

Eckart Muthesius and Manik Bagh - Pioneering Modernism in India

Curated by Raffael Dedo Gadebusch
at KNMA, Saket

Preview date & time : 14 October 2024, 7.00pm onwards

Open to Public : 15 October 2024 - 8 December 2024



Emil Leitner. Model for the country residence of the Maharaja of Indore designed by Eckart Muthesius. 1931. Vintage gelatin silver print. 17.4 x 28.3 cm. Shubha & Prahlad Bubbar Collection.

New Delhi, 14 October 2024: The Kiran Nadar Museum of Art is pleased to announce the opening of the exhibition **Eckart Muthesius and Manik Bagh - Pioneering Modernism in India**, curated by Raffael Dedo Gadebusch, who is the head of the Museum für Asiatische Kunst, Berlin.

The “Museum für Asiatische Kunst Berlin” (Asian Art Museum Berlin), as an institution of the The Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (SPK), has worked collaboratively with its international partners, the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) and German Embassy New Delhi to realise this exhibition in India. This exhibition is seen as the beginning of a long-term partnership between the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art in New Delhi and the Asian Art Museum in Berlin (Museum für Asiatische Kunst), with both institutions contributing to the field of modern and contemporary art, with a particular emphasis on India and its neighbouring nations.

The exhibition, held in honour of architect Eckart Muthesius' 120th birth year, relates the intriguing tale of a productive conversation about design and architecture that took place in the early 1930s between Germany and India.



The main characters in this narrative are Berlin's architect Eckart Muthesius (1904-1989) and Indore's Maharaja Yeshwant Rao Holkar II (1908-1961), who had first met in Oxford at the end of the 1920s. The Maharaja appointed Muthesius shortly afterward to create a mansion for him and his spouse. This was to be distinctly different from the English colonial-style designs that were already in place. Literally translated as the "jewel garden," Manik Bagh was India's first iconic modernist edifice, having been commissioned by Yeshwant Rao Holkar and completed by Muthesius in 1933. The palace personified the new democratic architecture's holistic principles. Eckart Muthesius, designed the interiors of the palace with puristically elegant and highly innovative, masterpieces of contemporary design and significant artwork, including the three versions of the sculpture "Bird in Space" that the Maharaja commissioned from Constantin Brancusi. Manik Bagh is a symbol of the early days of international modernism and an architectural synthesis unlike any other building in Asia.

A selection of rare old photographs by Man Ray, Emil Leitner, and Eckart Muthesius will be on display in the exhibition along with watercolors, sketches, and design studies by Muthesius, which will unfold the curatorial objective.

Notes to Editor

About KNMA

Founded in 2010, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) is a pioneering private museum of modern and contemporary art in South Asia, with branches in New Delhi and Noida. The not-for-profit organisation produces rigorous exhibitions, educational and public-focused programs, and publications. Through its rigorous and multiple programs, KNMA emphasises its commitment to institutional collaborations and support-networks for artists and creative communities, while extending its reach to diverse audiences. The museum houses a growing collection of more than 15,000 artworks from South Asia, with a focus on the historical trajectories of 20th century Indian art, alongside the experimental practices of young contemporaries. KNMA was established through the initiative of art collector and philanthropist Kiran Nadar and is supported by the Shiv Nadar Foundation. The new standalone building of KNMA is due to open in the next three to four years, near Delhi's Indira Gandhi international airport.

www.knma.in

Ongoing/ Upcoming exhibitions at the Museum:

At KNMA, Noida

Purvaee: Evoking Pedagogic Lineages

13 September 2024 - 15 December 2024

Curated by Avijna Bhattacharya

At KNMA, Saket

The Elemental You: Simryn Gill, Neha Choksi, and Hajra Waheed

October 15, 2024–January 9, 2025

Curated by Akansha Rastogi

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