



KALAKSHETRA
SILVER JUBILEE

ART
EXHIBITION

GUIDE BOOK

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EXHIBITION COMMITTEE**

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**KALAKSHETRA
SILVER JUBILEE**

ART EXHIBITION

GUIDE BOOK

28th Dec. 1961 — 7th Jan. 1962

INTRODUCTION

Kalakshetra was founded twenty-five years ago by Rukmini Devi. To commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Kalakshetra, an Art Exhibition has been arranged from 28th December, 1961 to 7th January, 1962 at Besant Theosophical High School, Damodar Gardens, Adyar, Madras. This will be opened by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan on 27th December, 1961 at 5.45 p.m. during the Silver Jubilee Meeting.

A photographic and pictorial survey of Kalakshetra's many-sided activities and a cross section of our artistic achievements in painting and sculpture will be displayed.

Svetoslav Roerich's paintings, with all their rich colour and tone, will be exhibited for the first time in Madras.

Poet Harindranath Chattopadhyaya's miniatures created from a child's vision by 'Mana', as he calls himself, will form a unique collection.

Other paintings by distinguished old students, teachers and associates of Kalakshetra like Manishi Dey, K. Madhava Menon, B. Dayanand, K. Srinivasalu will form significant examples of Kalakshetra's contribution to Art.

Srimathi Rukmini Devi's personal art collections and mementos from the famous ballerina Anna Pavlova who originally inspired her work, will also be on display.

A choice selection of bronzes and wood carvings by the kind courtesy of the Madras Government and the Hindu Religious Endowment Board will represent some landmarks in the evolution of Indian sculpture. The Mahabalipuram Sculpture School and the art metal ware produced at the Swamimalal Centre and Stree Seva Mandir craft work will be on display and will be put on sale; also the Kalamkari cloth made at Kalahasti Centre will be on display.

Rare musical instruments and manuscripts like the Talapakkam manuscripts from Tirupati, Syama Sastri Tala manuscripts and personal articles used by the

great musicians of the past will form an interesting section.

Mahamahopadhyaya Swaminatha Aiyar Library and Kalakshetra Publications will be exhibited for sale; also other art publications will be exhibited.

Exhibits from Kalakshetra Photographic and Dye-Research Departments and Kalakshetra Textiles will be displayed.

The Kalakshetra shopping centre with its famous saris, Stree Seva Mandir's and the Arundale Training Centre for Teachers' craft materials will be on display and sale.

The Exhibition will thus be unique in many respects and in keeping with Kalakshetra ideals and standards. It is expected to provide the much needed stimulant in the creation of good-taste and a proper evaluation of aesthetic standards, in our arts and crafts, in our teaching and training, in fact, in our whole integrated life.

Our grateful thanks are due to the various departments of the Madras Government, the Tirupati Devasthanam, the Kalamkari Centre of All India Handicrafts Board and other friends who have lent valuable exhibits, and other distinguished artists like Svetoslav Roerich, Harindranath Chattopadhyaya, Manishi Dey who have given us their valuable paintings and to all the members of the Art Exhibition Committee who have considerably helped us in the organization and management of the Exhibition. Our special thanks are equally due to the advertisers, and the Vasanta Press for enabling us to bring out this Guide Book in such a phenomenally short time, to Sri K. Srinivasalu, our Artist and Chief Architect of this Exhibition and Sri G. K. Seshagiri the Exhibition officer who have designed and executed the various sections and other items of work connected with the Exhibition.

The Silver Jubilee Art Exhibition Committee

SECTION A

RUKMINI DEVI'S ART COLLECTIONS

"Beauty diversified into the Arts is the true refiner and uplifter of Humanity, for it is the instrument of culture, the broadener of the heart, the purifying fire which burns all prejudices, all pettiness, all coarseness". This definition by Dr. Annie Besant of the function of beauty contains the purpose with which Srimati Rukmini Devi founded Kalakshetra in January 1936. Deriving inspiration from this noble ideal and from the magnificent educational work of Dr. G. S. Arundale, Kalakshetra was established, in the words of Rukmini Devi "with the sole purpose of resuscitating in modern India a recognition of the priceless artistic traditions of our country and of imparting to the young the true spirit of Art, devoid of vulgarity and commercialism. The training of young and talented people by great masters of art, with the background of a religious spirit, has been our chief work."

