

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: Tapati Guha-Thakurta

DATE OF BIRTH: 27th September, 1957

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PRESENT DESIGNATION: Director and Professor in History,
Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

ACADEMIC RECORD:

<u>Year</u> <u>Class</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Subjects</u>	
1974	Higher Division Secondary	West Bengal Board of Secondary Education	Humanities stream	1 st
1977 Upper 2 nd Class	B.A.	Presidency College, Calcutta	History (Honours)	
1980 first in University)	M.A.	Calcutta University	History	1 st Class (Ranked Calcutta
1982	Diploma	Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta	Research Training Programme	
1988	D.Phil.	History Faculty, University of Oxford	Title of D.Phil. thesis– <i>Art, Artists and Aesthetics in Bengal, c.1850–1920.</i>	

EMPLOYMENT RECORD:

1989 – 1993 Fellow in History (temporary),
Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC)

1993 - 2002 Fellow in History (permanent),
Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC)

2002 Appointed Professor in History, CSSSC

2012 Appointed Director, CSSSC

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

- 1984 West Bengal State Scholarship in History for advanced studies in the U.K.
- 1987 Frere Exhibition Award in Indian Studies, Oxford University
- 1993–94 Visiting Fellowship at the Davis Center for Historical Studies, Department of History, Princeton University
- 1995 Charles Wallace Visiting Fellowship at Wolfson College, Cambridge
- 1999 Visiting Fellowship at the Getty Research Institute for the History of Art and Humanities, Los Angeles, Fall term
- 2003–4 Visiting Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA), National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.
- 2011 Visiting Scholar, Smith College USA - April 2011
Visiting Scholar, Yale Center for British Art, Yale University, USA
- 2016 Ahuja Family Distinguished Visiting Professor, South Asian Studies Centre, Columbia University, USA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 1981–1984 Part-time Lecturer, Department of History, Presidency College, Calcutta
- 1994–2008 Part-time Lecturer, Department of History, Calcutta University
- 2005 Visiting Professor, Department of Art History, University of California, Berkeley, Fall 2005
- 2009 Visiting Professor, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, USA, October–November 2011

I have also regularly taught in the Research Training Programme of the CSSSC since 1993, and in the converted M.Phil and Ph.D. programme of the CSSSC, which are affiliated to Jadavpur University, since 2009.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Main Monographs:

- 1992 *The Making of a New 'Indian' Art: Artists, Aesthetics and Nationalism in Bengal, c.1850–1920*
(Cambridge University Press, South Asian Series)
- 2004 *Monuments, Objects, Histories: Institutions of Art in Colonial and Post-colonial India* (Columbia University Press, New

York and Permanent Black, New Delhi)

2015 *In the Name of the Goddess: The Durga Pujas of Contemporary Kolkata*
(New Delhi: Primus Books)

Edited books, artist biographies and exhibition catalogues:

- 2000 *Dharmanarayan Dasgupta: Representing the Bengali Modern*
(Calcutta: Galerie 88)
- 2001 *In Her Own Right: Remembering the Artist, Karuna Shaha*
(Calcutta: Seagull)
- 2002 *Visual Worlds of Modern Bengal:
An introduction to the documentation archive of the Centre for
Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta* (Exhibition Catalogue, Calcutta:
Seagull and CSSSC)
- 2006 *The Aesthetics of the Popular Print: Lithographs and Oleographs
from 19th and 20th Century India* (Exhibition Catalogue, Birla
Academy of Art and Culture, Calcutta)
- 2010 Edited with Anjan Ghosh and Janaki Nair, *Theorsing the Present:
Essays for Partha Chatterjee* (New Delhi: OUP)
- 2011 *The City in the Archive: Calcutta's Visual Histories* (Exhibition
Catalogue, Calcutta: CSSSC)
- 2014 Edited with Partha Chatterjee and Bodhisattva Kar, *New Cultural
Histories of India: Materiality and Practices* (New Delhi: OUP)

Articles (of the past 10 years)

- 2007 “The Artist as Writer”, Review of *Moving Focus: Essays on Indian Art*, by K. G. Subramanyan, Seagull Books, Calcutta, 2006 and *Chitrakar, The Artist*, by Benodebehari Mukherjee, translated by K. G. Subramanyan, Seagull Books, Calcutta, 2006 – *The Book Review*, January 2007
- “The Photographed City”, Introductory essay in Leena Kejriwal's book of photographs, *Calcutta: Repossessing the City* (Om Books, New Delhi)
- “Debating the Rights and Offences of Art”, *Biblio*, Special Issue on 60 Years of Independence of India and Pakistan, Vol. XII, Nos. 7-8, July-August, 2007
- “Image Cultures of Modern India”, *The Book Review*, South Asia Special X, Vol. XXXI, No. 10, October 2007
- “‘Our Gods, Their Museums’: The Contrary Careers of India's Art Objects”, *Art History*, Special issue: Spectacle and Display, Vol. 30, No. 4, September 2007

