



SACHI, The Society for Art and Cultural Heritage of India,  
and the Asian Art Museum  
present an illuminating lecture on Indian Textiles



## IMPOSSIBLE PICTURESQUENESS: TEXTILES IN MEWAR PAINTING



by Rahul Jain



*Maharana Sangram Singh II and Gosain Nilakantha*, approx. 1725–1730, Udaipur, Rajasthan state, former kingdom of Mewar, Opaque watercolor and gold on paper, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

The exhibition, *Princes, Palaces, and Passion: The Art of India's Mewar Kingdom* on view at the Asian Art Museum (February 2 – April 29, 2007), illuminates the brilliant artistic traditions of the legendary kingdom of Mewar from the early sixteenth to the early twentieth century.

Through paintings depicting intricately woven designs in apparel and furnishings from the museum's exhibition, Mr. Jain explores the fascinating range of luxury textiles. In tracing the historical development of these textile genres in India, Mr. Jain will also draw on surviving examples from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and show their correspondence to depicted versions in Mewar painting.



Detail: Shawl of woven silk, cotton & silver thread; double woven borders with twill damask field; W: 43.5"; L: 108"

Thursday, March 29, 7:00 pm  
Asian Art Museum, Samsung Hall  
200 Larkin Street, San Francisco

Free with museum admission

Rahul Jain is a textile researcher with a special interest in the history and practice of pattern weaving. Formerly an economist with the World Bank, Washington DC, he now runs a drawloom-weaving workshop in India to recreate the style, material, and technique of complex silks woven for the courts of Mughal India and Safavid Iran in the 17th and 18th centuries. The designs created in his workshop today are inspired by pictorial sources and surviving Indian textiles. The woven textiles from his workshop have been showcased at the National Museum, New Delhi; the Prince of Wales Museum, Mumbai; the Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta; and the British Museum, London.

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