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Why is Rama Still (All) Around?

Tuesday, February 13, 2018
7:30pm
Carlos Museum, Ackerman Hall
Emory University

Why has the ancient tale of Rama, Sita, and their companions remained (so to speak) a “bestseller” in the realm of South Asian popular narrative for more than two millennia, and why does it continue to have traction in the rapidly changing India of the early 21st century? This illustrated lecture will explore “four dimensions” of the epic story that have long resonated in the cultural imagination of the subcontinent, emphasizing both their positive appeal as well as their deployment as sites of debate and controversy, accommodating multiple voices and a surprising diversity of viewpoints. It will also consider whether and why this traditional multi-vocality is under threat in India today.