

SAM KIDS

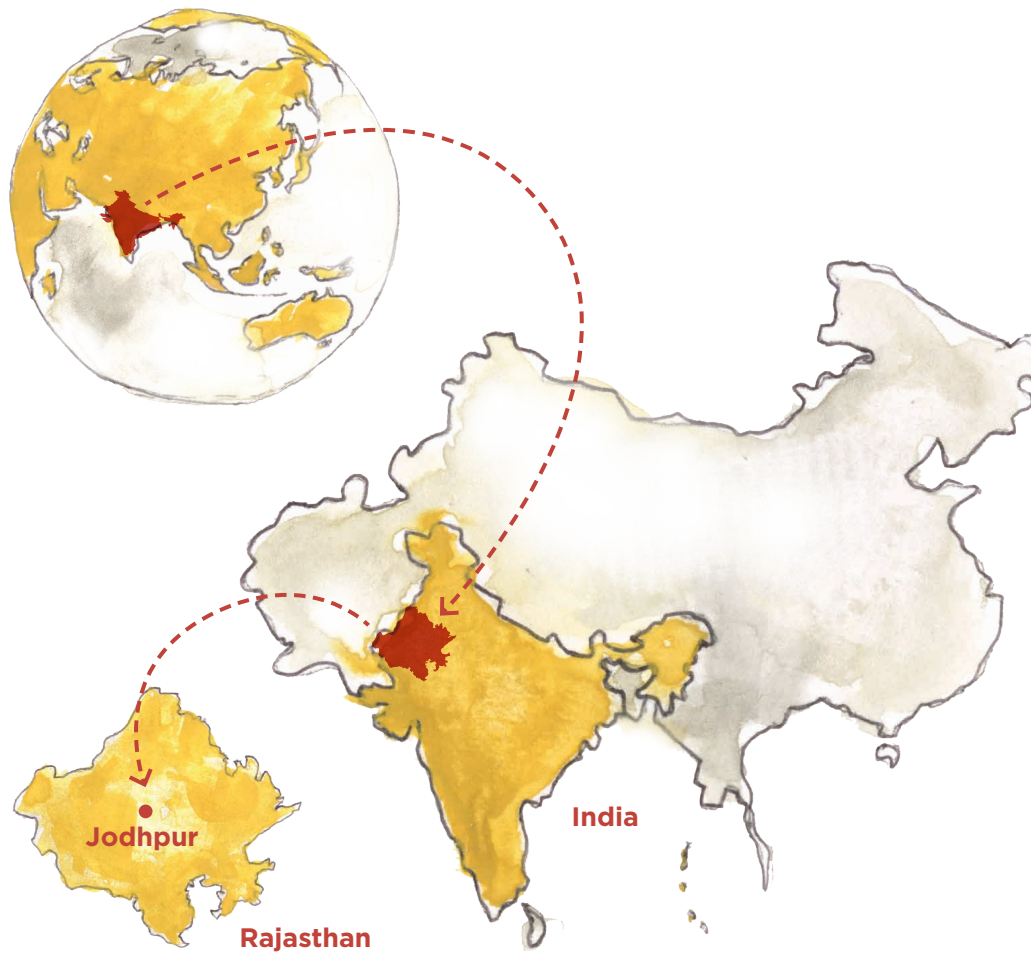


PEACOCK *in the* DESERT

Family Activity Guide

THIS GUIDE BELONGS TO: _____





ART FROM JODHPUR, INDIA

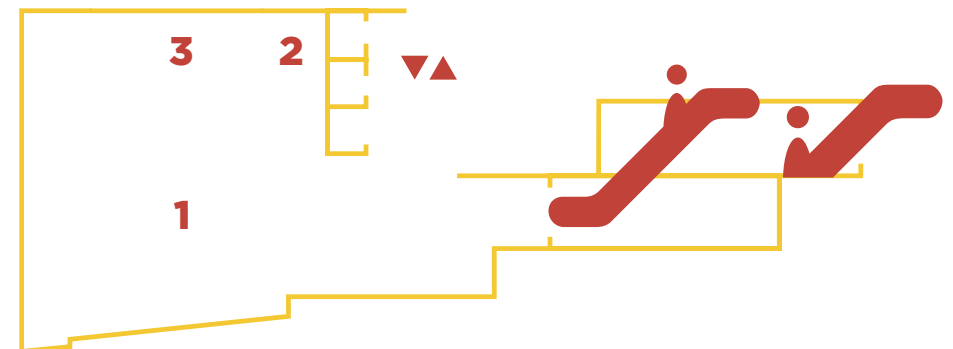
As you explore this exhibition, you will see bright and colorful paintings, elaborate jewelry, and many beautiful objects used in the traditions of Jodhpur, India.

