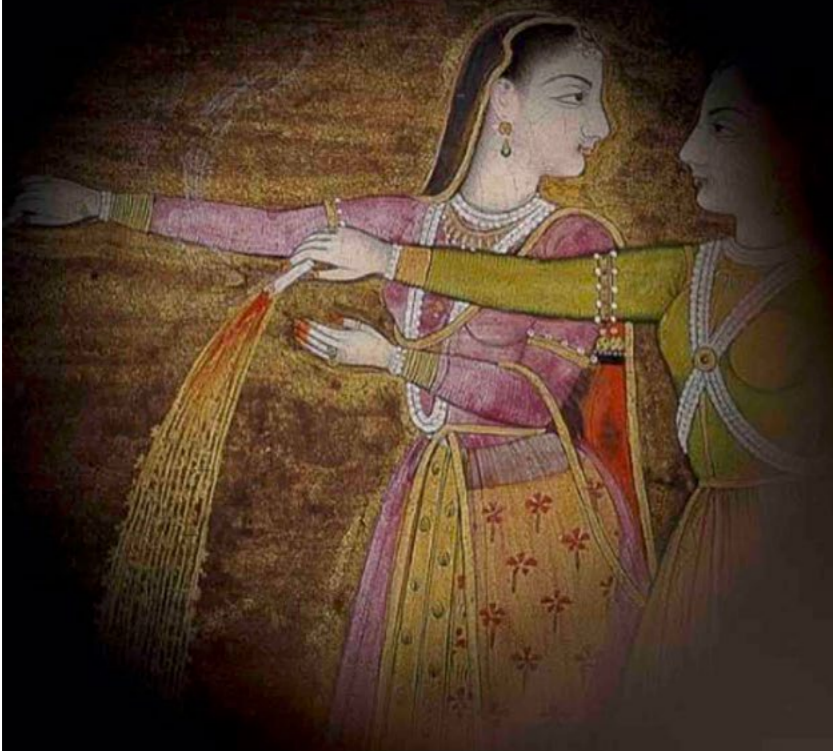


LUMIÈRE NOIRE

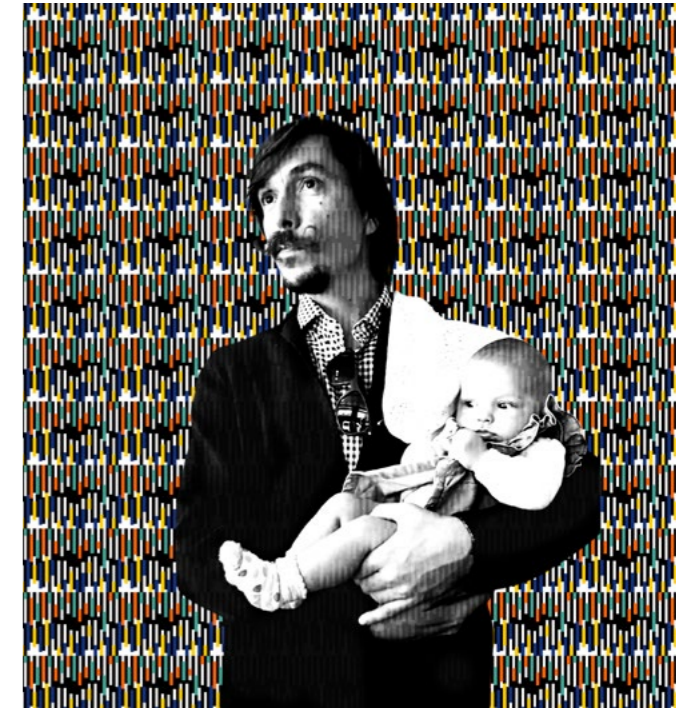
Que diriez-vous d'un tête-à-tête
avec une œuvre d'art...



... dans le noir ?

ALEXIS RENARD

Gabrielle Lesage Art +



ALEXIS RENARD

Alexis Renard has been passionate about Indian and Islamic art for more than 20 years, and is a well-known expert in these fields. His gallery is in the heart of Paris, on Ile St. Louis. Besides selling high quality works of art, Alexis provides advice and expertise to collectors, institutions and auction houses. Many of the objects that have passed through the gallery are now in international institutions. In his 20 years of activity, he has published more than 20 exhibition catalogues, curated exhibitions, and participated in more than 50 prestigious international art fairs.

