Your personal invite to our fourth #AVIDROUNDTABLE which explores Mughal Art featuring faculty from the distinguished Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh

" The miniatures of the Mughal period are really the pinnacle of Indian artistic achievement."
– Salman Rushdie

Greetings!

Avid Learning and the Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh present Princes and Painters in Mughal Delhi, a fascinating Roundtable Discussion on the vibrant cultural life, historical and political happenings, and artistic transformations during the dramatic 150 year period in Delhi between 1707 and 1857 when power shifted from the Mughal Empire to the British Raj.

This program is part of a curated series where distinguished faculty and professors from Edinburgh University's varied departments engage with practitioners, alumni, cultural organisations and academics, developing networks and dialogues. The program is also part of our AVID Roundtable series which endeavours to facilitate academic rigour and richness for an intellectually tuned-in and engaged audience.

The first in the series, held in August 2016, organised in collaboration with the Israeli Consulate, was titled "How Cities Grow? A Discussion on Design, Growth and Sustainability of Urban Spaces". This conversation took the audience from Mumbai to Tel Aviv and around the world as they discussed the very best practices at the confluence of design, culture, technology and urban planning. The second Roundtable in May 2017, brought in collaboration with Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, Mumbai and titled "Designing Tomorrow", took a closer look at design innovation and trends with a special emphasis on Italian and Indian practices and products. Our third roundtable in August 2017, "Fluid Painting, Moving Canvas, Making Art in a Precarious World" also brought in collaboration with Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, Mumbai probed aesthetic practices and the politics of art-making in today's world of uncertainty and precariousness.

The fourth in the series, this upcoming roundtable will focus on Mughal Art and its complex milieu of Delhi during the transformational and crucial phase in the region's history.

Lecturer in Indian/South Asian Art, Edinburgh College of Art, **Yuthika Sharma** will give a lecture on the subject followed by a conversation with Art Historian and former Head of Sotheby's India, **Maithili Parekh**. Using visual examples and themes, Dr. Sharma will discuss the study of Late Mughal visual culture and the challenges in interpreting and using terminologies such as 'Company Painting'. She will also engage on how European collecting in the sub-continent has shaped academic collections in the UK, with a special emphasis on the Indian collections at Edinburgh University. Then, in conversation with Maithili Parekh, they will discuss the broader historical cross-cultural influences on Indian art, patronage of the Mughal and Rajput courts, and specific impact of colonial cultural and political forces on visual culture. Ending on a contemporary note, they will touch upon patronage and collecting of pre-modern art today.

Join us for a provocative roundtable on this fascinating period of our history.

The discussion will be a closed-door session with select participation and will be streamed via the AVID YouTube Channel @ youtube.com/avidedu. It will also be live tweeted via the AVID Twitter Channel @ www.twitter.com/Avidlearning. A summary of the session will be posted on all our Social Media Channels;

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Avidlearning; Twitter: www.twitter.com/Avidlearning and Instagram: @avidlearning)

We look forward to hosting all of you for this Round Table and exchanging valuable insights during our interaction.

Please do RSVP at your earliest to felita.braganza@essarservices.co.in as we have limited seating which will be first come first served.

Very Best,
Asad
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About the Speakers

Dr. Yuthika Sharma is a historian of South Asian art and Programme Director, Art in the Global Middle Ages – MSc and Renaissance & Early Modern Studies – MSc, and Lecturer, Indian/South Asian Art History at the University of Edinburgh. She works on the art and intellectual history of South Asia in the early modern period. Yuthika received her PhD from Columbia University, New York, with specialisms in Indian painting and early Buddhist art and architecture (minor specialism). At present, she offers advanced undergraduate and postgraduate courses on early modern South Asia and critical and thematic approaches to the study of South Asian art and painting as well as survey courses on early and later Indian art. Before joining HoA, Yuthika worked in the Asia Department of the British Museum (2014-15). She was also AHRC Cultural Engagement fellow in the Department of History at UCL as part of the Leverhulme funded project, The East India Company at Home (2013). Yuthika's previous curatorial work includes the co-curated exhibition and book Princes and Painters in Mughal Delhi, 1707-1857 at the Asia Society, New York (2012) and curatorial support for the exhibition and book Delight in Design: Indian Silver for the Raj (2008). More recently, she curated an exhibition at the University of Edinburgh Main Library, Highlands to Hindustan (2017), in which over 50 objects spanning two millennia of the art and culture of the Indian subcontinent were put on display.

Maithili Parekh is an art historian currently pursuing her PhD on Indian miniature painting, with a particular focus on collections built in the first half of the 20th century. She is also a lecturer for the Art History program at Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai. Maithili is on the advisory committee at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA which holds the historic Stella Kramrisch classical Indian collection. She has also been on the board of the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA). Before moving into the academic world, Maithili was Director and Head of Sotheby’s India working closely with institutional and private collectors across the country. She has also worked at modern and contemporary art galleries in New York. Maithili studied Art History and International Relations at Brown University, USA and received a Masters from the London School of Economics (LSE), UK. Prior to her involvement in the art world, she worked on Wall Street at Morgan Stanley.

About Partners

Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 850 programs and connected with more than 95,000 individuals since its inception in 2009. Driven by the belief that Learning Never Stops, AVID's multiple formats like Workshops, Panel Discussions, Gallery Walkthroughs, and Festival Platforms create a dynamic and interactive atmosphere that stimulates intellectual and creative growth across the fields of Culture & Heritage, Literature, Art and Innovation.

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The University of Edinburgh, established in 1583 is ranked 23rd in the world and is one of the world's top universities. For more than four centuries, the University which is rooted in Scotland, has been influencing the world – exploring space, revolutionising surgery, winning Olympic medals, publishing era-defining books, cloning a mammal from an adult cell and much, much more.The University of Edinburgh has been linked with India for nearly 250 years with the first Indian graduate in 1876 and the UK's first Indian Student Association. The South Asia Office in Mumbai (2010) and Edinburgh India Institute (2014) seek to extend the University's relationship with India. The University's partnerships span family medicine, conservation medicine, animal welfare, renewable energy; digital communications; structural engineering, gender issues, technology and society.The Edinburgh College of Art is a leading international art college which traces its history to the 1760's. As the University of Edinburgh's cultural and creative hub, offers architecture and landscape architecture; art; history of art; design; and music.