- 2008 “Abanindranath Tagore, Known and Unknown: The Artist Versus the art of his times” in Gayatri Sinha, ed. *Art and Visual Culture in India, 1857–2007* (Mumbai: Marg)
- 2009 “Dialogues in Artistic Nationalism”, *Art India*, Special issue, “India in Asia”, Vol. XIV, Issue III, Quarter III
- 2010 “A Master Rediscovered”, Review of R. Sivakumar’s *Paintings of Abanindranath Tagore* (Calcutta: Pratikshan, 2008) in *Bengal Art: New Perspectives* (Calcutta: Pratikshan)
- “The Many Lives of the Sanchi Stupa”, in Sudeshna Guha, ed., *The Marshall Albums: Archaeology and Photography in Colonial India* (New Delhi: Alkazi Collection of Photography, 2010)
- “The Blurring of Distinctions: The Artwork and the Religious Icon in Contemporary India’ in Rosinka Chaudhuri and Elleke Boehmer, ed., *The Indian Postcolonial: A Critical Reader* (Routledge, UK, 2010)
- “Faultlines in a National Edifice: On the Rights and Offences of Contemporary Indian Art” in Sumathi Ramaswamy, ed. *Barefoot Across the Nation: Maqbool Fida Husain and the Idea of India* (Routledge, UK, 2010)
- “Production et reproduction d’un monument: le stupa de Sanchi dans l’Inde coloniale”, in *Annales: Histoire, Sciences Sociales*, Year 65, No. 6, November–December 2010
- 2011 “Locating Gandhi in Indian Art History: Nandalal and Ramkinkar” in Anjan Ghosh, Tapati Guha–Thakurta and Janaki Nair, ed., *Theorising the Present: Essays for Partha Chatterjee* (New Delhi: OUP, 2011)
- 2013 “The Production and Reproduction of a Monument: The Many Lives of the Sanchi Stupa”, *South Asian Studies*, Vol. 29, No.1, March 2013
- 2013 “Notes from the Field - Tradition”, *The Art Bulletin*, summer issue of
- 2014 “Conceits of the Copy Traveling Replicas in Colonial and Postcolonial India”, in Partha Chatterjee, Tapati Guha–Thakurta and Bodhisttava Kar, ed. *New Cultural Histories of India: Materiality and Practices* (New Delhi: OUP)
- 2016 “Demands and Dilemmas of Durga Puja ‘Art’: Notes on a Contemporary Festival Aesthetic”, in Arindam Chakrabarti, ed. *The Bloomsbury Research Handbook of Indian Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art* (London: Bloomsbury)
- 2017 “From Craftsmanship to Commercial Art: The New Dispensations of ‘Art in Industry”, in Jyotindra Jain, ed., *The Story of Early Indian Advertising, Marg*, Vol. 68, No.3, March–June

KEYNOTE AND PLENARY LECTURES

Plenary Lecture at the conference on “Display and Spectacle”, organized jointly by the journal, *Art History* and the Department of Art History, University of Nottingham, UK – Nottingham, January 4, 2007

Abanindranath Tagore Memorial Lecture, organized by the Rashtriya Lalit Kala Akademi, at the Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Calcutta - March 27, 2007

Barbara Stoler Miller Memorial Lecture, organized by the Center for South Asian Studies, Columbia University, New York - April 23, 2007

Keynote lecture at the conference on “Deus X Historia”, organized by the History, Criticism, Theory Unit of the Department of Art and Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. - April 27, 2007

Raymond Firth Lecture, Annual conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the U.K. and the Commonwealth, on “Archaeological and Anthropological Imaginations”, University of Bristol, UK - April 8, 2009

Keynote Lecture at a conference on “Afterlives of Monuments”, organized by Transnational Centre for Research on Art, Identity and Nation, University of the Arts, London - April 29, 2010

Andrew C. Ritchie Memorial lecture, Yale Center for British Art - November 9, 2011

Frank Davies Memorial Lecture, Courtauld Institute of Art, London - November 27, 2012

Plenary Lecture, International Conference on “Global Histories of Design”, National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad - September 5, 2013

Jehangir Sabavala Memorial Lecture at the Prince of Wales Museum (CSMVS), Mumbai – October 16, 2014

11th Foundation Day Lecture at the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGMRS), Bhopal – March 22, 2015.

Inaugural Keynote Lecture, 17th Biennial Conference of the American Council for Southern Asian Art, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto - October 15, 2015

ARCHIVAL AND CURATORIAL PROJECTS

(i) Built up a photographic (now fully digitized) archive of visual material (paintings, prints, photographs, illustrations, advertisements, etc.) from 19th and 20th century Bengal, at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC) with funding from the India Foundation for the Arts, Bangalore, Japan Foundation Asia Centre, New Delhi, and Ford Foundation, New Delhi

(ii) Curated and wrote a catalogue for a two-part exhibition of material from this visual archive of the CSSSC, titled *Visual Worlds of Modern Bengal*, Part I: Paintings, Prints and Commercial Art, Part II: Photographs – Seagull Arts and Media Resource Centre, Calcutta, March 1 to April 3, 2002.

(iii) Curated and wrote a catalogue for an exhibition of a private collection of popular prints from Bengal, western and northern India, titled *The Aesthetics of the Popular Print: lithographs and Oleographs from 19th and 20th century India* – Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Calcutta, March 2006

(iv) Curated and wrote a catalogue for an exhibition of material from the visual archives of the CSSSC, titled, *The City in the Archives: Calcutta's Visual Histories* - the exhibition travelled from the Seagull Arts and Media Resource Centre, Calcutta, July 2011 to the India International Centre, New Delhi in March 2012.

MAIN ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE CSSSC

Dean, Academic Affairs, 2007 -2011

Director, since 2012

Convener, Jadunath Bhavan Museum and Resource Centre, a unit of the CSSSC set up with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India