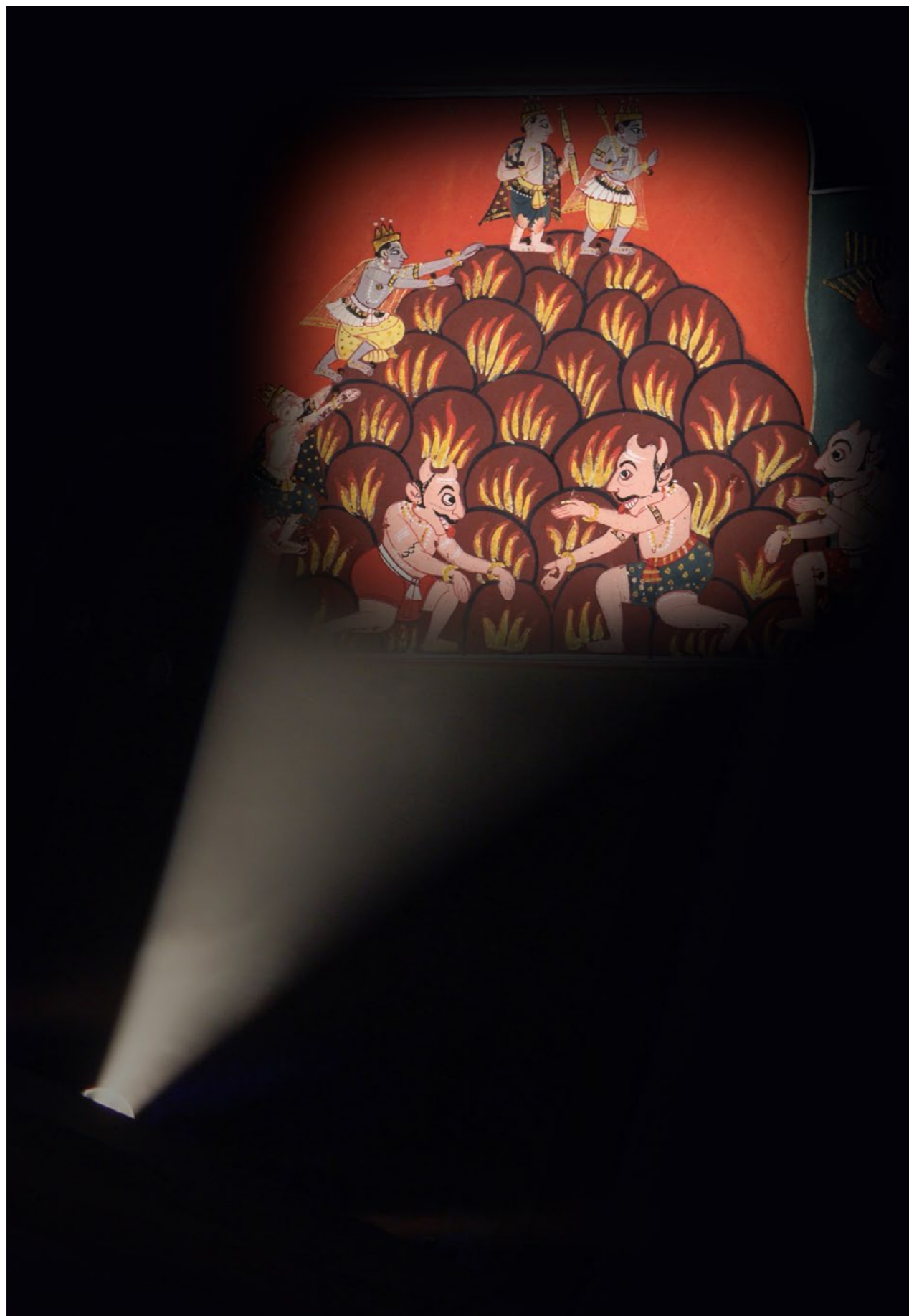
Currently, the gallery is also developing a "Cultural Content" department devoted to projects such as Sensory visits. Curatorial services for institutions are also being provided, and a program of podcasts is under development. All of these activities have the goals of sharing Alexis Renard's passion for Indian and Islamic art with a wider audience, and creating bridges between historic art and the contemporary world.

