

NORA FISHER
CURRICULUM VITAE – FOCUS ON INDIA
Curator – Textile Specialist – Art Historian – Author – Photographer

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

1994 – American Association of Museums Curator’s Committee Prize for Exhibition Design of *Mud, Mirror and Thread: Folk Traditions of Rural India*.

1992-1993 – Senior Research Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies. A post-PhD fellowship to undertake four months research on Banjara embroidery, focusing primarily on Rajasthan and Karnataka states.

1988-1989 – Indo-American Fellowship. A post-PhD fellowship for 10 months field research on Indian village folk art and embroidery, and embroidery of the nomadic Banjara. Travel in 8 states, visits to approx. 100 camps and villages.

PUBLICATIONS:

BOOKS:

Mud, Mirror and Thread: Folk Traditions of Rural India. Editor, compiler and contributor. Ahmedabad: Mapin Press, 1993 (Reprints: 1996, 2000, and 2006).

ALSO: Two major books on Rio Grande textiles of New Mexico (1979, 1994), and the Highland Maya (1984). Two small ones: Pre-historic Peru, and 20th Century Chile.

ARTICLES:

1994 “Holi Among the Lambani Banjaras,” *The India Magazine* (New Delhi), 14, no. 4: 30-39 (Co-authored with Dr. D. B. Naik).

1994 “Adornment of a People,” *The India Magazine* (New Delhi), 14, no. 3: 28-38.

1993 “The Trail to Pune,” *Span* (New Delhi), 34, no. 10: 28.

1990 “The Fisher Report,” *Span* (New Delhi), 31, no. 1: 6.

1986 “Curator’s Choice, Kutch or Sind” *El Palacio*, 92, no. 2: 42-43.

1984 “One Man’s Love Affair: Ronald Goodman and India.” *El Palacio*, 90, no. 3: 22-27.

1983 “Beadwork in the Girard Foundation Collection at the Museum of International Folk Art,” *Ornament*, 6, no. 3: 6-8, 41-43.

1982-3 “Kantha Textile from Bangladesh,” *El Palacio*, 88, no. 4: 15-16.

ALSO: More than 10 additional articles on world textiles and folk art, 1966 / 2000.

BOOK REVIEWS:

1998 Oppi Untracht. *Traditional Jewelry of India*, Abrams. *American Craft*, Feb/March: p. 22.

1996-7 Stephen Huyler. *Gifts of Earth*, Mapin. *El Palacio*, 101, no. 3, p. 61.

1986 Stephen Huyler. *Village India*, Abrams. *El Palacio*, 94, no. 2, p. 58-59.

1976 Ethel Jane Bunting. *Sindhi Tombs and Textiles*. *El Palacio*, 88, no. 1, p. 41.

ALSO: Additional book reviews and a number of unpublished manuscripts.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

My photos have been published in both color and black and white in several books, and many magazines, newsletters and newspapers.

1997 Honorable mention, *Assignment Earth* competition, Santa Fe Center for Visual Arts.

1992 & 3 *Best of Photography Annual*, Photographer’s Forum: Santa Barbara California. Finalist Awards of Excellence for the 12th and 13th Annual Photography Contests.

EXHIBITIONS:

Mud, Mirror and Thread: Folk Traditions of Rural India. Museum of International Folk Art (MOIFA), Santa Fe, New Mexico. 1993/4.

South of the Himalayas, The Textile Museum, Washington, DC. 1969.

ALSO: Curator of some 20 other exhibits on world textiles and folk art. 1965/87.

LECTURES:

1994: *Banjara: A Nomad People of All India*. MOIFA & Iowa State.

1994: *Honoring a Grandfather in a Kangra District Village*. MOIFA & Iowa State.

1993: *Traveling with the Banjara*. Co-presented with Dr. D. B. Naik. MOIFA.

1991: *Banjara Regional Style: Shimoga District*. Smithsonian, ACSAA.

1990: *Folk Arts of India: UP, Karnataka, Gujarat*. MOIFA.
1989/91: *Across India: On the Banjara Trail*. NID, Ah'bad; IIC, Delhi; MOIFA; CRMS, CO; U. of MN, St. Paul; Textile Arts Society, Chicago.
1989/90: *Two Villages in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh*. New Delhi & MOIFA.
1987: *Consideration of the Craftsmen*. Am. Folklore Society Annual Meeting.
1986: *Craftsmen of the Crafts Museum, New Delhi*. MOIFA and 2 other venues.
1986: *Tour of India, 1986*. MOIFA and other venues.

