

## Vrinda Agrawal

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### Education

**PhD.** [in progress], History of Art, University of Michigan (U-M), Ann Arbor

Advisors: Professor Kevin Carr (U-M), Professor Molly E. Aitken (City College of New York)

**Master of Arts with Distinction** in History of Art, 2016

School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Advisor: Professor Christian Luczanits

**Bachelor of Fine Arts** with emphasis on Creative Writing, 2011

School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), Chicago

### Research and Curatorial Experience

Fall 2023

**Ross-Coomaraswamy Collection Provenance Research Graduate Intern**

Supervisor: Dr Laura Weinstein, Ananda Coomaraswamy Curator of South Asian and Islamic Art, MFA, Boston. Researched and documented the Ross-Coomaraswamy collection, with a special focus on provenance. Delivered a talk on the new South Asian art acquisitions during the museum's Diwali event, and participated in bi-monthly *Museum Pathways & Practices* professional development sessions

Fall 2023

**Graduate Student Research Assistant (GSRA)**, Supervisor: Prof. Christiane Gruber, Professor of Islamic art, History of Art Department, U-M. Assisted in conceptualising themes, selecting objects, research, writing of labels, and other curatorial work for rotating spotlight displays for the Byzantine-Islamic art galleries, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, U-M, Ann Arbor

Summer 2022

**Research Assistant**, Supervisor: Prof. B N Goswamy, for the book: *The Indian Cat* (2023), Aleph Book Company, New Delhi

Feb 2018-2019

**Project Coordinator and Writer**, oversaw a project that documented the modern and contemporary art collection of Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh, in collaboration with DAG (Delhi Art Gallery)

May-Sep 2017

**Senior Executive, Exhibitions and Publications**, DAG (Delhi Art Gallery), New Delhi

Summer 2015

**Intern**, Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh

### Publications

#### Books

March 2020

*Masterpieces*, Chandigarh: Government Museum and Art Gallery

Feb 2018

*The Oxford Readings in Indian Art*, B.N. Goswamy, ed., with Vrinda Agrawal, New Delhi: Oxford University Press

#### Peer-reviewed Journal Article

Fall 2024

"From Private to Public: The Movement of Pahari Paintings from Royal Collections to the Chandigarh Museum in Post-Independence India", *Ars Orientalis* (forthcoming)

2017

"Piecing it Together: Three *Dasavatara* folios from a great *Gita Govinda* series," *Artibus Asiae* 77, no. 2 (2017): 117-130. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/45050931>

## Online articles

- July 2021 Online article: "India's long tradition of travelling without going anywhere: The pilgrimage *nakshas* of Rajasthan", published in the culture section of Scroll.in – an Indian digital news publication <https://scroll.in/article/999788/indias-long-tradition-of-travelling-without-going-anywhere-the-pilgrimage-nakshas-of-rajasthan>
- April 2021 Blogpost: "Both Boy and Ox Forgotten" from *Ten Verses on Oxherding*. 1278; handscroll from the collection of the Metropolitan Museum, New York, featured on the blog *Abstraction before the Age of Abstract Art* curated by Dr. Elina Gertsman, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, and Dr. Vincent Debais, EHESS, Paris <https://preabstract.hypotheses.org/1064>

## Catalogues

- Researched and wrote catalogue entries for *Spring Exhibition 2018: Recent Acquisitions* (2018), and *La Lumiere de la Lune et du Soleil: The Arts of South Asia and Beyond, 1500-1930* (2016) for Prahlad Bubbar Ltd., London
- Wrote essays, artists' biographies, and timelines for: *India's French Connection: Indian Artists in France* (2018), *India's Rockefeller Artists* (2017), and *George Keyt, Masterpiece XXVI* (2017), for DAG (Delhi Art Gallery), New Delhi

