



Musical Landscapes and the Goddess of Music exhibition presents advances in interactive art through an exploration of the science, art and spirituality of Music, and their reflections in the Goddess images across Asian cultures.

Through a collection of interactive exhibits employing new musical synthesis based on traditional grammar, interactive multimedia installations and recordings of performances by masters, the project allows viewers to enter the world of sound, musical landscapes and their cultural and spiritual aesthetics.

The project presents both traditional and new instruments based on Indian Sitar, Burmese Saung Harp, Thai Xylophone, Korean Kayagum, Chinese Guzheng and Pipa, Vietnamese Dan Tranh, Javanese & Balinese Gamelan, chanting, and others. New instruments with embedded computation demonstrate interactions through gesture, touch, pull, movement, gaze and kinesthetic action. In addition, through responsive computing, people by their position, gesture, and movements control musical events in the exhibition environment.

Taken in total, the exhibition presents a vision for the design of society centered on Innovation, Well Being and Compassion.

CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE

As Chairperson, on behalf of the Advisory Committee of the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai, and its Director, I am pleased that NGMA, Mumbai, has the opportunity to display the unique exhibition, "Music and Goddess", directed by Mr. Ranjit Makkuni, Director, Sacred World Research Laboratory, New Delhi.

Intelligently mixing technology with culture, this multimedia interactive exhibition innovatively unravels the mystique of music by exploring its scientific, artistic and spiritual dimensions and its reflections in the goddess images across Asian cultures.

The exhibition presents both traditional and new instruments based on the Indian Sitar, Burmese Saung Harp, Thai Xylophone, Korean Kayagum, Chinese Guzheng and Pipa, Vietnamese Dan Trahn, and Javanese and Balinese Gamelan, among others. It holds great promise for music lovers and for those whose spirituality is enhanced through various forms of music. Musical traditions have been closely linked to Goddesses in Asia, and music-making and collaboration have successfully served as tools for attaining Goddess-consciousness.

Many sections display Goddesses of Music along with their iconic transformations; forms and sculptures suggestive of the scientific and mythological imagery of sound. There are compassionate Goddesses who attentively listen to people's prayers. Goddess Sarasvati, the embodiment of wisdom and music, is well-represented; and so is Kinayi, the Burmese Angels of Music. Interestingly, a section on Breath, Voice and Healings, which explores the healing properties of singing and its relationship to breath, is also included.

Finally, the exhibition convincingly reveals a perfect synthesis of technology and culture, of the modern and the traditional, of celestial and mundane, of physical and virtual. It succeeds in demonstrating that it is possible to develop culture-friendly technologies and how technology can be used to preserve cultural identity and not replace it.

I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Ranjit Makkuni for introducing the public to a new and fascinating spiritual form of reverence; the Ministry of Culture for its continuing support and encouragement; Sacred World Research Laboratory; Mr. Shivaprasad Khened, Director, NGMA – Mumbai and the staff at NGMA - Mumbai, for their efforts in successfully presenting this exhibition and giving the people of Mumbai an opportunity to view this extraordinary event in our artistic calendar, from Tuesday, 28th October to Sunday, 7th December, 2014.

Pheroza J. Godrej

Chairperson, Advisory Committee, NGMA Mumbai

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

On behalf of the Ministry of Culture, Mrs Pheroza Godrej, Chairperson and the members of the Advisory Committee of NGMA Mumbai, it gives me immense pleasure to present this exhibition, "Music and Goddess", directed by Mr. Ranjit Makkuni, Director, Sacred World Research Laboratory, New Delhi at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai.

The Music and Goddess exhibition, bridging technology and culture, provides a unique multimedia interactive experience and seeks to unravel the mystique of music by exploring its scientific, artistic and spiritual dimensions and its reflections in the Goddess images across Asian cultures. Mr Makkuni, a technical wizard with an artistic flair for art and culture well known for his innovative ways of aesthetically blending technology and culture, has curated and directed this exhibition by intricately weaving the threads of technology with art and culture. The exhibition presents advances in interactive art through an exploration of the science, art and spirituality of music across Asian cultures. The project represents one of the world's first explorations showing the relationship between the sacred feminine and music.

I take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to the director of the exhibition, Mr Ranjit Makkuni, for his perceptive approach to the exhibition Music and Goddess. Thanks are also due to the team of Mr Makkuni from the Sacred World, who have put in their hard work in presenting this exhibition. I would like to thank Mrs Pheroza Godrej, Chairperson, Advisory Committee, NGMA, Mumbai and all the esteemed members of the Advisory Committee of NGMA, Mumbai for their unstinted support. I would specifically like to thank the Ministry of Culture, Government of India for their continued support to the NGMA Mumbai. And finally I extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the entire NGMA Mumbai team for their support in successful execution of this project.

Shivaprasad Khened

Director, National Gallery of Modern Art Mumbai