

birth centenary celebrations

EXHIBITION

of

Prof. Nicholas Roerich's  
(1874-1947)

Paintings/Photographs

Oct 9th to Oct 15th '74

Govt. MUSEUM & ART GALLERY  
CHANDIGARH



Prof. Nicholas Roerich was born in 1874 in St. Petersburg. As a student he attended the Academy of Art, the Historic and Philological courses of the University of St. Petersburg, the Faculty of Law and the Institute of Archaeology. Later he went abroad for higher studies.

He was one of the most famous artists -- with over 7,000 paintings to his credit. The Himalayas were a constant source of inspiration to Nicholas Roerich and he loved them so much that made him known as "Master of the Mountains". He revealed in his numerous paintings of Himalayan landscapes, his ability to convey their colours and moods, soaring heights and vast spaces of cosmic proportions.

Prof. Nicholas Roerich died at Kulu on December 13, 1947, after spending most of his life in Himalayas.

This exhibition is being organised to celebrate the Birth Centenary of Prof. Nicholas Roerich. It consists of original paintings, photographic reproductions, colour transparencies and excerpts from his writings.

CATALOGUE

1. MIRACLE  
Roerich Museum - New York.
2. SONG OF THE MORNING  
Roerich Museum - New York.
3. MOHEGAN MAJIE  
Roerich Museum - New York.
4. POLOVETSKY CAMP  
Detroit Art Institute-Michigan.
5. MOHEGAN MAJIE  
Roerich Museum - New York.
6. THE SHORE NEAR LEDEVETZ TOWN  
Roerich Museum, New York.
7. AND WE CONTINUE FISHING -  
Roerich Museum, New York.
8. AND WE ARE TRYING -  
Roerich Museum, New York.
9. DREAM OF THE ORIENT  
Roerich Museum - New York.
10. THE UNKNOWN SLINGER -  
Kansas City.
11. MOHEGAN MAJIE  
Roerich Museum, New York.
12. SONG OF THE MOON -  
Roerich Museum, New York.
13. CHURCH OF OLD NOVGORD -  
Roerich Museum - New York.
14. REPENTANCE -  
Roerich Museum, New York.
15. LAKE OF LADOGA  
Roerich Museum, New York.
16. SOLOVETSKI MONASTERY -  
Roerich Museum, New York.
17. SONG OF THE BIRDS -  
Roerich Museum, New York.
18. VALLEY OF YALIRA,  
Roerich Museum, New York.
19. AND WE DO NOT FEAR  
Roerich Museum, New York.
20. PSKOV  
Roerich Museum, New York.
21. KNIGHT OF THE MORNING  
Roerich Museum, New York.
22. SAINTLY GUESTS  
Roerich Museum, New Delhi.

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23. THE BRIDGE OF GLORY  
Roerich Museum, New York.
24. BOOK OF DOVES  
Roerich Museum, New York.
25. AND WE OPEN THE GATES  
Roerich Museum, New York.
26. KINGHILL JUNGA
27. SAUTAND
28. FIRE MAGIC
29. SNOW MAIDEN
30. SHE WHO LEADS
31. MESSAGE OF SHAMBHALA
32. SACRED CAVES
33. VALMIKI
34. TIBETAN STRONGHOLDS
35. SACRED ARROW
36. LEGENDS
37. COMPASSION
38. HIMALAYAS - THE ABODE OF LIGHT
39. SACRED THOUGHT
40. MAULBECK MONASTERY
41. HIMALAYAS
42. STEEDS BEJEVOLENCE
43. FROM BEYOND
44. THE PASS
45. MAITREYA
46. KAIKI AVATARA
47. THE BLESSED ONE
48. COMMAND OF THE REGDEN JEYPO
49. SAGA OF GESSAR
50. THE LAKE OF GEJESSARET
51. HIMALAYAN RIVER  
Trivandrum Art Gallery.
52. TEERA SIAVONICA  
Trivandrum Art Gallery.
53. ARMA GEDDON  
Trivandrum Art Gallery.
54. KULU MAN  
Trivandrum Art Gallery.
55. HOMEWARD BOUND,  
Trivandrum Art Gallery.
56. MONASTERY IN LADAKH.  
All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society
57. BIRTH OF A RIVER  
All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society
58. TWIN PEAKS  
All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society

59. A TIBETAN LAKE

All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society.

60. SNOW PEAK

All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society.

61. MOON OVER THE MOUNTAINS

All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society.

