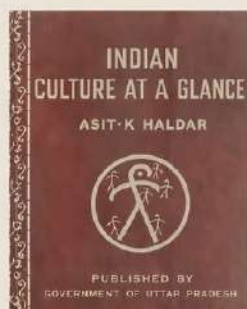


ALL ARE INVITED TO A TALK ON

Eternal Motifs: The Interplay of History & Art

BY
SANDIP MUKHERJEE



Eternal Motifs: The Interplay of History & Art

SPEAKER
Sandip Mukherjee

ABSTRACT

Asit Kumar Haldar
Born in 1890 at Jharkhand, this artist of omniscience led a very stimulating life and brought to the world of arts, literature, drama, translation, works - a huge repository of culture and conscience. His father Satish Kumar Haldar (1865-1948), was a By Magistrate and also young. Asit Haldar had the opportunity to travel the length and breadth of the beautiful undivided Bengal. Later under the tutelage of Abanindranath Tagore, his grand teacher - Asit Haldar created art in the Government School of Arts, Calcutta. He also travelled to Europe studying arts in London, Paris and Rome.

Along with Hareli, Bhambhani Nath Tagore, Asit Kumar, Nandlal Bose, Satish Day and Suryakant Gupta - the modernism art circle of what is called the Bengal School of Arts came into being. The first set of paintings from the Asit's Canvas in 1910 sponsored by Lady Hareli and the Government, included Raghava's painting, different ways to paint with oil, watercolor, wax, colors, the famous watercolor etc., are confined to this art of school, modernism. The body of Haldar's work is large, spanning among them being translation of poet Kalidasa - Meghadoot, Raghava, Rite, Samrat, Bhagwan Gita, Ganga Ganga, Ajanta, Ramayana, Kali Yuga and many others.

Asit Haldar was the first Principal of Kala Bhavana at Santiniketan and held the position from 1911 - 1924, briefly succeeding to the Royal Court of Jaipur before becoming the first ever Indian Principal of an Arts College - the Lucknow Government Art College, where he remained as the principal from 1925 until 1937 until his retirement. He was the first Indian to be elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts - London in 1934. He passed away in Lucknow in 1964.

Haldar is known to be an institution unto himself and his best works can be found in Alakhnand Bhawan (Haldar Hall dedicated to him), Lucknow University (Haldar Hall), India House - London, Indian Museum - Kolkata, Kala Bhavana at Santiniketan and today, the world over.

This evening we will appreciate a series of some 30 paintings depicting the history and culture of India as painted and narrated by him in a new publication - Indian Culture at a Glance.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

A past-out of the Rashtriya Indian Military College of Dehradun and later as an alumnus of the Institute of Hotel Management in Kolkata, Sandip has been the past Director - Operations of Luxury Hotels, Palaces and Resorts at the Taj and General Manager.

With four decades of operational experience, Sandip has headed some 1000+ employees in Hyderabad, Jaipur - the Prime Minister of India's Hospitality Centre in Delhi, hospitality schools, resorts, hotels - worldwide - and is currently retired and living with us at NTH since 2019.

He has worked with McKinsey Consulting, was an external Assessor for Tata Quality, a Certified Tata Climate Champion and now post-retirement from active service is devoting time to teach and train students and teachers of hospitality schools, hotels working with state government and a few hospitality companies, conducting leadership programmes.

He likes to get one short story book a year, and he and his wife Kalpana are avid travellers.

Asit Haldar is Sandip's maternal grandfather.

Asit Kumar Haldar (b. 10 September 1890), the first *Karmadhyaksha* of Kala-Bhavana, was born 135 years ago.

On the occasion of the 135th birth anniversary of the artist, the Department of History of Art will be privileged to witness an illustrated lecture by **Sri Sandip Mukherjee**, his grand-son.

Title of the lecture: **Eternal Motifs: The Interplay of History and Art**

Date: **Wednesday, 16th September, 2026**

Time: **12:00 pm**

Venue: **Archive / Seminar Room, New Building, Department of History of Art**

All students and faculty members are cordially requested to attend.

Department of History of Art, Kala-Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan