Artists converse across centuries in special exhibition at PEM this Spring

By Jyotirmoy Datta

Centuries shout, converse and whisper across the abyss of time at an exhibition opening at the Peabody Essex Museum this spring. ReVisions: Indian Artists Engaging Traditions presents 14 contemporary works in tandem with traditional pieces exemplifying the artists’ source of inspiration, including Mughal court painting, medieval temple sculpture and photography.

Featuring objects from PEM’s renowned Chester and Davida Herwitz Collection of 20th-century Indian art and considerable holdings of traditional Indian art forms, as well as the Harvard Art Museum’s exceptional collection of art from the royal courts and temples of India, ReVisions will be on view from April 4, 2009 through April, 2010.

“We are delighted to collaborate with our sister institution, Harvard Art Museum, on ReVisions. The opportunity to draw upon Harvard’s remarkable collection as a complement to our own enables PEM to share the great depth and breadth of Indian art with our guests,” said Dan Monroe, Executive Director of the Peabody Essex Museum.

“The Desai Family Foundation, a Burlington, New Jersey–based nonprofit organization that supports general education and health, Indian culture and community development, announced that it has partnered with PEM to organize and host an annual “Sensational India!” festival for the next seven years. The first “Sensational India!” festival, which is scheduled for April 4–5, 2009, and will showcase India’s rich culture.

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Desi Talk March 20, 2009

Jyotirmoy Datta

At New India House

Sujata Mohapatra performs Odissi recital

Renowned danseuse Sujata Mohapatra performed an Odissi recital for an audience of more than 150 at the ballroom of the Consulate General of India in New York on March 12. The event was organized by the Consulate General of India in New York and the Sanskriti Center. The dance recital was the second program of the ‘Jewels of India’ series, showcasing India’s art and culture, a press release said.

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A leading authority on Indian food, Jaffrey tells the power of food to prompt memory. The book includes recipes for more than 30 delicious dishes from Rang Nartan School.

The Indian Jewish Congregation of USA celebrated the festival of Purim at the Rego Park Jewish Center on March 7 with a Bollywood theme. Guests came in colorful costumes bringing in the spirit of the festival celebrating the victory of the Jews saved from annihilation plotted by the wicked Prime Minister of Persia under King Ahasuerus almost 2500 years ago. Approximately 150 people of all ages representing the Indian, Hungarian, Ethiopian, American and Russian Jewish communities danced and sang to Bollywood songs, a press release said. Students from the Rang Nartan School of Dance performed regional Indian dances. An Indian kosher buffet dinner was also served. Seen in the photo, are students from Rang Nartan School of Dance.

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