

SUSANA MARÍN

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PROFILE

Visual artist specializing in Pahari miniature painting and traditional geometry.
Independent researcher and educator.

Susana Marín is a practising artist and researcher of Pahari painting. Her interest in Indian art and culture, particularly in the 18th century Guler and Kangra idioms of Pahari painting, brought her into contact with the few remaining practitioners of this art form living in the Punjab Hills. She spent extended periods of time in India studying with living masters of Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. She earned a PhD from the Prince's School of Traditional Arts in London for her portfolio of paintings and doctoral dissertation on the practice and transmission of Pahari painting and its relevance in the 21st century.

Susana is currently a PhD supervisor and visiting tutor of Indian painting at the King's Foundation School of Traditional Arts in London and also gives workshops internationally. Her work has been exhibited in the United States, Europe, and the Indian Sub-Continent.

EDUCATION

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| 2015 | PhD, Prince's School of Traditional Arts, London
(Degree awarded by the University of Wales) Fully funded fellowship, 2009-2014
Dissertation: <i>The Living Tradition of Pahari Painting: an artist's exploration of the continuity of Guler and Kangra painting through fieldwork investigation of materials, techniques, form, and aesthetic content in present-day studio practice</i>
Supervisor: Dr. Khaled Azzam
External examiner: Dr. Daniel Ehnborn
Internal examiner: Dr. Clare Newbolt |
| 2009-2012 | Traditional training in miniature painting, India
Apprenticeship with Masters Padmasri Vijay Sharma and Mukesh Dhiman in Himachal Pradesh, and Manish Soni, Sanjeev Sharma, and Ajay Sharma in Rajasthan |

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

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| 2024 | StART KX Art Fair, Candem Town Hall, London, October 2024
<i>Light, Colour & the Cosmology of Pigments</i> , Garrison Chapel Gallery, Chelsea Barracks, London, August 2024 |
| 2023 | <i>Traditional Art as Living Practice: the work of current and past artist-researchers at the Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts</i> , Garrison Chapel Gallery, Chelsea Barracks, London, November 2023 |

- 2023 StART Art Fair 2023, Saatchi Gallery, London, October 2023
- 2017 *One Source, May Forms: A Journey into the Visual Language of the Indian Sub-Continent*, Koel Gallery, Karachi, December 2017
- 2016 *Sringar Ras: Exploring Love and Devotion in Pahari Painting*, Twelve Gates Arts Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, December 2016
- Alumini exhibition, The Prince's Foundation Gallery, London, July 2016
- 2015 *In Search of the Dot that Created the Circle: Geometry in Nature*, Los Angeles Islam Arts Initiative, Zanzeel Art, Seyhoun Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, November 2014 (Reviewed, *Art Forum*, February 2015)
- Degree Show Exhibition, The Prince's Foundation Gallery, London, July 2015
- 2013 *ICON ANICON The presence and the absence of the human figure in sacred art*, Lady Chapel, Wells Cathedral, May 2013

SEMINARS

- 2023 *Perspectives on Traditional Arts Practice*, chaired by Prof. S. Pranam Singh; Sankhya Art Foundation & Parvarish Foundation, Varanasi, March 2023
- 2022 *Traditional Indian Painting in Today's Context*, KFSTA, seminar with research students, November 2022
- 2011 *Nainsukh: the 17th Century Pahari Painting*, Amar Mahal Museum and Library (AMML) and Swiss Arts Council (Pro Helvetia), Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir, November 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2024-present PhD Supervisor, THE KING'S FOUNDATION SCHOOL OF TRADITIONAL ARTS (KFSTA)
- 2016-present Indian Miniature Tutor, MA Programme. THE KING'S FOUNDATION SCHOOL OF TRADITIONAL ARTS (KFSTA)
- 2019-present Regular Master Practitioner sessions with KFSTA research students
- 2015-present Developing and delivering courses on Indian Painting and Drawing for KFSTA Public Programme and other institutions
- ♦ *Drawing Skills for Indian Miniature Painting*, KSFTA Public Programme, May 2024
 - ♦ *Basohli Painting: Bold and Beautiful*, KSFTA Public Programme, May 2024
 - ♦ *Pahari Painting: The Colours of Kangra Valley*, KSFTA Public Programme, October 2023
 - ♦ *Techniques of Pahari Painting*, Madrid, Spain, August 2023
 - ♦ *Pahari Painting: The Natural World*, KSFTA Public Programme, July 2023

- ♦ *Drawing Skills for Indian Miniature Painting*, KSFTA Public Programme, April 2023
- ♦ *Pahari Painting and Pigment Preparations*, Bloomington IN, USA, August 2021
- ♦ *Drawing for Miniature Painting*, KSFTA Public Programme Online, April-June 2021
- ♦ *Drawing for Indian Miniature Painting*, KSFTA Public Programme, December 2019
- ♦ *Hindu Yantras and Mandalas*, KSFTA Public Programme, August 2019
- ♦ *Pahari Painting: The Natural World*, KSFTA Public Programme, August 2019
- ♦ *Pahari Miniature Painting*, Bloomington IN, USA, May 2019
- ♦ *Indian Miniature Painting*, Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar, October, 2018
- ♦ *Pahari Painting: Materials, Technique, Symbolis*, Koel Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan, October-November 2018
- ♦ *Pahari Painting: the Natural World*, KSFTA Public Programme, September 2018
- ♦ *Pahari Painting: the Human Figure*, KSFTA Public Programme, September 2018
- ♦ *Techniques of Pahari Painting*, San Francisco, CA, USA, August 2018
- ♦ *Introduction to Idealized Figuration in Guler/Kangra Painting*, KSFTA Public Programme, in partnership with the Bagri Foundation, May 2016
- ♦ *Introduction to Pahari Painting*, Ibiza, Spain, February 2018
- ♦ *Pahari Painting: Exploring Materials, Techniques & Imagery*, Koel Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan, December 2017
- ♦ *The Human Figure in Pahari Painting*, London, April 2017
- ♦ *The Natural World Seen Through the Lens of Guler/Kangra Painting. Part II: Fauna*, KSFTA Public Programme, April 2016
- ♦ *The Natural World Seen Through the Lens of Guler/Kangra Painting. Part I: Flora*, KSFTA Public Programme, February 2016
- ♦ *Landscape in Guler/Kangra Painting*, KSFTA Public Programme, in partnership with the Bagri Foundation, June 2015. Videotape produced by the Bagri Foundation. https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=h7YMeV94_1M

