

## Marketing Note 5.10.20

### Understand Western Perspectives on the Culture of the Subcontinent on AVID Online's next LIVE Session

*"India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most artistic materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only!"*

*-Mark Twain*

#### For Immediate Release

As part of **AVID Online**, **Avid Learning** presents **From the Outside Looking In: The Western Perspective on India's Captivating Culture** a fascinating live session with Indophiles and cultural enthusiasts *Longtime N.Y. Times Contributor and Author Perry Garfinkel* and *Founder and CEO of Adventures in Art Karen Stone Talwar* in conversation with *Author of Bhagwaan Ke Pakwaan Varud Gupta*.

*Please read on for more details:*

Going beyond cultural tourism and experiential travel, Karen and Perry will discuss the rarefied cultures, individuals and experiences (physical and spiritual) they have encountered during the various times they have spent on the subcontinent. They will share their fascinating insights, observations, perspectives and stories on how they experienced the many facets of Indian culture and what has stayed with them through the years. Not shying away from authenticity, they will shed light on their decades-old experiences with and opinions on the country and culture as it continues to evolve. They will also address issues such as cultural appropriation and examine India's indelible influence on global culture as a result.

Showcasing the ideas of these international cultural aesthetes who have extensive knowledge of and passion for India and its culture, this conversation promises to be a rich discussion between them on the Western experience of the culture of India- its art and heritage, its royal legacy and cultural sites, its histories and icons, its design and visual languages and its writings and philosophies.

As an investigative journalist, Perry will focus on cultural forces and shifts that have shaped India over the last forty years and Karen will focus on the richness and complexity of Indian arts and culture- in relation to other global cultures in the world. The synergies between both approaches and perspectives promise to be fascinating.

They will also provide insights on how the methods of experiencing cultures have changed- over the years and especially in a Post-COVID era with travel and social distancing norms having to adhere to a 'new normal'.


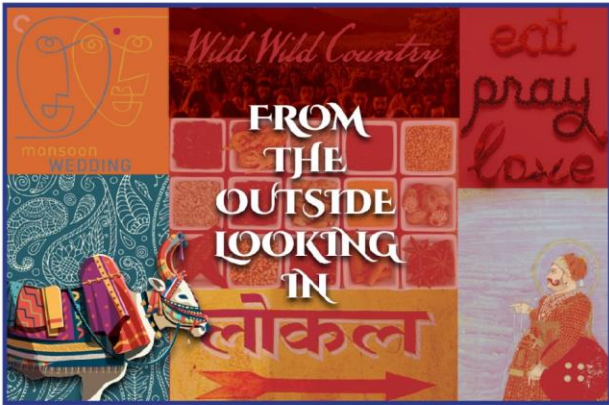
Highlights to include:

- Experiencing and understanding Indian culture from a Western perspective
- Understanding the difference between cultural tourism and cultural immersion
- Discovering rarified nuggets, perspectives and stories on the Western experience of Indian heritage, design, art and philosophy
- Understanding India's place in the world- as a cultural site and how it has influenced global culture

**When:** Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020 | 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM


**RSVP:** [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in)

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**The Western Perspective on India's Captivating Culture**


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Longtime N.Y. Times Contributor  
and Author  
**Perry Garfinkel**







Founder and CEO  
of Adventures  
in Art  
**Karen Stone Talwar**



Author of  
Bhagwaan Ke Pakwaan  
**Varud Gupta**

DATE: **SAT, 12 DEC 2020**  
TIME: **5:00 PM - 6:30 PM**  
REGISTER: [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in)

  
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## About the Speakers

As Founder and CEO of Adventures in Art, **Karen Stone Talwar** has successfully combined her two passions: travel and art. Karen has extensive knowledge of the modern and contemporary art scene with her years of experience and education at some of the most prestigious institutions and galleries. Over the course of her career spanning over 25 years, she has had many different roles in art consultancy, luxury brand development as well as high end travel planning. Her eye and natural instinct for art and culture play a strong role in shaping the company. Adventures in Art curates luxury travel experiences focused on art, jewelry and fashion for museum patrons and art collectors from around the world. Founded in 2011 by Karen, Adventures in Art is unique in its endeavor, providing customized itineraries and insider's access to the art capitals around the world timed around art fairs, jewelry shows as well as exhibitions at major museums. [www.adventuresinart.com](http://www.adventuresinart.com)

**Perry Garfinkel**, American author and journalist, has been a New York Times contributor for 30 years, covering a wide range of subjects and as regular contributor to several Sunday Business section columns. A former editor for, among others, the Boston Globe, the Newark (N.J.) Star Ledger and New Age Journal, he has also written for National Geographic Magazine, Travel & Leisure and Huffington Post. He is the author of the U.S. bestseller "Buddha or Bust: In Search of Truth, Meaning, Happiness and the Man Who Found Them All" (Crown/Harmony). He is currently at work on "Being Gandhi: My Experiment Following the Mahatma's Moral Principles in These Immoral Times," to be published in the U.S., Germany and India in late 2021. He has been traveling to and writing about India since the mid 1970s. A lifelong drummer, he studied tabla under Pandit Panchu Maharaj in Varanasi but returned to Western drums when he realized he started way too late to achieve any level of proficiency in this lifetime!

<https://perrygarfinkel.com>

**Varud Gupta** was born and bred for business, studying Finance at NYU Stern and working as a consultant at Deloitte, until a brusque millennial existential crisis sent him traveling and writing through the culinary cultures of the world. He has since been a NY cheesemonger, an Argentine asador, a Peruvian bartender and a spy in countless household kitchens. His first book, Bhagwaan Ke Pakwaan or Food of The Gods, is an exploration of the intersection of food and faith in India and won the Gourmand India award for "Peace" and "First Cookbook." His recently released graphic novel, Chhotu: A Tale of Partition and Love, is a coming of age story set in 1947 Chandni Chowk. It received Comic Con India's award for "Best Writer". When not writing he's usually eating and cooking, reviewing instant noodles on his Instagram (@varudgupta), playing Dungeons & Dragons, or teaching as a visiting faculty member at the Indian Institute of Art & Design.

## Partner Information

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