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ALEXIS, YOUR GALLERY IS NOW PRODUCING CULTURAL CONTENT. CAN YOU TELL US MORE?

After more than 20 years working in the Islamic and Indian art market, we have developed expertise and our own taste through more than 20 catalogues. We gathered objects of specific themes such as Wunderkammer, Game of Gods / Game of Love (epics in Indian and Persian art), Nature, Ottoman art, Calligraphy, Fierce and Ferocious, Exotic Mirror (depictions of Europeans in South Asian art)...

Our passion for the stories told by objects, and how they can help us learn and understand the world in a better way, led us to develop new projects such as Podcasts, Curatorial services and Sensory Visits.

HAS THE HEALTH CRISIS HELP YOU TO RE-THINK YOUR CONTENT?

The fact that things did slow down with the Covid crisis allowed us to have more time to develop these new projects.

ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR NEW CATALOGUE, YOU ARE INTRODUCING « LUMIÈRE NOIRE ». WHAT IS IT?

Lumière Noire is a Sensory Visit in the dark. Visitors are seated in our 17th century basement in complete darkness, guided by my voice and a story written with Gabrielle Lesage Art +. They are given a small torch, like the ones we had when we were kids, and invited to discover our exhibition like if they were entering a hidden Indian temple.

CAN YOU SHARE WITH US TWO PIECES SHOWCASED IN « LUMIÈRE NOIRE »?

Visitors are first confronted to an impressive image of the fierce form of Shiva, a meter tall granite sculpture of Bhairava, formerly in the Vérité collection. They are taken to many places and stories, such as entering a Mughal painting of a night hunt, with members of the Bhils tribe hunting with fire.

« LUMIÈRE NOIRE » IS AIMED TO ENGAGE THE AUDIENCE BEYOND SIMPLY LOOKING AT IT, RIGHT ? YOU LOSE YOURSELF IN A STORY AND GET "CAUGHT UP" IN ONE.

The aim of this experience is to begin a different relationship with the pieces, and to be involved in a more emotional part of the artwork. The darkness, the guiding voice, the small focused light, are allowing immersion into the pieces, giving them a completely different dimension in this setting. In museums or at art fairs, we never have the opportunity to see paintings and sculptures that way.

THIS CAN BE DONE IN ALMOST ANY MEDIUM OF ART, BUT IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES ARE MORE COMMON WITH DIGITAL ART. WHAT WAS THE CHALLENGE WITH SCULPTURES AND PAINTINGS?

We had to rethink the installation to allow people to move around the pieces in the dark. We have decided not to use labels, and not get too deep into the usual descriptions of pieces involving dating, materials and

techniques, but rather to focus more on what the object tells us about its culture, and why it has been made.

NO TWO PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCES ARE EXACTLY THE SAME, BUT CAN YOU TELL US HOW YOUR AUDIENCE REACTED TO THIS EXPERIENCE. DOES IT IMPART A MORE PROFOUND MEANING FOR THE PARTICIPANT?

Only one or two people are allowed to do this immersive experience at the same time. Phones are not ringing, viewers are not distracted, and they can develop a relationship with the pieces in a more profound way. We had great feedback from the visitors. With this original experience they told us they had easier access to the meaning of the pieces.

WILL THE PODCAST BE AVAILABLE ON YOUR WEBSITE OR ANY OTHER PLATFORM?

The podcast is not yet available, as we are seeking partners to develop more podcasts. Our first podcast is telling the story of the rediscovery of an album page that had been lost for more than 200 years. It is called "The adventurers of the lost page".

ARE YOU THINKING OF ADOPTING AND INCLUDING MORE TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS AR FOR EXAMPLE?

We are convinced that we don't need complex technology to really experience art in different ways! Our Sensory visits do not need more than a good story

accompanied with voice, sound and atmosphere.

WHAT OTHER PROJECTS ARE YOU WORKING?

We are also working on curatorial projects with innovative themes for institutions. Our experience and expertise in Islamic and Indian art and culture allow us to have a fresh and different vision of what can be told with artworks.

LUMIÈRE NOIRE

10/06 – 22/07 2021

Galerie Alexis Renard
5 rue des deux ponts
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