

Abteilung für Asiatische und Islamische Kunstgeschichte SoSe 2025:

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**Curating Indian Art in a Swiss Museum
in the 21st Century.**

Montag, 07.07.2025, Beginn: 18.15 Uhr

Abteilung für Asiatische und Islamische Kunstgeschichte, Adenauerallee 10, ÜR (EG)

<https://uni-bonn.zoom-x.de/j/61938828570?pwd=gbUee2b4IqxWBmTnUw4jh5z5kzSY02.1>

Museums and their staff, especially curators, are often perceived as conservative in nature - preserving ancient cultural heritage and collections. However, the job profile of a curator of Indian art today is very different from that of 25 years ago. It has changed significantly over the past few decades. Globally, museums have not only changed but have become agents of change themselves.

This talk will present recent developments in collecting and curating exhibitions with a focus on the Museum Rietberg in Zurich, Switzerland's only museum of non-European art. Focusing on three recent exhibitions (Next Stop Nirvana 2018, Being Jain 2022 and Ragamala 2024), it will explore new challenges in an increasingly globalized world, such as acquisition policy, provenance research, restitution claims, international collaborations, as well as audience-related issues such as inclusion, community engagement and participation.

As well as offering insights into practice, the paper concludes with a critical analysis of recruitment, training, and prospects in the field of Indian art history in Germany and Switzerland. It asks whether academic curricula are up to today's challenges and how students can be prepared to become the next generation of museum curators.

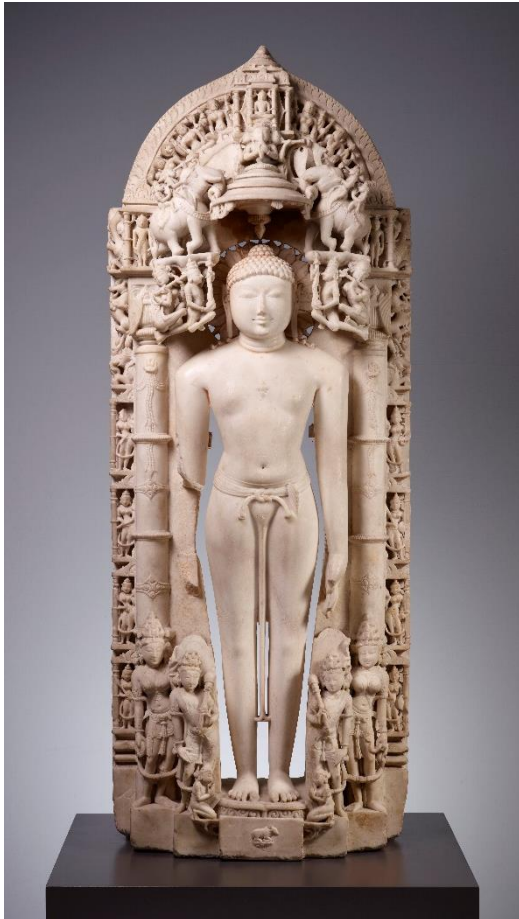


Photo: Rishabhanatha. India, Rajasthan, Chandravati; 11th or 12th century; Marble, 161 x 57 x 25 cm; Museum Rietberg, Zurich, RVI 213. © Museum Rietberg, Zurich