NOTE: I have presented 8 other hour-long lectures on China, Morocco, Hispanic textiles and Finland, and at least a dozen brief Indian illustrated talks and video presentations for American children and adult Indian audiences.

TRAVEL:

2008 2 months in Karnataka, focusing on Gulbarga.
2007-9 2 months in Nagri village, Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh.
2007 1 month in a village in Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh.
2006 1 month in Sweden and Finland.
1985-6 Attendance at many Festival India events, including *The Canvas of Culture Symposium*, *Aditi* and *Mela* exhibitions, Washington, D.C.; *Form and Many Forms of Mother Clay* exhibit, California; and Pepita Noble's Kerala exhibit in Texas.
1992 – International Partnership Among Museums. Museum exchange between Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum, Pune, Maharashtra. Six weeks residence.
1992-3 Senior Research Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies. Five months field research in India.
1988-9 Indo-American Fellowship. Ten months field research in India.
1977/98 Planning new museum storage facilities, MOIFA. Travel to survey existing systems in California, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, and New York. Planning and design 1977-83, construction 1984, followed by unpacking, organization and inventory. Process repeated with the new Neutrogena Wing and Collection at MOIFA in the late '90s.

ALSO: 1960s/2000: travel in Yunnan, China, Morocco, Mexico, Finland and Sweden; attendance at numerous conferences throughout the US and in Mexico City.

SUPERVISION OF INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS:

1967 / 1998: Supervision of numerous interns at all levels, high school through PhD, for various lengths of time to complete specific personal projects.
1971 / 1998: Supervision of many volunteers, sometimes 50 at one time, to sew, edit, write, and store, conserve and give tours of collections.

EDUCATION, summary sketch:

1992/2007: *Advanced Digital Imaging*: photography, scanning, printing and videography, SFCC, Santa Fe, NM.

MA, 1965: Art History, Columbia University, New York.

BA, 1962: Art and Art History, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

MEMBERSHIPS:

American Committee of South Asian Art
Textile Museum
The American Society of Media Photographers

EMPLOYMENT, summary sketch:

1971 / 1998: Museum of International Folk Art (MOIFA), Santa Fe, NM.

1966 / 1971: The Textile Museum, Washington, DC.

PERSONAL:

1000 Cordova Place, #400 / Santa Fe, NM 87505-1725 / USA

Land line 001-505-988-3637 / e-mail norafisher@earthlink.net

Curator Emerita, MOIFA.

Retired single homeowner (12 page vitae available).

Between 1965 and 1998 I had 33 years working as a Curator with textile collections in a Museum setting, first at the Textile Museum in Washington, DC, and then at the Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico. During the time I worked with Museum collections I had several stints at designing and instituting new textile storage areas and was awarded an International Partnership Among Museums (IPAM) grant to do a museum exchange with the Kelkar Museum in Pune, Maharashtra.

Mud, Mirror and Thread: Folk Traditions of Rural India, published by Mapin Press, Ahmedabad in 1993, 1995 and, most recently, in 2006.

I have pursued fieldwork studying the Banjara in eight states: Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

As for myself, Nora Fisher: I have 33 years experience working with textile collections in a Museum setting, first at the Textile Museum in Washington, DC, and then at the Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico. During the time I worked with Museum collections I had several stints at designing and instituting new textile storage areas. During my museum work I took two personal senior fellowships (1988-89 and 1992-93) that were processed through the American Institute of Indian Studies, New Delhi. Both grants were hosted at Gujarat Vidyapith in Ahmedabad, and both focused on the embroidery and dress of the Banjara. I have done fieldwork studying the Banjara in eight states: Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. I am most at ease in Karnataka: working with the Banjara, visiting and staying in tandas, and meeting with Banjara in cities. Mud, Mirror and Thread: Folk Traditions of Rural India was published, by Mapin Press, Ahmedabad in 1993, 1995 and, most recently, in 2006. To complement this statement, consult that book, read "Banjara: Adornment of a People of All India." (p. 136ff.), skim my Bio (p. 238), and peruse my listing of Banjara synonyms and subgroups in the first footnote to the chapter (p. 227).