Being a true seeker of beauty, Rukmini Devi has, from time to time, acquired specimens of the Indian craftsman's art in a wide range of media, such as stone, wood, metal and colour. Some of these are displayed here to reveal the story of her search for beauty and truth and perfection in artistic standards and to impart an idea of the brain that built up Kalakshetra.

Rare Paintings by great artists like Nandalal Bose, Devi Prasad Roy Chowdhury, M. A. Rahman Chughtai, Promod Kumar Chatterji will be seen in this collection.

Apart from these will be a unique display of the famous Russian Ballerina Pavlova's choli worn by her in her Radha-Krishna ballet and two statuettes of Pavlova made by herself. Pavlova, it was, who in the early days inspired Rukmini Devi to become a dancer; but the fascinating beauty of Bharata Natya and its divine origin later possessed her and made her a creative choreographer and dancer of world wide repute,

The costumes Rukmini Devi herself designed and used for her dances will also be on display in this section.

**TITLES OF PAINTINGS EXHIBITED
IN THE SECTION**

1. Expectancy by D. P. Roy Chowdhury.
2. Buddha as a Mendicant by Nandalal Bose.
3. Chaitanya by Promode Kumar Chatterjee.
4. Poet Nizami by M. A. Rahman Chughtai.
5. Grief by Manishi Dey.
6. Deer Forest by K. Madhava Menon.
7. Peacock by K. Madhava Menon.
8. Sarada by Promode Chaterjee.
9. Poet Ghalib by M. A. R. Chughtai.
10. Buddha (Woodcut) by S. Dhanapal.
11. Chandrasekhara by P. K. Chatterjee.
12. Frescoe from Pollanuruva. (Ceylon) by Katcha Durian.
13. Javanese Dancer (Woodcut) by Emile Van Kenchoff.
14. Kangra Painting.
15. Medieval Painting—Rama and Sita.

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KALAKSHETRA COLOUR LABORATORIES

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SECTION B

**PAINTINGS OF HARINDRANATH
CHATTOPADHYAYA AND MANISHI DEY**

Harindranath Chattopadhyaya whose genius has traversed brilliantly the domains of drama, dance, poetry and music would seem to have nurtured a unique child personality within which has recently blossomed glorious expression in colour and line. "Mana" as this child is called, has often appeared and thrilled people with his brilliant quips. He now wields the brush with equally telling effect in sight and beauty. The paintings displayed are a mere fraction of the "child's" creations, combining at once the sensitivity of the child's mind with the warm imagination of the poet. For one self-taught, these paintings can be classified into groups representing symbolic, realistic and imaginative art. As each one of these pictures has its own individuality, the problem arises as to which can be singled out for special appreciation.

Autographed albums of a selection of these will be on sale at Rs. 25 each.

This section comprises pencil sketches by Manishi Dey, who has been associated with Kalakshetra in his early days. He can be meticulously painstaking, achieving pieces of elaborate refinement, such as his elusive paintings of Indian maidenhood utterly fascinated by the sinuous rhythm of female form. His mutinous spirit, refusing to be tagged to a style or tradition, adventures forth under the compulsion of emotional stresses. Whatever be his in-pelling mood, his work bears the unfailing impress of authentic art.

**TITLES OF HARINDRANATH'S PAINTINGS
EXHIBITED IN THIS SECTION**

1. Brooding.
2. Merry-Go-Round.

3. My Birth Place—Hyderabad.
4. Sisters.
5. Mother and Child.
6. Journeying towards a Fairy Tale.
7. Lamp, Light and Red Banners.
8. My Verandah.

MANISHI DEY'S PAINTINGS

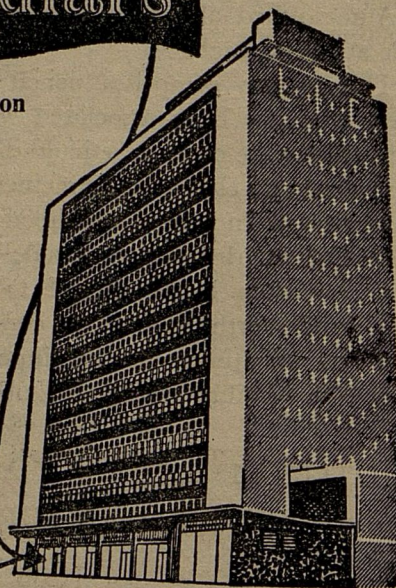
1. Radha Krishna.
2. Mother and Child and 20 pencil sketches.

