



The Two Passions of Howard Hodgkin:
Visions of Mughal India: The Collection of Howard Hodgkin and
Inspired by India: Paintings by Howard Hodgkin

Two distinguished exhibitions united by one man's lifelong fascination with India
Open February 21 at the Aga Khan Museum

Toronto, February 2, 2015 – The vibrancy and colours of India are celebrated at the Aga Khan Museum in two spectacular upcoming exhibitions united by the imagination and creativity of British artist Howard Hodgkin (b. 1932). *Visions of Mughal India: The Collection of Howard Hodgkin* and *Inspired by India: Paintings by Howard Hodgkin* will be displayed in tandem beginning February 21 through to June 21, 2015.

Visions of Mughal India features historical works from Hodgkin's personal collection, while *Inspired by India* presents powerfully expressive paintings spanning different periods in Hodgkin's own practice. "Being able to display Hodgkin's paintings along with his collection is a great honour," says Aga Khan Museum CEO and Director Henry Kim. "It has never been done before, and it shows just how defining a force India has been in Hodgkin's life and work."

Aga Khan Museum Associate Curator Filiz Çakır Phillip agrees: "For Hodgkin, collecting and creating art are inseparable activities. He started both when he was very young. Hodgkin decided to become an artist at the tender age of 5. Then, when he was studying at Eton College, his art teacher introduced him to Indian art and inspired him to start collecting it." Çakır Phillip visited Hodgkin in England to select works for both exhibitions. She also worked closely with Oxford University's Ashmolean Museum, the co-organizer of *Visions of Mughal India*. Hodgkin's collection is currently on loan to the Ashmolean Museum and has been instrumental in enlightening a broader audience to the beauty and significance of Indian painting and drawing. This year alone, works from the collection are travelling to the Barbican Art Gallery, London and to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Highlights of *Visions of Mughal India* include:

- An outstanding assemblage of **elephant portraits**, finely detailed paintings and drawings of **flora and fauna**, vivid evocations of **daily life, royal portraits**, and dramatic illustrations of **epics and myths**. These exquisite works were produced in the Mughal court, the Deccani Sultanates, and the Rajput kingdoms between the late 16th and the early 19th centuries. They are complemented by a small selection of works from the Aga Khan Museum Collection.
- Related live arts programming, including two showcase performances by the Grammy-nominated Ghazal Ensemble (March 27 and 28, 8pm) and two performances co-presented with the Raag-Mala Music Society of Toronto featuring *raag*s by the famed 16th-century singer/composer Miyan Tansen (April 18, 7pm and April 19, 11am).



Inspired by India features eight paintings created by Hodgkin between 1970 and 2014. These highly physical, boldly coloured works demonstrate Hodgkin’s unclassifiable style and confirm his status as one of Britain’s best painters. Hodgkin resists the term “abstraction” to describe his works, but does accept that they represent feelings and can evoke an emotional response in the viewer.

Howard Hodgkin will be visiting the Aga Khan Museum to participate in a public talk. Full details of all exhibition-related programs and events are available at agakhanmuseum.org.

The Aga Khan Museum has been established and developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), which is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN).

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) focuses on the physical, social, cultural and economic revitalization of communities in the developing world, but some of its programs, including the Museum, span both the developed and developing worlds. AKTC is composed of several individual programs and units: the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme (<http://www.akdn.org/hcp/>), which promotes the conservation and re-use of buildings and public spaces in ways that spur socio-economic development; the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (<http://www.akdn.org/architecture/>), which awards a prize for architecture every three years; the Aga Khan Music Initiative (http://www.akdn.org/aktc_music_about.asp), which supports talented musicians and music educators who strive to preserve, transmit, and further develop their musical heritage in contemporary forms; the online architectural resource ArchNet.org (www.archnet.org); and the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (<http://web.mit.edu/akpia/www/>).

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a private, international, non-denominational development organization, is active in 30 countries and employs over 80,000 people globally. Its ten agencies address complex development issues, including the provision of quality healthcare and education services, cultural and economic revitalization, micro-enterprise, entrepreneurship and economic development, the advancement of civil society and the protection of the environment.

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