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**\*Images Available Upon Request**

**Cincinnati Art Museum Presents**  
***Longing: Painting from the Pahari Kingdoms of the Northwest***  
***Himalayas***  
**February 6–June 7, 2026**

**CINCINNATI — December 3, 2025** —Featuring more than 40 works of art, *Longing: Painting from the Pahari Kingdoms of the Northwest Himalayas* will present colorful court paintings from present-day India dating between the 17th and 19th centuries. Practicing unique techniques, artists produced these small, portable paintings primarily for royal, noble and priestly patronage. The paintings were often given as gifts between regional nobility, families and political allies creating large networks of artistic exchange. *Longing* will be on view February 6–June 7, 2026, at the Cincinnati Art Museum (CAM).

Organized thematically, the exhibition encourages visitors to experience art as multisensory. Select paintings will be paired with scent or touch opportunities, while others are paired with musical soundscapes, to heighten the works' *bhava* (emotion or mood) and encourage multiple ways to physically, intellectually and emotionally connect with the art.

Influenced by the region's culture and politics, the artworks portray longing in several ways, including through paintings of devotees who long to connect with the divine, individuals and couples who yearn for romance and rulers and noblemen who longed to be at the center of political control.

"This exhibition explores paintings through the lens of a shared human emotion," reflects Ainsley M. Cameron, PhD, Curator of South Asian Art, Islamic Art & Antiquities at CAM. "Through color, form and composition, paintings that portray devotional and cultural values, amorous alliance or political gain also reveal an emotive force reflective of the region in which they were produced. I'm excited to share the vibrant painting histories of the Pahari region with Cincinnati audiences, to encourage our visitors to actively participate in their museum experience, to interact with art in multiple ways and to forge new connections with the works on display."

*Longing* is part of a larger research project connecting the South Asian art collections at the Cincinnati Art Museum, the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) and the National Museum of Asian Art (NMAA) in Washington, DC. Alongside scholars based in India, curators from these three museums are working collaboratively to research, publish and display works from the Catherine Glynn Benkaim and Ralph Benkaim Collection. Beginning in April 2026, the CMA and the NMAA will also

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present exhibitions of paintings from the Pahari kingdoms. These three distinct thematic exhibitions are presented in the publication *Pahari Paintings: Art and Stories*, a lavishly illustrated volume that foregrounds recent research in paintings from this mountainous region. Published by the Cleveland Museum of Art and Yale University Press, the 308-page volume celebrates both the Benkaim Collection and this cross-institutional collaboration.

The CAM exhibition will be on view in the Sara M. and Michelle Vance Waddell Gallery and the Manuel and Rhoda Mayerson Gallery (G124 and G125) located across from the Terrace Café. No tickets are required for this exhibition. General admission and parking at the Cincinnati Art Museum are also free. Photography is permitted, but no flash. On social media use the hashtag #LongingAtCAM.

Visit [cincy.art](http://cincy.art) for a full list of related programming.

## **About the Cincinnati Art Museum**

The Cincinnati Art Museum features a diverse, encyclopedic art collection of more than 73,000 works spanning 6,000 years. In addition to displaying its own broad collection, the museum conducts extensive research and creates and organizes several exhibitions each year. It also hosts national and international traveling exhibitions. Through these critical projects and art-related programs, activities and special events, the museum contributes to a more vibrant Cincinnati by inspiring its people and connecting its communities.

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 its members. Free general admission to the Cincinnati Art Museum is made possible by a gift from the Rosenthal Family Foundation. Generous support for the museum's extended Thursday hours is provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program. Exhibition pricing may vary. Parking at the Cincinnati Art Museum is free. Accessibility accommodations are available. Visit [cincinnatiartmuseum.org](http://cincinnatiartmuseum.org).

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