## Conferences, workshops, and invited speaking

- 1 Nov 2024 Scheduled to present "The modern *rasika*: M. S. Randhawa as a scholar and collector of Pahari painting," as part of the panel *Pahari Painting: New Insights on Practice, Patronage, Collecting, and Display, 1600 to the Present* at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 8 Oct 2024 Invited to present "Women as connoisseurs: *Rasikās* as seen in early-modern Pahari Painting", at the University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, as part of the lecture series *Women and Court: Space, Time and Power*
- 20-21 Oct 2023 Presented "Heard and Seen: The *rasikā* as a musical connoisseur in Pahari Painting" in *Women in Art and Music: An Early Modern Global Conference*, at CASVA, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; co-hosted with The Juilliard School, New York <https://www.nga.gov/press/2023/women-in-art-and-music.html>
- 10-13 Oct 2023 Attended the American Curators of Asian Art conference hosted by Harvard Art Museums, MFA, and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Cambridge and Boston, MA
- 6-8 Oct 2023 Invited to present at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual international seminar on Indian painting as part of the Goswamy-Beach-Fischer (GBF) Research Program on Indian Arts and Artists at the Museum Rietberg, Zurich, Switzerland
- 6-7 Oct 2022 Presented "Provenance research of Pahari paintings from the Chandigarh Museum" in the webinar *Translocation of South Asian Art: Provenance and Documentation*, the fifth instalment in the series *Hidden Networks: Trade in Asian Art*, co-organized by the National Museum of Asian Art; Museum für Asiatische Kunst, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin; and The British Library, London
- 30 Sep-2 Oct 2022 Invited to present at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual international seminar on Indian painting as part of the Goswamy-Beach-Fischer (GBF) Research Program on Indian Arts and Artists at the Museum Rietberg, Zurich, Switzerland
- 5-6 March 2021 Presented "Visualising the Demonic: A Pahari Drawing of the Court of Banasura" at *The Elephant in the Room: An Examination of Animals in the Arts*, a virtual symposium organised by graduate students from the History of Art and Architecture program at Tufts University, Medford
- March 2018 Led a museum walk in collaboration with The Heritage Lab at the Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh for the launch of *The Oxford Readings in Indian Art*, edited by Dr. B.N. Goswamy with Vrinda Agrawal

19 Feb 2018           Invited to deliver a lecture on, "Elements of Abstraction in Pre-Modern Indian Painting" at *Roop-Aroop*, a four-day workshop for young art writers organized by the Raza Foundation at the India International Centre, New Delhi

### Teaching Experience

March 2024           **Guest lecture**, "Looking at Women in Early-Modern Pahari Painting" for ARTHIST, GSF, MEDREN 245S: *Women in Visual Arts, 1400–1800: Theory and History*, taught by Dana V. Hogan, Duke University, Durham

### Graduate Student Instructor

Winter 2023           History of Art 392: Anime to Zen: Exploring "Japan" through Popular Visual Cultures  
Fall 2022             History of Art 271: Origins of Modernism  
Winter 2022           History of Art 370/French 346: Realism and Impressionism  
Fall 2021             History of Art/Asian 292: Introduction to the Histories of the Visual and Material Cultures of the Japanese Archipelago

### Fellowships, Scholarships, and Grants

Fall 2024             **Charles Lang Freer Fellowship**, National Museum of Asian Art, Washington DC  
Summer 2024         **Wikimedia Open Knowledge Fellowship** led by The Heritage Lab  
Jan-Aug 2024         **Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship**, University of Michigan  
Summer 2023         **Rackham Language Training Award**, University of Michigan  
April 2022            **Global Individual Grant** International Institute, LSA, University of Michigan  
March 2022           **Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant**, University of Michigan  
May-June 2021       **Doctoral Research Fellowship** (remote), Asia Society Museum, New York  
2019-2020            **Tagore National Scholarship for Cultural Research**, Ministry of Culture, Government of India. For provenance research of paintings at the Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh (Feb 2019-July 2020)  
  
2013- 2015            **Research Fellowship**, The Raza Foundation, India  
June-Aug 2011        **Curatorial Fellowship**, National Museum of Asian Art, Washington DC  
2008-2011            **Distinguished Scholars Merit Scholarship**, SAIC, Chicago  
July 2010             **John Woods Scholarship**, Prague Summer Program, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, in partnership with Charles University, Czechia

### Languages

- Advanced knowledge of Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, and English
- Able to read and decipher inscriptions in Takri (script) and Braj Bhasha
- Intermediate proficiency of classical Sanskrit
- Intermediate proficiency of French (Diploma DELF B1)