

Abteilung für Asiatische und Islamische Kunstgeschichte SoSe 2025:

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Women, Gender and Labour in the Artistic Practices of *Patachitra* (Scroll-Painting).

Montag, 16.06.2025, Beginn: 18.15 Uhr

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<https://uni-bonn.zoom-x.de/j/61938828570?pwd=gbUee2b4lqxWBmTnUw4jh5z5kzSY02.1>

Patachitra (scroll-painting) is a long-standing artistic tradition in the eastern Indian region where painting and singing come together in the community performances of the *patuas* or *Chitrakars* (scroll-painters). Drawing from my recently published book, *The Poet's Song: 'Folk' and its Cultural Politics in South Asia*, this paper looks at the entangled issues of gender, labour and livelihood among the women artists. It focusses on the lives and work of two women—one a traditional *patua* and the other a *kobiyaal* (folk singer)—and how they have negotiated and challenged community expectations of gender roles. The research is based on fieldwork and interviews with these women in the Indian state of West Bengal.



Photo:
Proshanto
Mahato