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SECTION C

SVETOSLAV ROERICH'S PAINTINGS

TRIPTYCH

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| (a) Whither Humanity | Right hand panel |
| (b) Humanity Crucified | Centre panel |
| (c) The Release | Left hand panel |

This Triptych was painted between 1939-42 and conveys the thoughts of the artist engendered by the tragic events of the period. In the right hand panel humanity is shown uprooted, having come to a dead end in a chasm from which there is seeming escape.

The Central panel depicts the seven Archangels pouring out the vials of heavenly fire—the Wrath of God. The cities aflame in a great conflagration of destruction—people helpless, crowds in confusion swept by the horrors of war.

To the left, relentless rows of soldiers marching on to carry out their duty. And across the whole scene a figure of Man crucified standing in space with two women, the mourners looking on. At his feet two kneeling figures weep.

And The Release—where out of an elemental struggle of wreathing bodies a solitary figure reaches out into the Infinite. Above in a light of glory appears the Perfect Man surrounded by the heavenly Host.

This panel depicts the primordial struggle of Man with his own multiple selves which he must conquer before he can rise and attain perfection. And unless he does so and thus becomes reborn the central theme of the Triptych will repeat itself.

Though painted over twenty years ago, the theme of the Triptych is as real today as when it was painted, and carries its message with all the urgency of the moment.

JACOB AND THE ANGEL

The Biblical struggle of Jacob and the Angel: The eternal conflict of the lower and higher selves in man, of Light and Darkness, of Good and Evil.

KANCHENJUNGA

The entire range at sunset after the monsoon when the skies are filled with the most wonderful harmonies of colours.

OUT OF THE STORM

A figure of a woman and two deer fleeing from some catastrophe, trying to reach the calm of brilliant sky ahead and the shores of a promising sea.

THE CALL

From a large series called "The Sacred Flute" based upon the life of the shepherds, the sound of Krishna's Flute which still permeates the countryside and links us with the great Past.

THE WHITE CITADEL

Kanchenjunga.

LIFE EVERLASTING

The Eternal progression of Life as it finds its expression in the countryside.

SECTION D

ART CLASS

Kalakshetra is well known to all for its teaching in dance and music; less known is the important teaching given to the children in drawing and painting. The work of past and present students and teachers is displayed elsewhere. In this section can be seen the children actually at work at different stages under their able Art teacher Sri K. Srinivasalu.

ARTISTS COLOURS - DRAWING - ENGINEERING -
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Slide Rules - Drawing instrument box - Scales - Indian Inks - etc.

And Stationery Articles.

SECTION E

MUSICOLOGY

Here we have valuable heirlooms in the form of rare manuscripts, music instruments and personal effects belonging to the old masters including the following:

Tiger K. Varadachari, Karaikudi Sambasiva Iyer, Mysore K. Varadachari, Konerirajapuram Vaidyanatha Iyer, Pallavi Sessa Iyer. We are grateful to the Tirupati Devasthanam for the six original copper plates containing the Songs of Talapakkam Composers of the 15th century.

There are in all 3000 such plates. Each plate contains six songs. Six such plates are exhibited here. The songs are by Annamachari and in common ragas like Varali, Sankarabharanam, Khambhoji, Saurashtram; songs in obsolete ragas like Desalam, Salangam, Heyaji, Abeli, Mukhari Pantu, Kandamalahari, and rare Ragas like Sudha Vasantham, Samantham.

A. N. Chinna-swami Mudaliar's Oriental Music in Staff Notation—classical Kritis and other compositions published in 1892.

The autograph MSS. of Pallavi Sessa Iyer containing the Kritis Sundaranga in Behag Raga rendered into notation by himself.

Syama Sastri's Tala prastaram MSS. written by himself.

Annamachari Sastri (grandson of Syama Sastri) MSS. containing Arohana and Avarohana of Ragas.