India is a very large country with many artistic and cultural traditions. Look at the map to see where Jodhpur is located within India. Most of the artworks you will see today come from this city in the region of Rajasthan.

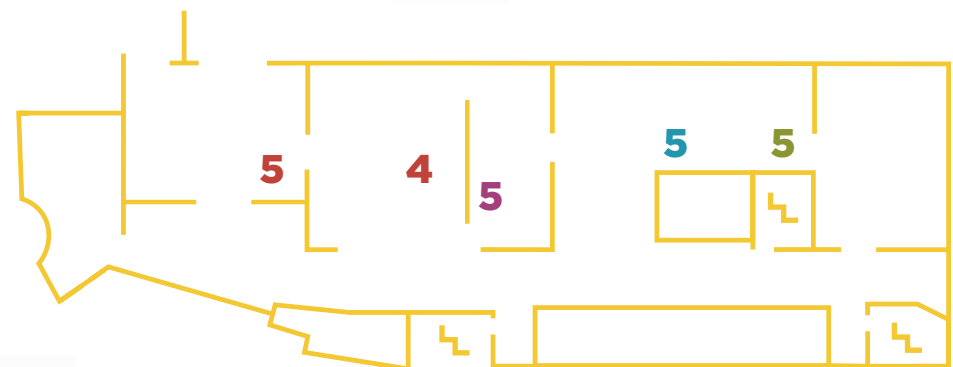
This guide will share some of the stories behind the artworks in this show. Are you ready to learn more? Let's get started!

USE THIS MAP TO FIND THE ACTIVITIES

THIRD FLOOR



FOURTH FLOOR

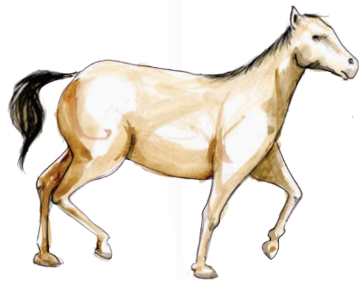


ANIMALS APLENTY!

Throughout this exhibition you will see many animals: proud peacocks, elegant elephants, and terrific tigers! Can you find each of the animals below as you explore the galleries?



Peacocks



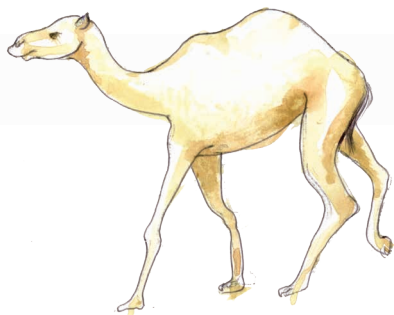
Horses



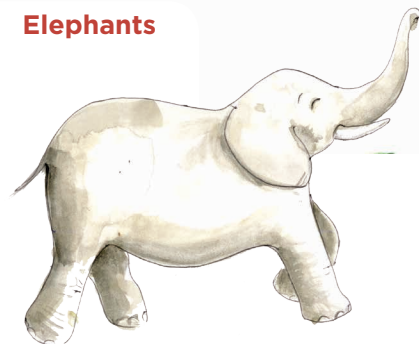
Birds



Tigers



Camels



Elephants

THE ROYAL WEDDING PROCESSION

1

Join the royal wedding celebration! Explore the gallery and imagine that you are a part of the procession. What do you see? What do you hear?

Write a postcard home describing all that you've seen!

Dear _____ ,
(name)

Hello from _____ ! Today we
(location)
saw a royal wedding procession! We first saw the groom sitting on top
of an _____ that was covered in a
(animal)
cloth made of _____ with _____
(material) (color)
thread. The groom was sitting in a chair called a *howdah* with an
_____ for shade.
(item)

Surrounding the animal were men carrying *jhandas*. These flags
have _____ colored stripes. The bride was
(number)
hidden in a covered seat called a *palanquin* and followed by
musicians playing _____ and _____ .
(instrument) (instrument)
It was wonderful to be a part of the celebration! Wish you were here!

From, _____
(your name)

ANCESTORS AND PORTRAITS

2

The Rathores—a royal dynasty of Northern India—trace their roots to a group of Hindu warriors, rulers, and gods. Many of the paintings in this exhibition tell the stories of these ancestors. Can you find a painting called **The Predecessors of Rama: Folio 2 from the *Suraj Prakash***?

Look at the painting closely. What are the ancestors wearing? Are they holding anything in their hands? Do they look calm or excited? What might they be thinking about?

