Exhibiting India’s Art in the 21st Century is the Third Annual Anne d’Harnoncourt Symposium, held in honor of the late director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and presented by the University of Pennsylvania History of Art Department and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The symposium begins on Friday evening with a reception and opening remarks by Timothy Rub, The George D. Widener Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Michael W. Meister, the W. Norman Brown Professor of South Asia Studies in the History of Art department at the University of Pennsylvania. These will be followed by an introductory talk by Darielle Mason, the Museum’s Stella Kramrisch Curator of Indian and Himalayan Art, on the Museum’s South Indian Pillared Temple Hall. At Art After 5 in the Museum’s Great Stair Hall, attendees will enjoy the critically acclaimed band Red Baraat, which melds the infectious North Indian rhythm bhangra with Latin, funk, and jazz.

On Saturday morning and after lunch we will hear from leading and emerging scholar-curators of South Asian and Himalayan art on some fascinating recent projects—and the questions they have raised. Each of these five papers will not only address an aspect of the region’s art, but also explore an issue crucial to exhibiting and interpreting material culture in the broader museum context.

Expanding the Canon: Garden and Cosmos
Debra Diamond, Associate Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art at the Freer Gallery and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in Washington, DC will present her recent groundbreaking exhibition, her current work, and explore how creative ideas and new viewpoints can reframe the region’s art.

Framing Modernity in South Asia
Sonya Rhie Quintanilla is the Curator of Asian Art at the San Diego Museum of Art and a specialist on early Buddhist sculpture who organized the 2008 exhibition Rhythms of India: The Art of Nandalal Bose (1882–1966) at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She will look at ways of interpreting the continuities and disjuncture of tradition.

In the Field and in the Gallery: Clarifying Context through Scholarship and Display
John Henry Rice is the Associate Curator of South Asian and Islamic Art at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and a field architectural historian who was central to the recent design and installation of Virginia’s monumental galleries of South Asian Art. He will discuss the role of research in the interpretation and display of collections.

Prisms of Practice: Tibetan-Buddhist Altars in Museum Settings
Katherine Anne Paul is the Curator of the Arts of Asia at the Newark Museum in New Jersey, where she recently reinstalled the renowned Tibetan collections and Tibetan Altar. She was formerly the Associate Curator of Indian and Himalayan Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where she collaborated on the conservation and reconstruction of a newly acquired Tibetan domestic altar. She will explore the different missions of these two institutions and the impact of those missions on display and interpretation.
**Ornamentation and “Authenticity”: Sacred Images in Temples and Museums**

John E. Cort is a Professor of Religion at Denison University in Granville, Ohio, and a Faculty Consultant at the Denison Museum, as well as a leading specialist on Jainism and religious ritual in India. He will bring into question established notions of original context.

Saturday afternoon will continue with a moderated discussion among the speakers and audience. The evening will conclude with the opportunity for more informal conversation at an all-symposium dinner in lively Center City Philadelphia.

Participants will return to the Museum on Sunday morning to roll up their sleeves for a series of roundtable working sessions on the issues raised the previous day. This will be a unique and exciting opportunity for Museum professionals, academics, collectors, and other appreciators to articulate and share what is usually a private, in-house process, since the symposium also inaugurates the work of reconceptualizing and reinstalling the Museum’s own galleries of South Asian and Himalayan art. Together we will begin a dialogue on our own and our visitors’ regional, cultural, and temporal perceptions; consider how these may change in the coming decades; and explore the role of the museum as community member and cultural ambassador. We will think “outside the box” about what it means to exhibit and interpret not only the art of India, but all art in the 21st century.

The symposium will conclude with the public lecture **Hidden Treasures of India at the Philadelphia Museum of Art**. In this richly illustrated presentation, Yael Rice, Assistant Curator of Indian and Himalayan Art, will share her tales of discovery and adventure in the Museum’s storerooms, archives, and galleries, offering a rare, behind-the-scenes view into one of the most important collections of South Asian art in the United States.

On Sunday afternoon, participants will also have the opportunity to attend a variety of lively India-themed activities, including a South Asian-Caribbean community object-storytelling session in the Museum’s South Indian Pillared Temple Hall and the Celebrate the Art of South Asia intergenerational family event held throughout the Museum.
Schedule

Friday, September 30

5:00 pm  Registration for symposium opens  (West Foyer, PMA)
5:00 – 6:15 pm  Reception  (South Balcony, PMA)
6:30 – 7:30 pm  Opening remarks and introductory talk  (TBD, PMA)

Saturday, October 1

9:30 am  Registration for symposium opens  (West Foyer, PMA)
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  Morning session with case studies  (Van Pelt Auditorium, PMA)
1:00 – 3:00 pm  Early afternoon session with case studies  (Van Pelt, PMA)
3:00 – 3:15 pm  Break
3:15 – 3:45 pm  Late afternoon panel discussion  (Van Pelt, PMA)
3:45 – 4:15 pm  Break
4:15 – 4:45 pm  Closing remarks/wrap-up  (Van Pelt, PMA)
5:30 – 8:30 pm  All-symposium dinner (Melograno, downtown Philadelphia)

Sunday, October 2*

9:00 am – 12:00 pm  Smaller roundtable working sessions  (Gehry Project Room, PMA)
2:30 – 3:30 pm  Public lecture  (Van Pelt Auditorium, PMA)