Palm-leaf MSS. containing the Text of the Telugu opera Sundaresa Vilasam by Seyyur Sengalvaraya Sastri (1810-1900).

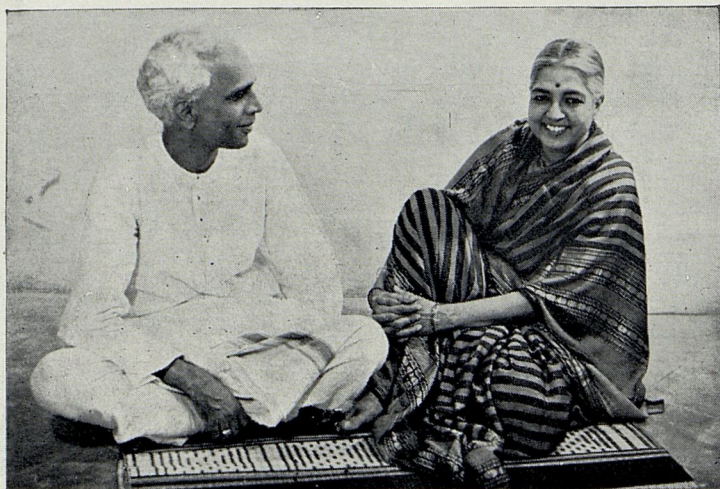
Photographs of stone slab in Tirupati containing Gitas in notation.

Tunes played by Raja Sarfoji's band in staff notations and Sarfoji's other compositions (photographic reprint) from the original.

We are indebted to Prof. P. Sambamurthi and Sri S. Rajaram for arranging this section.



Sri Nataraja



K. Sankara Menon—Joint-Director and Srimathi Rukmini Devi—Director
of Kalakshetra



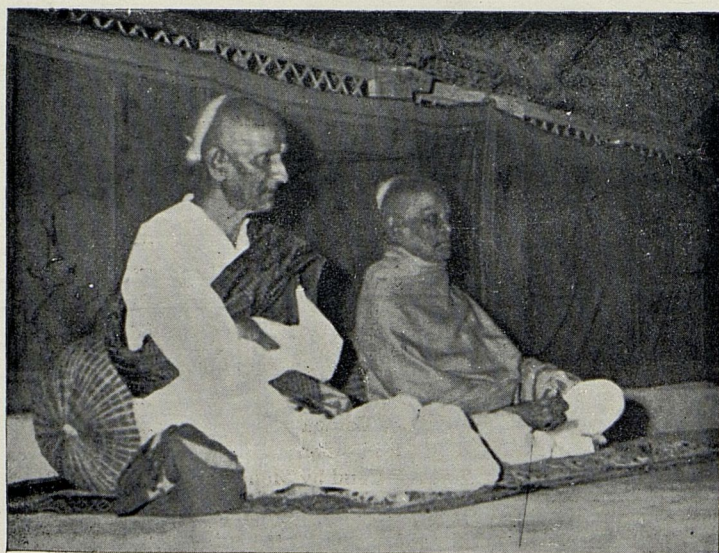
A Class in Kalakshetra



H. H. The Dalai Lama at the site of our New Home at Tiruvanmiyur
when he laid the foundation-stone of the future Temple for Kalakshetra
on December 20, 1959.



A map of the New Home of Kalakshetra at Tiruvanniyur



Two Veteran Principals of Kalakshetra
Late Sangita Kalanidhi Sambasiva Aiyar of Karaikudi and the late
Sangita Kalanidhi Vasudevacharya of Mysore

SECTION F

MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA DR. V. SWAMINATHA AIYAR LIBRARY

In 1943, the son of the great Tamil Scholar Dr. Swaminatha Aiyar, presented to Rukmini Devi more than a thousand manuscripts, the largest and most valuable collection of Tamil manuscripts in the world, containing, in addition to the manuscripts, the work and commentaries of great scholar himself.

The editions of books published by Dr. Swaminatha Aiyar himself and later the books published by Kalakshetra, as well as Dr. Aiyar's titles, Birudus, personal diaries, his biography and antobiography, his handwritten notes on several works and his personal letters are exhibited in this Section. Other Kalakshetra publications as well as Dr. Swaminatha Aiyar's books will also be sold in this section. Books available and their sale prices are given separately.

