



For Immediate Release
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**TCNJ Celebrates Contemporary Indian Culture
with a Symposium, Exhibition, and Music Performances**

This fall The College of New Jersey celebrates Indian culture with an art exhibition, tabla performances, and a daylong symposium that will explore the country's contemporary art, music, dance, and film.

On Friday, October 19, TCNJ will present *The Arts in Contemporary India*, a daylong multi-disciplinary program that is open to the public free of charge. The program will include dance and music performances and lectures by three South Asian experts, who will examine Indian art from varying cultural, social, and educational perspectives. Immediately following, we invite you to join us for the opening of an exhibition of modern and contemporary Indian art and a ticketed performance by Abhijit Banerjee, world-class Indian tabla performer, at 8:00 p.m.

Dr. Rebecca Brown, a leading scholar of colonial and post-1947 South Asian visual culture and politics at Johns Hopkins University, will present *Goddess and Peasant: Embracing the Figure in Modernist Indian Art*. Dr. Tejaswini Ganti, Associate Professor of Anthropology from New York University, will discuss her research on Indian cinema, visual anthropology, and how the Hindi film industry became "Bollywood"—a globally recognized and circulating brand of filmmaking. Kathryn Myers, Professor of Painting at the University of Connecticut and two-

time Fulbright Fellowship recipient, will present a series of her recent video interviews with contemporary Indian artists.

Additional symposium events will include a performance by the TCNJ Indian Dance Ensemble, the keynote lecture by tabla master Abhijit Banerjee, and a tabla master class presented by Banerjee and TCNJ percussion students. The full schedule of events is below.

At the close of the symposium, TCNJ will welcome visitors to the opening of the exhibition *Goddess, Lion, Peasant, Priest: Modern and Contemporary Indian Art from the Shelley and Donald Rubin Private Collection*, which will be on view in the TCNJ Art Gallery from October 19 through December 16. Shelley and Donald Rubin are co-founders and chairs of the Rubin Museum of Art in New York City, which features a comprehensive collection of sculpture, paintings, and textiles from the Himalayas and surrounding regions. TCNJ will present a selection of art from the Rubins' private collection, including nineteen contemporary Indian artists whose paintings epitomize the creative vitality of art rooted in rich traditions. Artists in the exhibition include Chandrima Bhattacharyya, Sakti Burman, Arpana Caur, Shanti Dave, M.F. Husain, Krishen Khanna, Seema Kohli, K.S. Kulkarni, Bari Kumar, Nalini Malani, Mahjabin Majumdar, Kamal Mitra, Gogi Saroj Pal, Shyamal Dutta Ray, Sadequain, G.R.Santosh, Arpita Singh, F.N. Souza, and K.G. Subramanyan. For more exhibition information, including Art Gallery hours and directions, please visit tcnj.edu/artgallery or call 609-771-2633.

Arriving from Calcutta, world famous classical tabla maestro Abhijit Banerjee will provide the keynote address at the symposium and a full performance at 8:00 p.m. Banerjee is founder of the Dhvani Academy of Percussion Music in Calcutta, a non-profit organization devoted to educating new generations of percussionists. He also tours extensively and teaches courses and seminars worldwide surrounding the art of tabla performance. Banerjee brings with

him the TARANG Ensemble, a group of five world-class percussionists, who perform complex rhythms through an entire spectrum of sound. To purchase tickets for the Saturday night performance by Abhijit Banerjee and the TARANG ensemble, please visit www.tcnj.edu/cfa or call the TCNJ Box Office at 609-771-2775.

The Arts in Contemporary India and the related programming are being presented by The College of New Jersey in association with *The Fertile Crescent: Gender, Art, and Society*, a multi-institutional program organized the Rutgers Institute for Women and Art. For more information on this project visit: fertile-crescent.org/. Exhibitions at TCNJ are funded in part by the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission through funding from the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The College of New Jersey is an exceptional institution that applies innovative approaches in teaching its students to live, learn, and explore throughout their collegiate experience. The TCNJ Art Gallery and The Center for the Arts are two thriving hubs on campus that serve as a link to the curricular needs of all of the Schools at TCNJ. The Gallery presents five exhibitions annually, including curated exhibitions featuring nationally and internationally recognized artists, as well as student, faculty, and alumni exhibitions. The Center serves as a focal point for the Arts at the College and functions to promote arts activities, both on and off campus, collaborate with arts organizations in New Jersey and beyond, and advocate for arts education in schools and communities.

The Arts in Contemporary India

Friday, October 19, 2012, 10:30 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

A daylong exploration of Indian art, music, dance, and film. The day symposium is free and open to the public. The 8:00 p.m. performance is ticketed. All performances and presentations are in the Mildred & Ernest E. Mayo Concert Hall, Music Building, unless otherwise noted.

- 10:30 Light refreshments
- 11:00–11:30 TCNJ Saathiya: A South-Asian Dance Team
- 11:30–12:30 Abhijit Banerjee, Tabla Master and Foundation of the TARANG Ensemble,
Keynote address, *Pampara: The Journey of Indian Classical Music*
- 12:30–1:30 Break/lunch
- 1:30–2:20 Dr. Rebecca Brown, Teaching Professor, History of Art, Johns Hopkins
University, *Goddess and Peasant: Embracing the Figure in Modernist Indian Art*
- 2:20–3:10 Dr. Tejaswini Ganti, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, New
York University, *From Vice to Virtue: The Altered Cultural Status of Hindi
Cinema in Contemporary India*
- 3:10–4:00 Kathryn Myers, Professor of Painting, Department of Art and Art History,
University of Connecticut, *Regarding India: Video Interviews with Contemporary
Artists*
- 4:00–4:30 Abhijit Banerjee and TARANG Open Workshop with TCNJ students
Choir Room, Music Building
- 4:30–6:30 Exhibition opening, *Goddess, Lion, Peasant, Priest: Modern and Contemporary
Indian Art from the Shelley and Donald Rubin Private Collection*
TCNJ Art Gallery, Art and Interactive Multimedia (AIMM) Building
- 8:00 p.m. Performance by Abhijit Banerjee and TARANG

Image captions:

M. F. Husain, *Shakti*, 1979, oil on canvas, 30 3/8 x 24 in., Shelley and Donald Rubin Private Collection

Seema Kohli, *Untitled*, 2007, oil on canvas, 46 x 70 in., Shelley and Donald Rubin Private Collection

World-renowned Indian percussionist Abhijit Banerjee with his tablas.

The cover of Tejaswini Ganti's book, *Producing Bollywood: Inside the Contemporary Hindi Film Industry*

Professor Rebecca Brown, photo credit: Jeff Roffman

Artist and videographer Kathryn Meyers, photo credit: Olga Marino

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