

Conference on Assam at Britism Museum



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British Museum is going to organise conference on "Assam: textile transmission and the performance of [dance](#)" on July [8](#) - [9](#) [2016](#) at Stevenson Lecture Theatre, London. This two-day conference will respond to the current exhibition in Room 91, [Krishna](#) in the garden of Assam: the cultural context of an Indian textile. It will consider [Assamese](#) textiles, [trade](#) and contact through the Himalayas from north-east [India](#) to Tibet, and the performance traditions that connect the ancient [Krishna](#)-related textiles with modern [Assamese](#) culture. The conference will include an exhibition viewing and reception.

Assam: textile transmission and the performance of [dance](#)

Friday [8](#) July & Saturday [9](#) July [2016](#) Stevenson Lecture Theatre, British Museum

Friday [8](#) July

09.30 Registration 18.30

[10.00](#) Introduction

Hartwig Fischer, Director, British Museum

[10.10](#) The [Brahmaputra](#) Valley: a corridor in monastic geographicity

[Indrani](#) Chatterjee, University of Austin, Texas

[10.45](#) Discussion

11.15 Coffee break

11.45 Trans-Himalayan textiles: Indian woven silks in Tibet

Rosemary Crill, formerly V&A Museum

12.45 View of the exhibition

[Krishna](#) in the garden of Assam: the cultural context of an Indian textile

13.30 Lunch

14.30 A brief discussion of the traditional woven silk textiles of medieval Assam: lampas, samite, double-weave and damask

Steven Cohen, Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, Oxford

15.30 Silk, a larger history

Arupjyoti Saikia, Indian Institute of [Technology](#), Guwahati, Assam

15.30 Tea break

17:00 From Lhasa to London: looting during the 1904 Younghusband Expedition to Tibet

Tim Myatt, independent scholar

18:30 The dancing monks of Uttar Kamalabari monastery, Majuli Island, led by Dr Bhabananda Barbayan, in a public performance in the Great Court (ends around 20.00)

Saturday 9 July

[10.00](#) Dancing the divine; performing the Nation: [Krishna dance](#) in ancient and contemporary Northeast [India](#)

Debanjali Biswas and Georgie Pope, both King's College London – [India](#)

Institute and Department of [Music](#)

11.00 The icons and the accompanying texts woven on the Vrindavani Vastra textile groups and their historical and cultural significations in Assam

Samiran Boruah, The Assam Research Society, and La Maison des Artistes, Paris

12.00 Coffee break

12.30 Staging the Vrindavani Vastra - Q&A session with Bhabananda Barbayan, the choreographer of the [dance](#) performance based on the Vrindavani Vastra textile

Bhabananda Barbayan (choreographer from the Uttar Kamalabari monastery, Majuli Island) and Anwesa Mahanta and Arshiya Shethi, both post-doctoral independent researchers

13.30 Lunch

15.00 Threads through Assam - screening of a short film on the story of silk in Assam, directed by Leona Chaliha

15.45 Some further thoughts on the function of the Vrindavani Vastra and Conclusion

Richard Blurton, British Museum

16.30 Dance [workshop](#) with monks from Majuli Island

18.00 Drinks reception

[Find out more..](#)

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