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Press Contact: Klare Scarborough  
215.951.1221 scarborough@lasalle.edu

PHILADELPHIA (December 11, 2014)—La Salle University Art Museum is proud to present the exhibitions Poetic Visions: Indian Art from the Permanent Collection and Diane Pieri: Phases of the Sun, on view December 17, 2014 – February 27, 2015.

Poetic Visions: Indian Art from the Permanent Collection
This exhibition showcases 38 Indian miniature paintings which were conserved through recent grants from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. Most depict secular and religious scenes rendered by artists working in the North Indian painting schools of Rajasthan and the Punjab Hills during the 18th and 19th centuries. From portraits of noblemen and secular activities, to religious narratives illustrating Hindu Gods and stories, the miniatures portray a range of subject matter and artistic styles, highlighting the breadth of La Salle’s collection.

The paintings provide an exciting glimpse of court culture in North India from the 18th century onwards. Many North Indian rulers (rajas) were avid patrons of the arts; and painting, poetry and architecture flourished under their rule. The North Indian courts were places of luxury and beauty, of tradition and prestige, and of great artistic creativity. This exhibition features some of the most prevalent subject matters in court painting: images of nobility and royal power, of feminine beauty and grace, of court poetry and music, and of Hindu stories and deities. Filled with rich and intricate detail, the paintings and drawings on view provide a taste of the vibrant aesthetic of North Indian artists depicting the idealized and sumptuous courtly world around them.

The exhibition is co-curated by Klare Scarborough, Ph.D., Director and Chief Curator of La Salle University Art Museum; and Mekala Krishnan, the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Fellow in South Asian Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The exhibition would not have been possible without the generous support of the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. Their funding of two conservation projects enabled La Salle University Art Museum to treat and rehouse a total of 54 Indian miniature paintings from 2013-2015. Now properly conserved and stabilized, these artworks can be safely handled and displayed. The upcoming exhibition of Poetic Visions features 38 of these recently-conserved paintings, many of which have never before been publicly exhibited.

The Indian Rajput paintings in the exhibition are part of a larger collection of over 150 Indian miniatures owned by La Salle University Art Museum. The collection represents a range of Indian painting schools from the 15th through 19th centuries, including Mughal designs and examples from northeastern Indian Mewar, Bikaner, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sirohi, Nathadwara, Kotah, and Raghogarh Rajasthan Schools; the Punjab Hills School; northwestern Kashmir School; southern Tanjore and Deccan Schools; Delhi Nurpur and Guler Kangra Schools in the north; Ratlam, Malwa School of the Madhya Pradesh state; Hyderabad, and Ellichpur Schools of central India; and Kalighat painting. The collection was developed over the years through purchases and generous gifts of artwork, including significant donations of Indian miniatures between 1982 and 1993 by local psychologist and Indian art collector Dr. Alvin O. Bellak (d. 2004).
**Diane Pieri: Phases of the Sun**

This complementary exhibition features 15 small mixed media works by local Philadelphia artist Diane Pieri, which were inspired by her recent visits to India.

Artist Statement: “For over 25 years, before traveling to India, I was deeply immersed in the almost unearthly beauty of Indian miniatures. I was solely inspired through books until I was awarded an Independence Foundation Grant to travel to Northern India, the wellspring of my desire to create beauty in the everyday world. The images in these paintings are translations of and reactions to gorgeous marble inlays, breathtaking landmarks, delightful Indian folk images and intensely colorful experiences from this pivotal trip. Being in India took me way beyond printed images. While I have completed and exhibited bigger paintings inspired by this trip, *Phases of the Sun* is a series of miniatures that embody this huge experience.”

Diane Pieri may be contacted through her web site, [www.dianepieri.com](http://www.dianepieri.com), or through the Rosenfeld Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, [www.therosenfeldgallery.com](http://www.therosenfeldgallery.com).

**Exhibition Programs**

The Opening Reception for both exhibitions will take place on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, from 5 to 7 p.m. Immediately preceding the Opening Reception, Dr. Scarborough and Ms. Krishnan will give a Curators’ Introduction to *Poetic Visions* at 4 p.m.

Other programs include the following: Diane Pieri will give an Artist’s Talk at 1 p.m. on Thursday, January 29, 2015. Dr. Julie Regan, Assistant Professor of Asian Religions at La Salle University, will present a lecture about the practice of Darshan and its presence in the exhibition on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 1 p.m. Additionally, Dr. Ainsley M. Cameron, Assistant Curator of South Asian Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, will present a lecture about Indian painting on February 26 at 1 p.m. Most of these programs will take place at La Salle University Art Museum, unless otherwise noted.

Supporters of the exhibitions and related programs include the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Brother Daniel Burke Endowment Fund, the Art Angels, and La Salle University’s Department of Art History, Department of Religion, The Multicultural and International Center, the Diplomats-in-Residence Program, and the Concert and Lecture Series.

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The La Salle University Art Museum is located on the lower level of Olin Hall on the campus of La Salle University at 19th Street and Olney Avenue. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Closed during holidays and winter break, 12/24/14 to 1/5/2015. Admission is free, though donations are accepted. Please call to schedule group visits. Special tours can be arranged. For further information call 215.951.1221 or visit the website at [http://www.lasalle.edu/museum/](http://www.lasalle.edu/museum/). Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.