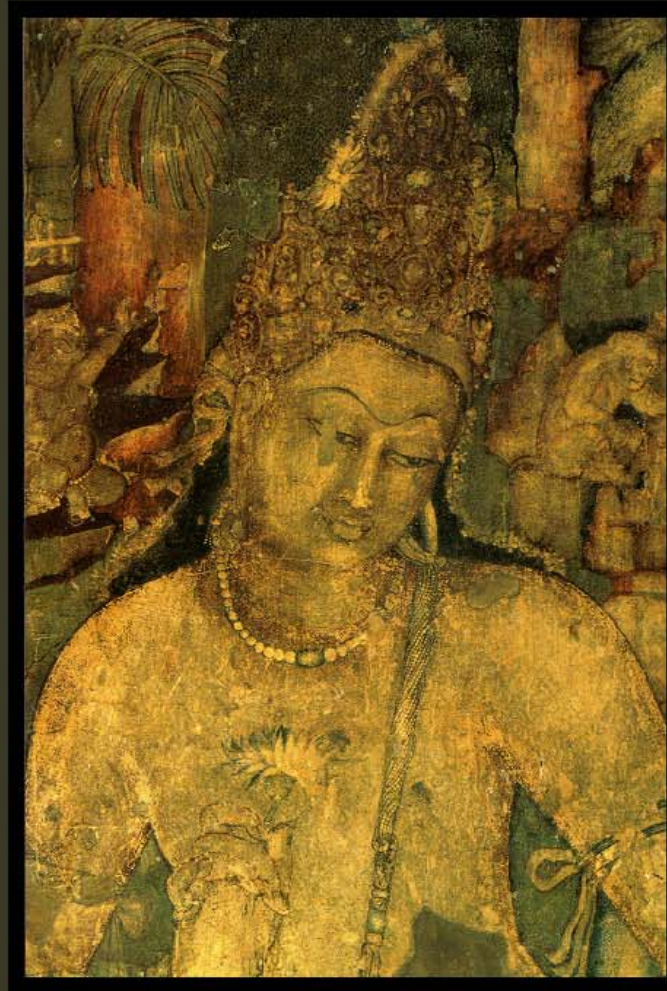


Samskriti - Society for Indian Performing Arts
in collaboration with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Presents a 2-day International Conference

AJANTA - MIRACLE IN THE MOUNTAINS

April 18-19, 2009

Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet Street, Houston, TX 77005



Bodhisattva Padmapani ("lotus-hand")
in Ajanta Cave Number 1.

Supported by:

Asia Society Texas Center
Anjali Center for Performing Arts
Houston Community College System and
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
(University of Houston)

Partly funded by:

Texas Commission on the Arts and
City of Houston through
Houston Arts Alliance

For more information visit our web site www.samskritihouston.org
or call (979)240-9496, (832)275-9656

Ajanta - *Miracle in the Mountains*

April 18-19, 2009

Inauguration of the Conference

The conference inauguration is a spectacular event. With all the speakers assembled on the stage, you will be transported to a different world. The Hon Consul General of India Shri Sanjiv Arora will inaugurate the conference at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, 2009.

Unveiling of the Commissioned paintings

Original art works relating to the theme of the conference, by sixteen local artists will be unveiled at the conference as a part of the conference.

Virtual Vihara

Introduced for the first time in this conference, virtual vihara is an interactive, animated computer program, which allows you to experience Ajanta's paintings at your own pace. This program will also open the door for in depth exploration of the cave paintings.

Day 2 of the conference

Get ready to come to the conference on its day 2. The conference starts at 1:00 p.m. and will continue till 5:30 p.m. followed by reception at the lobby.

Opportunity to buy newly created, original art work

For information as to how to buy the newly created art work, please contact Mr. Vatsa Kumar. (yatsakumar@att.net)

Conference schedule

April 18, 2009 inauguration at 10.00 a.m. Lectures from 10.30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

April 19, 2009 Conference starts at 1.00 p.m. and closes at 5:30 p.m.

Registration fee for the Conference is \$25 per person. This fee includes admission to the conference on both the days, lunch on day 1 of the seminar. For online registration, please visit www.tickets2events.com at any time. On-site registration is open to public on the days of the seminar, on payment of cash or personal check only. **NO credit cards.**

Parking: Free parking is offered at the church parking lot right across from the front entrance of the museum. Paid parking is available at the museum's garage.

**For more information about the conference, please contact
Dr. Rathna Kumar or Anil Kumar at 281 265 2787
Or Ms. Thara Narasimhan at 281-565-9483**

Conference schedule

Day 1 program in Red table, Day 2 program in Blue table

Item #	What	Start time	mts.
1	Welcome -Dr. Rathna Kumar and Ms. Margaret Mims	10:00 a.m.	15
	The conference- opening remarks - Dr. John Antel		
	Proclamation from the City of Houston		
2	Inauguration of the conference Hon Consul General of India Shri Sanjiv Arora	10:15 a.m.	15
3	Unveiling of the new art works	10:30 a.m.	15
4	Keynote Address - Dr. Walter Spink	11:00 a. m	45
5	Virtual Vihara – A new tool	11:45 a.m.	30
6	Relic veneration at Ajanta and other cave sites - Dr. Susan Huntington	12:15 p. m	45
	Lunch	1:00 p.m.	60
7	Ajanta and Daksina Kosala - Dr. Dan Stadtner	2.00 p.m.	45
8	Influence of Ajanta art on Eastern Asia- Dr. Chedha Tingsanchali:	3.00 p.m.	45
9	Patronage at cave sites in the pre-Vakataka/ Vakataka eras, with special attention to royal and court patronage -Dr. David Efurd	4.00 p.m.	45
	End the first day	5:30 p.m.	
Item #	Museum opens only at 1:00 p.m. Seminar starts at 1:00 p.m.		
1	Welcome – Vatsa Kumar	01:00 p.m.	15
2	Presence of regional or popular deities in the painting and sculpture of the site, the ways these supernatural figures have been depicted at Ajanta - and exploring the reasons behind these choices- Dr. Robert De Caroli	01:15 p.m.	45
3	Influences of Gandhara Art on Ajanta -Dr. Pia Brancaccio	02:00 p.m	45
4	Understanding Constructions of Buddhist Ritual Space at Ajanta and Ellora - Dr. Lisa Owen:	3.00 p.m.	45
5	The Cave as a Whole: A Mahayana Iconology of the Cave Temple - Dr. John Huntington	3:45 p.m.	45
6	Conservation and its problematics: Ajanta Cave 17 Dr. Leela Aditi Wood	4:45 p.m.	45
7	Closing remarks- Dr. John Antel	5:45 p.m.	15
8	Conference concludes	6.00 p.m.	END

Ajanta scholars' bios and pictures, commissioned artists and their bios etc are posted elsewhere on our web site. Please visit at your convenience.