

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY OF ART



HISTORY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

Like most aspects of Rabindranath Tagore's educational program, the teaching of Art history at Kala Bhavana has an informal beginning and organic evolution before it was given an institutional framework. The inaugural moment of Art history at Kala Bhavana can be traced to the arrival of the renowned Art historian Stella Kramirsch at the end of 1922 on an invitation from Rabindranath Tagore to join the newly founded Visva Bharati. Given Kramirsch's training at Vienna which was the center of Art History in Europe prior to the Second World war, and her keen interest in Indian Art, she was also seen by Tagore as the appropriate person to bring a global perspective to Art Historical discourse at Santiniketan which had already a Pan-Asian breath. Kramirsch was followed by other visiting scholars and the discourse continued informally, which Rabindranath Tagore, Abanindranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose and Binode Bihari playing seminal in carrying forward. In 1958 Art history became a taught and examined course at Kala Bhavana, and this was one of the first Art Institutions to do so in India, ten years later when Kala Bhavana was restructured along disciplinary lines an independent department of History of Art was established: along with those paintings, sculpture and graphics and this led to the introduction of History of Art as an area of specialization. The department plans to enlarge its archival

collection and build a more compressive visual archive to serve both pedagogic and research needs for not only the faculty but of the region. We plan to increase the stress on research and documentation so that the focus of both faculty and the students is directed primarily towards knowledge generation rather than on the accumulation and pedagogic dissemination of information. The Department also has plans to incorporate more of recent methodological apparatus and polemical directions, and widen the scope and possibilities of the discipline of Art history globally within the limits of institutional teaching; learning modules. We are also working towards interaction with scholars beyond the regular staff members in the teaching community so that a greater diversity of interest and research can be encouraged among the students. The Department shell continue its duty of imparting education through the B.F.A (History of Art) , Bridge Course(History of Art), M.F.A (History of Art), One year casual course , and shall promote research activities through Ph.D courses in the field of Art history. The department organizes Seminars, Workshops and Conferences in regular basis and also publishes a department journal *NANDAN* on the eve of Nandan Mela.

PROGRAMMES AND COURSES OFFERED

Programme Name	Number of Courses
Ph.D. in History of Art	03
Bridge Course leading to MFA	06
M.F.A in History of Art	14
B.F.A in History of Art	18