62. Portrait of Nicholas Roerich

- by Svetoslav Roerich

Courtesy of Mme. Devika Rani Roerich.

63. Portrait of Nicholas Roerich

- by Svetoslav Roerich

Courtesy of Mme. Devika Rani Roerich.

64. Portrait of Nicholas Roerich

- by Svetoslav Roerich

Courtesy of Mme. Devika Rani Roerich.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very happy to be amidst you all this afternoon on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of the great Russian Artist and friend of India Nicholas Roerich. My memory takes me back to 1935 when as a young student I first visited Naggar and got introduced to the Roerich world which is so well preserved till to-day at that place. I visited Naggar quite a few times thereafter and stayed in the castle there. It could never occur to me in 1935 that it would be my privilege in 1974 to inaugurate an exhibition the works of the Great Nicholas Roerich.

I am glad that this opportunity has been  
provided

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provided by the Chandigarh Museum and Art Gallery, which, true to its character, has the privilege of possessing some of the rare paintings of Nicholas Roerich. It is but befitting also that Dr. Randhawa is present amidst us and has just introduced us to the great painter on the basis of his personal knowledge of his work.

The learned, it is said, understand the reason of art while the laymen just feel the pleasure. Dr. Randhawa has just now given us a learned account of the art and works of Nicholas Roerich and has drawn our attention to the sources of inspiration underlying his

his art. As a lay person I can merely say that it was always been a pleasure for me to see the Roerich paintings "Nicholas Roerich possessed a highly evolved sensibility and a sophisticated and multi-faceted personality. The sweep of his endeavours and imagination was truly stupendous. He was an archaeologist an explorer, a student of history and spiritualism, a writer of poems and short stories and above all a painter. His murals and mosaics adorn many public buildings and churches in the country of his birth and the settings designed by him for operas and ballets introduced a new dimension in the renaissance of this particular aspect of Russian culture. The collection

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of his paintings has touched the staggering number of 7,000. The fact that his birth centenary is being celebrated not only in the U.S.S.R. but also in India in the United Kingdom and in the U.S.A. simultaneously is a proof of the fact that Nicholas Roerich had a cosmopolitan outlook and made a contribution to the knowledge and enriched the treasures of art of humanity as a whole.

What was the secret of Nicholas Roerich's multifarious and yet uniformly splendid achievements? A significant clue, to my mind, is provided by his son Svetoslav Roerich, himself an acknowledged painter, who testifies that his father had "wonderful composure of

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mind and of self which were the very foundations of his character". Svetoslav Roerich goes on to say that "it was the composure of a superior man, grave and yet kind, thoughtful with a remarkable and happy sense of humour". This composure of mind and self would seem to account for a synthetic quality of Nicholas Roerich's art. He gleaned from various sources and blended and synthesized various elements in his creative art. He was not a place but of all places. He will survive in the memory of succeeding generation not as one belonging to a particular time but as one who belonged to all times. He imbibed in himself and portrayed with his brush not merely the narrow or parochial aspects.

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of human aspirations and urges but the universal and the immutable emotions and yearnings stirring the human spirit. Nicholas Boerich's paintings are silent poetry. He has been hailed as 'the master of the mountains'. His landscapes of the mountains and the Himalayas are unrivalled - unrivalled because they are ~~more~~ not merely pictorial representation of the mighty mountains but are a sign as well as a symbol; a meaning animates them and makes them communicate more than meets the eye. They symbolise serenity, eternity and beauty". Nicholas Boerich had dedicated himself to the search and service of beauty - service defies all barriers and boundaries beauty is timeless and transcendental. Beauty is truth.

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and as the English poet Keats said,

"Beauty is truth and truth beauty,  
That is all ye know and all ye need to know".

Beauty for Nicholas Roerich was the supreme truth which by symbolising synthesis of form, values and ideals was the main hope for unifying all humanity. To quote the great painter's own words -

"In beauty we are united,  
Through beauty we pray,  
With beauty we conquer."

Nicholas Roerich's paintings bring us face to face with beauty and also with his most intimate self and the secret concurrence which he had perceived in things by means of his vision or intuition. The

celebrated

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celebrated Russian writer Gorky aptly described him as the 'Greatest Intuitivist',

To us Indians the celebration of Nicholas Roerich's birth centenary has a special significance. Everf since his coming to India in the 20s, he has dedicated thousands of paintings to the sublime beauty of the Himalayas and to the sacred concepts of the ancient wisdom of India. Indeed, he concludes the chapter on India in his book 'Altai Himalaya' with the words:

"We know thy fragrant essence, India. We know the depths and finesse of thy thoughts. We know the great Aum, which leads to the inexpressible heights. India, we know thy ancient wisdom."