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Guler and early phase of Kangra painting

Early Rajput and Basohli painting

Caurapañcāsika style influence in early Rajput painting

Traditional methods and materials, pigments, and paper preparation

Archetypes of feminine beauty in Pahari painting

Sanskrit treatises on the arts (*citraśūtras*, *śilpa śāstras*)

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH IN MUSEUMS RESERVE COLLECTIONS

2009-present INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum, Mumbai; National Museum, New Delhi; Bharat Kala Bhavan Museum, Varanasi; Jnana Pravaha, Varanasi; Bhuri Singh Museum, Chamba; Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh; Himachal State Museum, Shimla; Museum of Kangra Art, Dharamshala; Central Museum, Lahore; Fakir Khana Museum, Lahore

EUROPE

Victoria & Albert, London; British Museum, London; Royal Collection, Windsor Castle; Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Bodleian Library, Oxford; Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge; Rietberg Museum, Zürich

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2016 Consulting scholar, Royal Collection, Windsor Castle, February 2016

1990-present Private studio practice
♦ Traditional Indian miniature painting
♦ Traditional and sacred geometry
♦ Drawing

2000-2009 Graphic designer and art editor
World Wisdom, Inc., Bloomington IN, USA

2009-current Freelance graphic designer - typesetting and book cover design

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Council of South Asian Art (ACSAA)

Kangra Arts Promotion Society (KAPS)

LANGUAGES

English, French (fluent in speaking, writing, and reading)

Spanish (mother tongue)

Sanskrit (AS level, Cambridge International Examinations)

Hindi (speaking, writing, and reading)

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

GRAPHIC DESIGN AWARDS

- 2011 USA “Best Books 2011” Award (Best Interior Design)
Benjamin Franklin Silver Award (Interior Design)
Midwest Silver Award (Illustration, Colour Cover)
Finalist for the Eric Hoffer Grand Prize and the da Vinci Eye Award
An Illustrated Introduction to Taoism, by J.C. Cooper, World Wisdom, 2010
- 2009 Midwest Book Silver Award (Illustration)
Foundations of Oriental Art, by Titus Burckhardt, World Wisdom, 2009
- 2008 Benjamin Franklin Silver Award (Interior Design)
The Cheyenne Indians: Their History and Lifeways, by George B. Grinnell, World Wisdom, 2008
- 2006 Midwest Book Gold Award (Interior Layout)
Foundations of Christian Art, by Titus Burckhardt, World Wisdom, 2006
- 2005 Foreword Magazine’s Book of the Year (Illustration)
Bronze Award: *The Sufi Doctrine of Rumi*, by William Chittick, World Wisdom, 2004

PROFESSIONAL MUSIC EDUCATION

- 1990-1993 Master in Early Music, MA Harpsichord, Jacobs School of Music, Early Music Institute, Indiana University. (Spanish-American Joint Committee Fellowship, IU School of Music Fellowship)
- 1982-1983 Concert Recital Diploma in Piano [Premier Prix] (British Council Fellowship) Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London
- 1979-1981 Post-graduate Studies in Piano (Spain Ministry of Foreign Affairs Fellowship) Fryderyk Chopin Music Academy, Warsaw
- 1971 Profesor Superior de Piano, 1971 (highest Conservatory Diploma issued in Spain) Royal Conservatory of Music, Madrid

MUSIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 1991-1993 Early Music Institute, IU Jacobs School of Music
Associate Instructor in Harpsichord, 1991-1993
- 1984-1990 San Lorenzo de el Escorial Conservatory of Music, Madrid
Faculty member, Professor of Piano and Chamber Music, 1984-1990

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH

- 2016 Visiting artist-in-residence, Kriti Gallery, Varanasi, January 2016
- 2009-2014 Fellowship for PhD studies at the Prince's School of Traditional Art
- 2009-2014 Fieldwork research toward PhD dissertation in India
- ♦ Fieldwork research in Lahore, Pakistan; Chamba and Kangra Valley in Himachal Pradesh; and Jaipur and Bhilwara in Rajasthan.
 - ♦ Apprenticeship with masters Ajay Sharma and Sanjeev Sharma in Jaipur, and Manish Soni in Bhilwara, Rajasthan, November 2011-April 2012
 - ♦ Apprenticeship with masters Ajay Sharma and Sanjeev Sharma in Jaipur, Rajasthan, and Vijay Sharma in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh, December 2010-April 2011
 - ♦ Apprenticeship with masters Dhani Ram, Mukesh Dhiman in Kangra Valley and Vijay Sharma in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh, March-May, 2010