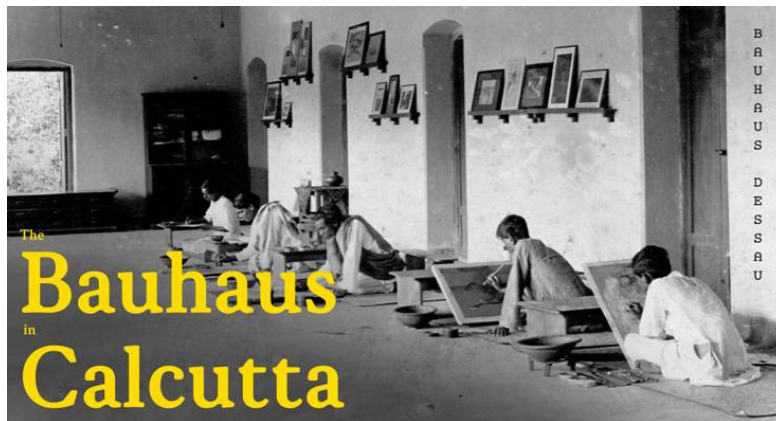


Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2016
From Monet to Ai Weiwei: How We Got Here
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

The Bauhaus in Bengal: Reflections on Art and Design
in Modern India

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The exhibition of Bauhaus and Indian artists that occurred in December 1922 in Calcutta was a fascinating moment in the history of modernism. The show was curated by the young Austrian, **Stella Kramrisch**, a scholar of ancient Indian art and mythology, one year after her arrival in India. It famously displayed works by Bauhaus artists working in Germany such as **Paul Klee**, **Wassily Kandinsky**, and **Lyonel Feininger** alongside modern artists from India such as **Abanindranath Tagore**, **Nandalal Bose**, and **Gagenendranath Tagore**. In 2013, a team of German and Indian curators reconstructed this historical show for a contemporary exhibition held at the Bauhaus in Dessau, Germany (March to July, 2013).

My lecture offers an account of both the 1922 exhibition, for which there remains no visual documentation to this day, as well as the contemporary effort to reconstruct the show with original works of art from the era. Accordingly, this study guide provides background for the histories of modernism in *both* India and Germany, and directs the reader to the 2013 exhibition catalogue with a view to raising some larger questions related to exhibitions, the archive, and more global approaches to art history itself.

2013 Exhibition Catalogue

- Regina Bittner et. al. (eds.), *The Bauhaus in Calcutta: An Encounter of the Cosmopolitan Avant-Garde*. Berlin: Hatje-Cantz, 2013.

Modernism in Germany (The Bauhuas)

- Barry Bergdoll and Leah Dickerman (eds.), *Bauhaus 1919-1933: Workshops for Modernity*. New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 2009.
- Kathleen James-Chakraborty (ed.), *Bauhaus Culture from Weimar to the Cold War*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2006.
- Magdalena Droste, *Bauhaus 1919-1933*. Berlin: Taschen, 2012.

Modernism in India (The Bengal School)

- Tapati Guha-Thakurta, *The Making of a New "Indian" Art: Artists, Aesthetics and Nationalism in Bengal 1850-1920*. Cambridge University Press, 1992
- Stoler-Miller (ed.), *Exploring India's Sacred Art: Selected Writings of Stella Kramrisch*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1983.
- Partha Mitter, *The Triumph of Modernism*. London: Reaktion, 2007
- R. Siva Kumar (ed.), *The Last Harvest: Paintings of Rabindranath Tagore*. New Delhi: Mapin Publishing, 2011.