Now it's your turn to draw four people who are important to you!



| | | | |
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THE TURBANS OF MARWAR

Are you wearing anything on your head today? Maybe a hat, a baseball cap, a headband, or a scarf? In Marwar—a region of Northwestern India—men typically wear a turban called a *Paag*. Different patterns, colors, and ways of wrapping have different meanings. For example, a yellow turban is often worn in the spring and symbolizes happiness.

Draw a piece of clothing you like to wear, then write a sentence describing what it means to you or how it makes you feel.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin yellow border, intended for a drawing of a piece of clothing.

TRAVELING IN STYLE

4

Imagine you are royalty in India 500 years ago and you're traveling around the country. Where will you sleep at night? Inside of this tent, of course! The tent is called the *Lal Dera*. Notice the rich color, detailed patterns, and silver thread used to decorate this shelter.

If you were going on a journey to explore India, what would you take along? Use the space below to draw what you want to put in your suitcase.

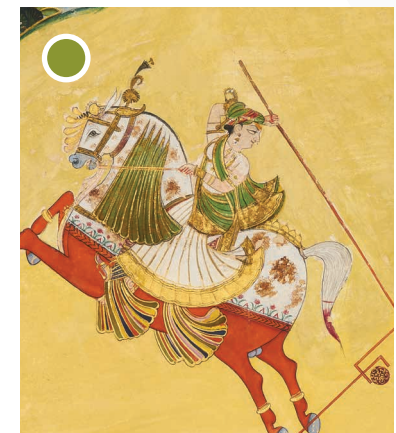
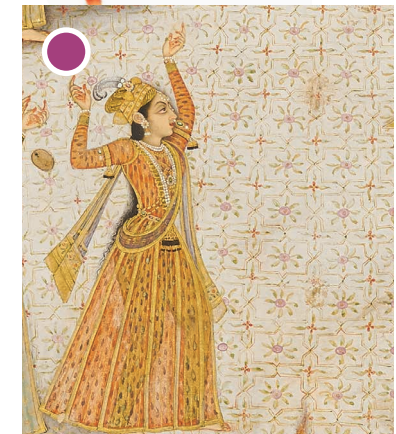
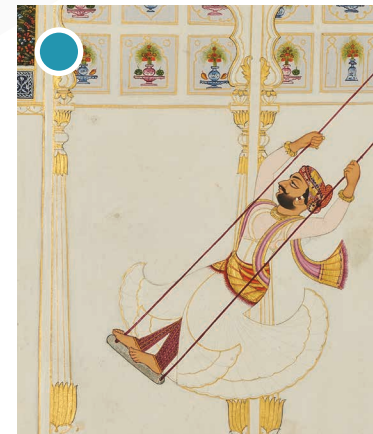


STRIKE A POSE

5

In the past, the royals of Jodhpur spent their free time doing many of the same activities that we do today. The paintings in these galleries depict people playing polo, swinging, and dancing. Often these activities were part of celebrations for festivals such as Diwali, Holi, and Sharad Purnima Festival.

Find the paintings with the figures shown below and then use your own body to mimic the poses!



Locations can be found on the museum map at the beginning of this guide.

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Images: The Predecessors of Rama: Folio 2 from the *Suraj Prakash* (detail), 1830, Amardas Bhatti, Jodhpur, opaque watercolor and gold on paper, 12 3/4 x 18 1/4 in., Mehrangarh Museum Trust, photo: Neil Greentree. Maharaja Man Singh Celebrating the Festival of Teej with Courtiers (detail), ca. 1830, Jodhpur, opaque watercolor and gold on paper, 26 x 19 1/4 in., Mehrangarh Museum Trust, photo: Neil Greentree. An Evening Performance for Maharaja Abhai Singh (detail), ca. 1725, opaque watercolor and gold on paper, 21 3/4 x 15 7/8 in., Mehrangarh Museum Trust, photo: Neil Greentree. Maharaja Bakhat Singh Practicing Archery (detail), ca. 1800, Jodhpur, opaque watercolor and gold on paper, 15 x 12 1/4 in., Mehrangarh Museum Trust, photo: Neil Greentree. Maharaja Man Singh Playing Polo with Royal Ladies (detail), ca. 1827, Shivdas Bhatti, Jodhpur, opaque watercolor and gold on paper, Mehrangarh Museum Trust, photo: Neil Greentree. Illustrations throughout: Muneera Gerald.

Peacock in the Desert: The Royal Arts of Jodhpur, India is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in collaboration with Mehrangarh Museum Trust, Jodhpur, India.

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