



National Gallery of Modern Art

in collaboration with

NIAS Heritage Studies Programme

presents an illustrated talk on

Indian Art and Issues of Curatorship

Richard Blurton, Curator, British Museum, London



on Nov 15th, at 6.30 pm

**Venue: National Gallery of Modern Art, Manikyavelu Mansion
49 Palace Road, Bangalore 52, Tel: 080 2234 2338**

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This presentation will consider the pleasures, possibilities, and pitfalls of collecting contemporary art from South Asia especially from the vantage point of a large international museum like the British Museum. It is noteworthy that the BM already had contemporary Indian painting in its collections when it was founded in 1753, but has struggled in the intervening years to live up to that remarkable early example! Today the variety, range and excellence of modern art in India make it an overwhelming task to acquire examples in any systematic way. So, what criteria and ideas should a beleaguered curator with limited resources consider when making decisions and trying to represent 21st century India in an international collection?

Richard Blurton has been a curator at the British Museum since 1986 with a special emphasis on South Asia having trained as an archaeologist in Karnataka and southern Afghanistan. He has produced some fifteen exhibitions, including 'Between Assam and Tibet: Cultural Change in the Eastern Himalayas' (2008) and others on Bengal, Indian painting, Mughal-style textiles, tribal and rural art and the culture of South India. His books include *Hindu Art* (1992) and *Bengali Myths* (2006) and he has co-authored books on Burma. He edited the catalogue for the exhibition 'The Enduring Image' (1997) which came to National Museum, New Delhi from the British Museum to mark the 50th anniversary of Indian Independence.