Committee for assistant professor Rattanamol Singh Johal, (2024 – 2025)

Member, Search Committee for an assistant professor of South Asian Art (Shireen and Afzal Ahmad Professorship) (2023 - 2024)

Member, Third-Year Review Committee for Professor Nicola Barham, (2021 – 2022)

Head, Forsyth Postdoctoral Fellowship in South Asian Art Search Committee (2021 – 2022)

Member, Tenure and Promotion Committee for Professor Ana María León, (2021 – 2022)

Member, External Review Committee, Department of the History of Art (2021 – 2022)

Member, Lecturer Review Committee, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, (2020 – 2021)

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of the History of Art, (2019 – 2021)

Member, Search Committee for an advanced Sally Michelson Davidson assistant/associate professor of Chinese Arts and Cultures, Department of the History of Art, (2020 – 2021)

Member, Search Committee for a professor of Sanskrit literature (open-rank), Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, (2017 – 2018)

Member, Department of the History of Art, Executive Committee, (2016 – 2021)

Member, Department of the History of Art, Undergraduate Committee, (2013 – 2015 and 2016 – 2017)

Member, Department of the History of Art, Freer Committee, (2012 – present)

Led workshops on architectural ethics and heritage politics for the Department of the History of Art and the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, (2013, 2017)

SELECT UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Member, Museum Studies Program Steering Committee, (2026 – present)

Member, Center for Southeast Asian Studies Executive Committee, (2024 – 2025 and 2026 – present)

Member, Center for South Asian Studies Executive Committee, (2024 – 2025)

Member, Medieval and Early Modern Studies Executive Committee, (2021– 2022 and 2023 – 2024)

Conceptualized and organized numerous public events including talks by renowned artists, librettists, and authors across campus in conjunction with "Angkor Complex" exhibition at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (2024) in partnership with many units. Also led multiple walks around the exhibition and gave public talks in the galleries.

Co-organized a dance performance at the University of Michigan Museum of Art, (2015)

Led docent training, University of Michigan Museum of Art, (2015)

Periodically organized talks and lecture-demonstrations by distinguished scholars, curators, instrumental musicians, classical dancers, playwrights and others at various venues at the University of Michigan, (2012 – present)

SELECT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer reviewer for articles submitted to *Arts Asiatiques*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History, Art History*, *Dance Studies*, *Different Visions, European Bulletin of Himalayan Research*, *Medieval History Journal*, *Journal of Cultural Geography*, *History of Photography*, *Sikh Formations*, and *The Art Bulletin*

University of California Berkeley, Institute for South Asian Studies, UC Berkeley South Asia Art and Architecture Prize, jury member (2025 – 2026)

University of Delaware, Newark, External Site Visitor - Academic Program Review of the Art History Department (2025)

Tenure and Promotion Review, Columbia University, New York (2026)

Tenure and Promotion Review, University of Denver, Denver (2025)

National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship Program, Application Reviewer (2025)

British Museum, London, Endangered Material Knowledge Programme, Application Reviewer, (2024)

Consultant, State Council of Education Research and Training, Government of Assam, (2022 – 2023)

IMASI: The Maharaj Kumari Binodini Devi Foundation, Consultant (2021 – 2022)

American Council of Learned Societies, Fellowship Programme, Application Reviewer (2022)

The Art Bulletin, Editorial Board Member, (2021 – 2024)

Center for Art and Archaeology, American Institute of Indian Studies, Advisory Committee Member, (2021 – present)

Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development, Cultural Emergency Response Program, Grant Application Reviewer, (2021)

Ars Orientalis, Editorial Board Member, (2014 – 2018)

Peer reviewer for book manuscripts submitted to Routledge | Taylor and Francis, Rutgers University Press (2021), and University of Chicago Press

Consultant for M.Sc. curriculum design, Center on UNESCO World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region, Wildlife Institute of India (2020)

Consultant for a multi-year initiative, "Sacred Ecologies, Expressive Cultures, and Environmental Crisis" at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University (2019)

SELECT MEDIA MENTIONS

"Angkor Complex" VoA Khmer Television News, April 7, 2024

"Speaking of Art" interview of WAAM Talk 1600/92.7 FM Radio, March 30, 2024

Angkor Complex: Cambodian History, *Asian Art: The Newspaper for Collectors, Dealers, Galleries and Museums*, March 27, 2024

"Michigan Museum Reveals Complex Heritage of Cambodian Art," Voice of America, March 10, 2024

Astride Code, "New UMMA exhibition, 'Angkor Complex' reflects on Cambodian cultural heritage," *The Michigan Daily*, February 8, 2024

Interview with Author: Nachiket Chanchani, *The Times of India*, July 19, 2022

"Michigan Professor Studies Himalayan Temple Architecture, *"India West Journal*, July 19, 2022

LANGUAGES

Fluently read, write, and speak Gujarati and Hindi

Reading knowledge of Sanskrit (intermediate) and French (elementary)

MEMBERSHIP

College Art Association, Society of Architectural Historians, Association of Asian Studies, American Council for Southern Asian Art, American Alliance of Museums, and the Michigan Museums Association

(NC_CV_REVISED November 9, 2026)