KALAKSHETRA PUBLICATIONS

ADYAR : MADRAS 20 : INDIA

English Publications:	Rs. nP.
Discovery of the Child by Montessori (Delux Edition) ...	16 50
Education for a New World ...	4 75
To Educate the Human Potential ...	5 75
Collected Poems by Dr. James Cousins ...	6 50
Faith of the Artist ...	3 75
The Hound of Uladh ...	5 75
Reflections Before Sunset ...	3 00
Suchindram Temple by Dr. K. K. Pillai ...	35 00
'ON ART' by Nandalal Bose—Cloth Edition ...	10 50
'ON ART' by Nandalal Bose—Board Edition ...	9 50
What You should Know about Your Child by Montessori ...	6 50
Secret of Childhood ...	7 50
Peace and Education ...	0 75
Reconstruction in Education ...	0 35
The Child ...	0 60
Formation of Man ...	2 75
Indian Dance by C. R. Srinivasa Iyengar ...	4 00
The Absorbent Mind by Montessori ...	18 00

Tamil Publications:	Rs. nP.
Kamba Ramayanam—Part Edition	... 2 00
Kamba Ramayanam—Bala Kandam	... 6 50
Kamba Ramayanam—Ayodhya Kandam	... 6 50
Navaneetha Pattiyal	... 2 00
Moovarula	... 5 00
Yapperungala Karigai	... 3 50
Vikrama Solanula	... 1 50
Music Books: Tamil:	
Neelakanta Sivan Kirtanamala—Cloth Edition	... 7 00
Neelakanta Sivan Kirtanamala—Board Edition	... 6 50
Navaratna Ragamalika by Sri K. Vasudevacharya—Cloth Edn.	5 50
Navaratna Ragamalika by Sri K. Vasudevacharya—Board Edn.	5 00
Kirtanamala by Sri Papanasam Sivan—Cloth Edition	... 7 00
Kirtanamala by Sri Papanasam Sivan—Board Edition	... 6 50
Sangita Ratnakaram by Sri Ramachandra Sarma—Cloth Edn.	5 00
Sangita Ratnakaram by Sri Ramachandra Sarma—Board Edn.	4 50
Ragha Vibhodam	... 2 50

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SECTION G

KORA'S SCHOOL OF INDIGENOUS ARTS AND CRAFTS

In this section is displayed some compositions built up of old wood carvings from various Rathas and household articles. Just as a Stapati who takes Pancha Lohas (Metals) and melts them and casts into different forms of Vighras, the wood carvings displayed here are reconstructed by Sri K. Ramamurthi. The cloth paintings done by him using only indigenous roots, barks of the trees as well as leaves and seeds are also on view. Old Tanjore paintings on wood, paintings on glass, leather puppet figures and other interesting art articles will be on display as well as sold here.

SECTION H

GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT AND STREE SEVA MANDIR

We are grateful to the Government of Madras, Industries Department for taking up this section and exhibiting the products made at the Sculpture Training Centre, Mahabalipuram and the Art Metal Training Centre at Swamimalai. These two unique centres are doing a great service to preserve the ancient craft of stone sculpture and revive and popularise the manufacture of bronze icons according to the principles and practices contained in Silpa Sastras. The products on display will reveal the pioneering zeal of these centres.

In this section will also be exhibited the handloom fabrics, and handicrafts products made by the members of the Stree Seva Mandir. Demonstrations of Wood and Lacquer work will also be shown. Soft Toys, Wire Dolls, Wall Pictures, Wood and Lacquer articles etc. produced at this Mandir will also be sold.

Most of the Paintings Exhibited here are for sale and their prices can be ascertained from the Exhibition Officer and purchased.

They can be removed only after the Exhibition is over.

SECTION I

KALAKSHETRA WEAVING AND DYEING DEPARTMENTS

The revival of classical Indian patterns in Textile fabrics is a notable achievement of Kalakshetra's many sided activity and its weaving department has earned a name for producing the best among the ancient patterns of the land.

The loom exhibited in the section bears testimony to the progress made by Kalakshetra.

The results of the Dye Research Laboratory established with the help of the All India Handicrafts Board, are also on show in this section.

