

cincinnati art museum

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***Images Available Upon Request**

***The Fabric of India* art exhibition makes U.S. debut at the Cincinnati Art Museum October 19, 2018–January 6, 2019**



CINCINNATI — Discover the richness of Indian textiles from the fifteenth century to today in [*The Fabric of India*](#), on view at the Cincinnati Art Museum October 19, 2018–January 6, 2019. Organized by the Victoria and Albert (V&A) Museum in London, this exhibition is the first to explore the dynamic and multifaceted world of handmade textiles from India.

Showcasing the finest examples from the V&A's world-renowned collection together with masterpieces from international partners, leading fashion and textile designers and additions from the Cincinnati Art Museum's permanent collection, this exhibition features over 170 handmade objects. Visitors can expect a

stunning range of historic dress, heirloom fabrics and cutting edge fashion.

Handmade textiles are embedded in every aspect of India's identity and the history of these fabrics dates back at least 6,000 years. Long before Europeans landed on the shores of the subcontinent, Indians were using indigenous resources to create colorful textiles desired around the world. Handwoven, printed, dyed and embellished fabrics were so central to the subcontinent's character that in ancient Greece and Babylon the very name "India" was shorthand for "cotton." Today a lively textile and fashion industry thrives in India.

The exhibition is organized in six thematic sections, exploring courtly splendor exemplified by sumptuous fabrics and dress alongside finely crafted sacred cloth used for religious worship. Centuries of global trade shaped by the export of Indian textiles is examined, illustrating a robust aesthetic exchange between artisans and their clients. The political power of textiles is considered through their use as a symbol of power and protest in the quest for independence in the early twentieth century.

Today, Indian designers and artists are adapting traditional techniques to create exciting new fashion, art and design for a global audience, giving India's textile history a new relevance in the modern world. Innovative dress by contemporary fashion designers, including Manish Arora, Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Abraham and Thakore, Rahul Mishra, Aneeth Arora and others will be on display.

"This is an amazing opportunity for visitors to see this landmark exhibition, the first to examine the diversity and richness of Indian textiles in depth," said Cynthia Amnéus, Cincinnati Art Museum's Chief Curator and Curator of Fashion Arts and Textiles.

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“India’s textile making, dyeing, printing, and embellishing is legendary and I am excited to share this history with our community. Visitors will have an exclusive opportunity to explore both the technical aspects of how these textiles were made alongside stellar examples, many of which have never been displayed before. While this exhibition explores fabrics and dress from the past, it also celebrates the robust textile and fashion industry that is alive and well in present-day India,” said Amnéus.

The Fabric of India was on view at the V&A from October 3, 2015–January 10, 2016. It will travel to The Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Florida after its run in Cincinnati. *The Fabric of India* catalog, edited by Rosemary Crill, V&A’s Senior Curator in the South and South-East Asian Department, provides a wide-ranging yet accessible overview of the making, design and use of textiles from the Indian subcontinent.

This exhibition will be on view in the Western & Southern Galleries (galleries 232 and 233). It is organized by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and presented by Western & Southern Financial Group/Fort Washington Investment Advisors. It is generously supported by Truepoint Wealth Counsel, The Markarian Foundation, The Wohlgemuth Herschede Foundation, Cincinnati Asian Arts Society and The Art of Dressing.

Tickets for *The Fabric of India* are free for museum members. Tickets will soon be available for purchase by the general public at the Cincinnati Art Museum front desk and online at cincinnatiartmuseum.org. Visitors who purchase tickets to *The Fabric of India* receive free admission to *Life: Gillian Wearing*, on view October 5–December 30, 2018, and vice versa. On social media, use the hashtag #FabricofIndia.

Image credit: *Sari* (detail), woven silk, Bangalore, ca. 1867, © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

About the Cincinnati Art Museum

The Cincinnati Art Museum is supported by the generosity of individuals and businesses that give annually to Artswave. The Ohio Arts Council helps fund the Cincinnati Art Museum with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The Cincinnati Art Museum gratefully acknowledges operating support from the City of Cincinnati, as well as our members.

Free general admission to the Cincinnati Art Museum is made possible by a gift from the Rosenthal Family Foundation. Special exhibition pricing may vary. Parking at the Cincinnati Art Museum is free. The museum is open Tuesday – Sunday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. and Thursday, 11 a.m.–8 p.m.

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