



**SACHI, The Society for Art and Cultural Heritage of India,
in collaboration with the Asian Art Museum,
is pleased to present**

TALL TOMBS Muharram Art in the Punjab

Muharram is a Shi'i Muslim festival commemorating the martyrdom of Mohammed's grandson, Imam Hussain. The Muharram observances of the Punjab feature model tombs (ta'ziyah) inspired by Sufi and Sikh cenotaphs, as well as by royal palaces, which are carried in procession. They are often embellished with intricately carved window balconies or *jharokas*, *chhatris*, the canopy like domed elements, and other features of palatial architecture, as well as with inscriptions and delicate painted details. Unlike the disposable tomb replicas of bamboo and paper fashioned in many parts of South Asia, these wooden shrines are kept from year to year.



This festival, like the Hindu Dussehra festival, is concerned with warfare, dynastic legitimation and winning divine favor for the year to come. And in each case, a community is drawn together to make and ornament the key artifact that displays its ideals and defines its collective character.

March 4, 2007, 2:00 pm
Asian Art Museum Classroom
200 Larkin Street, San Francisco

Free with museum admission

Tryna Lyons is an independent art historian with degrees from University of California, Berkeley and the American University of Paris. She is the author of *The Artists of Nathdwara: The Practice of Painting in Rajasthan* published in 2004. Her most recent projects include the art of Bengali Pujas (India and Bangladesh) and of Muharram in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Limited seating, R.S.V.P. 510.523.4093

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