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*Stories within Stories through Paintings from Mughal India*

Monday, February 20, 2017
7:30pm
Carlos Museum, Level Three
Emory University

In this lavishly illustrated lecture, the story of the Mughals unfolds through the imagery in paintings they commissioned from their imperial artists. Further insight into the interests and personalities of royal Mughal patrons can be gleaned from the stories they chose for vibrant and extensive illumination. In the paintings of adventure tales and histories favored by the third Mughal emperor Akbar between 1556 and 1605, his preoccupations, interests, and concerns come to light. His son Jahangir’s love of mystical biographies and the national epic of Iran signals a shift in style and subject in Mughal painting of the 17th century. Eighteenth century Mughal paintings were dominated by images of women and pleasurable pastimes that dominated until the ascendancy of the British and ideals of the modern western Enlightenment.

*A lady smoking a hookah by a pool*, c. 1680–1700. Mughal India. Opaque watercolor, gold, and silver on paper. The Cleveland Museum of Art, Gift in honor of Madeline Neves Clapp; Gift of Mrs. Henry White Cannon by exchange; Bequest of Louise T. Cooper; Leonard C. Hanna Jr. Fund; From the Catherine and Ralph Benkaim Collection 1-2013-7592/69

This event is co-sponsored by: Hightower Fund and Art History Department