

GOLDSTEIN MUSEUM OF DESIGN

364 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108

<http://goldstein.design.umn.edu>

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BEYOND PEACOCKS AND PAISLEYS: Handcrafted textiles of India and its neighbors

June 10 – September 25, 2011

Opening Reception: Friday, June 10, 6-8 PM

Curated by: **Hazel A. Lutz, PhD**, Independent Scholar of Textiles and Dress, South Asia Specialist and **Anna Carlson**, MFA Candidate in Graphic Design

Artisans in South Asia use a broad range of handcraft techniques to meet the apparel and home furnishing needs of consumers in India, surrounding nations, and around the world. The Goldstein Museum of Design exhibition ***Beyond Peacocks and Paisleys: Handcrafted textiles of India and its neighbors*** (June 10 to September 25, 2011) examines how techniques evolved over time as the producers reached discovered new markets and faced competition from international handcraft and industrial producers. The handcraft techniques include ikat weaving, several varieties of embroidery, block printing, bandhani and lahariya varieties of tie-dye, and more.

The exhibition showcases saris, shawls, and home textiles collected over a 50 year period by Dr. Donald Clay Johnson, former curator of the Ames Library of South Asia at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Johnson began collecting during a year's residence in India in 1966. He named his collection "Paritosh," which means "contentment," after his host family's compound. He continues to expand the collection's comprehensiveness in techniques and regional design on annual trips to South Asia.

The skilled artisans making these beautiful objects today are the inheritors of long-standing textile traditions, but they also adjust their methods and designs when advances in technology and changes in taste redefine quality. Chief among these changing contexts are political restructurings, globalization, fashion, the industrial and digital revolutions, and public concern with sustainability.

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Most Americans are not conscious of their deep relationship to South Asian textiles, which goes back to pre-revolutionary times and continues today. The imported textiles and apparel entered into the heart of our national dress 400 years ago and frequently still influence our fashion.

The curators explore the manner in which the work of American and South Asian textile and apparel artisans questions the social and political assumptions of mainstream society. This exhibition shows exquisite examples of hand-made South Asian textiles produced for sale within India. It draws connections from these wonderful objects to our own dress and fashion history. Finally, it examines how quality in hand-made textiles is used in South Asia and the US to convey social protest.



Goldstein Museum of Design programming is supported in part by the Minnesota State Arts Board in cooperation with the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, GMD Members, and the College of Design.

General Information

GMD, part of the University of Minnesota's College of Design, supports teaching and research in design through exhibitions, publications, programs, and community partnerships. GMD celebrates diverse cultures through its collections and programs by promoting the appreciation and interpretation of design within social, cultural, aesthetic, and historic contexts.

Visitor Info

GMD Gallery is on the second floor of McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave, College of Design, St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota.

Gallery Hours

The GMD Gallery is open Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 10 am–4 pm, Thursday 10 am–8 pm and weekends 1:30–4:30 pm. The Gallery is closed Mondays and all University holidays.

Admission and Parking

Gallery admission is free. Parking is in Gortner Ramp at 1395 Gortner Avenue. The ramp and McNeal Hall are both handicapped accessible.

Public Transit

Route 87 or Campus Connector. For bus information, call (612) 373-3333.

