



Bonita Trust Support V&A's Work in India

April 2011

The Bonita Trust donated £150,000 to support the V&A's work in India over the next two years. This will enable the V&A to further develop its partnerships with museums and the cultural sector in India and to deliver a programme that promotes skill sharing and cultural understanding between the two countries.

The V&A has a long history of working with India on a wide variety of projects from curatorial exchanges and fellowship programmes to touring exhibitions. Earlier this year, V&A Director, Sir Mark Jones accompanied the British Prime Minister, David Cameron, to India to sign a state to state cultural agreement. Funding given by the Bonita Trust to the V&A will help the Museum do its part to deliver that agreement.

Some activities supported by the Bonita Trust are already underway and include:

- V&A partnership with the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata to produce a joint exhibition of Kalighat Paintings which will open at the Victoria Memorial Hall later this year before touring to several other venues across India;
- Support for the digitisation of the V&A's significant collection of Indian Company Paintings as part of a joint project with other UK and Indian museums;
- V&A expert advice on Far Eastern collections in Hyderabad and Gwalior, India;
- A professional development programme including two six-month internships for Indian textile conservators within the V&A's conservation department.

Ruth Parasol, principal benefactor and founding member of Bonita Trust's International Advisory Board, said: *"Bonita Trust is once again proud to fund a world class educational and digitisation project with the V&A; this cross border project will preserve skills and leave lasting educational value in Indian culture."*

Kate Bellamy, V&A's Head of International Strategy, said: *"We are grateful to the Bonita Trust for supporting the V&A's work in India. The funding will enable the Museum to build lasting relationships and reach new audiences by bringing together the knowledge, collections and skills of the V&A and our partners right across India."*

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Notes to Editors

About the Bonita Trust

The Bonita Trust (www.bonitatrust.org) is a philanthropic trust established under Gibraltar law in 2004. Since then it has committed over £9million to philanthropic projects worldwide. Bonita's focus remains on Enterprise and Education, Prevention and Treatment and Community. Bonita's grant-making is guided by its International Advisory Board whose founding member and principal benefactor is Ruth Parasol.

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