The names of the vegetable dye stuffs tried, a number of varieties of fabrics dyed with these indigenous dyes are all exhibited in this section.

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SECTION J

KALAMKARI PRODUCTION UNIT OF KALAHASTI

Kalamkari is an interesting type of painting in cloth with indigenous vegetable colours, the painted cloth was very commonly used in temples. The themes were mainly from the Puranas and executed in free hand drawing using only indigenous dyes available locally.

The All India Handicrafts Board revived this almost extinct traditional Temple Art by starting a training and production centre at Kalahasti in 1957. Some of their work is currently used in Kalakshetra theatrical productions also. The Exhibits in this section are the work of the trainees of the centre and are also for sale.

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SECTION K

KALAKSHETRA THROUGH THE YEARS

A bird's eye view of Kalakshetra's progress in a quarter of a century is provided in the form of photographic records of memorable occasions. The beautiful dance creations of Shrimati Rukmini Devi and her loyal band of workers and disciples, the high level of teaching in music, dance and painting, the implacable devotion to tradition and the highest canons of our classical arts will all be too evident from the varied exhibits in the pavilion. While the beauty of the display here can only be savoured and enjoyed, you can take back with you specimens of the artistic creations of Kalakshetra in the form of Saris and textiles and the craft materials made by the Arundale Training Centre in the adjoining huts.

The paintings of Kalakshetra old students and teachers are displayed in this section and their titles are given below.

K. MADHAVA MENON'S PAINTINGS EXHIBITED HERE

1. Rocks.
2. Prowlers.
3. The Mighty Ascent.
4. Reflexions.
5. Mountain scape.
6. Swan Study.

PAINTINGS BY NGO DUDYO MGDN

(from Tibet)

1. Enlightened One.
2. Floral Offering.
3. Elephant (Ajanta).
4. Ceiling Design (Ajanta).

5. Birds (Ajanta).
6. Shining Plumes.
7. Vajrapani—The Wielder of the Sword.
8. Rajput Princes.
9. Still Life—Crayons.

USHA SUBRAMANIAN'S PAINTINGS

1. Todi Ragini.
2. Interchange.
3. Krishna Leela.
4. Radha Krishna.

AMAR SINGH'S PAINTINGS

1. Mughal Prince.
2. Mother and Child.
3. Lullaby.
4. Bazaar Bound.
5. Bangle Seller.
6. Neelak-Ranta.
7. The Plough.
8. The Lonesome Wait.

N. S. SASTRI'S PAINTINGS

Frightened.
Mountain Peaks.

B. DAYANAND'S FOUR PAINTINGS IN JAPANESE STYLE

1. Chrysanthemum.
2. Landscape.
3. Landscape.
4. Nirvana.

SECTION L

SOUTH INDIAN TEMPLE SURVEY

A fitting finale is provided by a display of the South Indian temple survey by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board in the form of Guide Books, photographs and models.

Some of the rare wood carvings collected by the Board have been kindly lent to this Exhibition and adorn it in various spots.

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**KALAKSHETRA
SILVER JUBILEE
ART EXHIBITION**

DAMODAR GARDENS, BESANT AVENUE, ADYAR

- ★ A representative collection of paintings by some well-known artists including Svetoslav Roerich, Harindranath Chattopadhyaya, Manishi Dey, K. Madhava Menon, K. Srinivasalu, B. Dayanand as well as students of Kalakshetra and others.
- ★ A selection of Srimathi Rukmini Devi's personal art collection.
- ★ A choice selection of old Bronzes and Wood carvings.
- ★ Valuable music manuscripts and heirloom music instruments used by great masters of the past.
- ★ Mahamahopadhyaya Swaminatha Iyer Library, Kalakshetra and other Art Publications.
- ★ Products of Mahabalipuram Sculpture School, Swamimalai Art Metal Centre and Stree Seva Mandir, Mylapore.
- ★ Results of Kalakshetra Photographic and Dye Research Laboratories.
- ★ Shopping Centre for Kalakshetra Saris, Kalankari Cloth and Art objects.
- ★ Canteen facilities and children's park in the extensive grounds.
- ★ *Open to the public from 28th Dec. 1961 to 7th Jan. 1962 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Holidays and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Working days.*

Admission by Tickets 10 nP. only



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