He

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He brought the soul of Russia close to the soul of India and having enriched his own life with the fusion of true culture, he became an emissary of universal art for humanity as a whole. Nicholas Roerich's work since his coming to India is a tribute to our motherland, its treasures of wisdom and philosophy and its capacity to inspire great minds. We pay him our homage today especially as one of the greatest artists and also as a great explorer of the hidden treasures of human thought who made us aware of our own rich heritage. Thus, in his own right, he occupies place of pride amidst our country's cultural and spiritual leaders.

I am sure, the art lovers and art critics will  
interpret

interpret afresh the works of this great painter in this year of his centenary and draw lessons from his style and the scheme of colours and forms in the context of the current themes, styles and forms of art. But I hope that under the superficial and external aspects of his paintings they will all find the basic truth and eternal beauty standing forth and shining undimmed. As time passes the themes and styles of art change. Quite often foreign influences result in substitution not only of styles but even of themes and subjects. Basically, there may be nothing wrong about it, But the Indian painters should, I feel, continue to take pride in our own heritage and explore the vast potentialities of our

vast country for artistic expression. Our concept of the content and the form of art has been enunciated since times immemorial as 'Satyam Shivam Sunderam' that is art should be true, good and beautiful. Nicholas Roerich not merely concurred in this but actually practised this concept. Let our artists keep this in view and draw fresh inspiration regarding scope of themes and the manner of expression from Nicholas Roerich's own words:

"Beauty still lives in India;  
Beckons to us the Great Indian Path."

Ladies and gentlemen ! With these words I have great pleasure in inaugurating the exhibition of

Nicholas



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Nicholas Roerich's paintings and photographs of  
his works.

Speech made by Shri B.S. Ojha, Home Secretary.

I welcome you all to this function being held to commemorate the birth centenary of the great painter, Nicholas Roerich. The Art of this great Russia born painter who did us Indian's honour by taking up residence in a place, by now world famous, in the valley of the gods, has been described as the "Realm of Roerich". In the course of this afternoon we are looking forward to being introduced to this "realm" and we are happy that in our Museum & Art Gallery Roerich is duly represented even though we have succeeded so far in obtaining only a fraction of the vast 'realm'. We have it on the authority of one who knows that perceiving the panorama of Roerich's paintings one is reminded of Shelley's lines:

" The one remains, the many change and pass  
 Heaven's light forever shines, Earth's shadows fly;  
 Life, like a dome of many-coloured glass,  
 Stains the white radiance of Eternity."

Let me hope that each one of you will have the opportunity to verify this observation after going round the exhibition of Roerich's paintings and photographs of his works, which we have organised to-day. I am grateful to Mr. Mathur, the Chief Commissioner and Mr. Mathur for sparing their valuable time to be with us this afternoon. Mr. Mathur needs no introduction to this audience. As one who is a lover of art and as one who has admired Roerich for the last 40 years, he is eminently suitable to be the Chief guest today. Similarly, Dr. Randhawa also does not need any introduction though I must say Dr. Randhawa as a subject for introduction has a newer aspect of his personality to reveal in every occasion. Today he is present amidst us as an admirer and promoter of Roerich; for he it

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was who initially got acquired the paintings, which were later purchased by him as Chief Commissioner for this Art Gallery in 1968 and which are on display here today. I would now request Dr. Randhawa to make a brief comment on Roerich and his work.

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Punjab Mail  
**ROERICH** 16/10/73  
**EXHIBITION**

CHANDIGARH, Oct. 15 (PMI) : To commemorate the birth centenary of Prof. Nicholas Roerich, a special exhibition has been organised by the Government Museum and Art Gallery here,

Inaugurating the exhibition on October 9, Mr N.P. Mathur, Chief Commissioner, Union Territory, Chandigarh, had urged the Indian painters to take pride in their heritage and explore the vast potentialities of the country for artistic expression.

Dr. M. S. Randhawa, Chairman of the Museum Advisory Committee, briefed his association with Roerich and his works during pre-independence days. He also expressed the opinion that works on Roerich should be viewed with a sensitive frame of mind to feel the spirit of works.

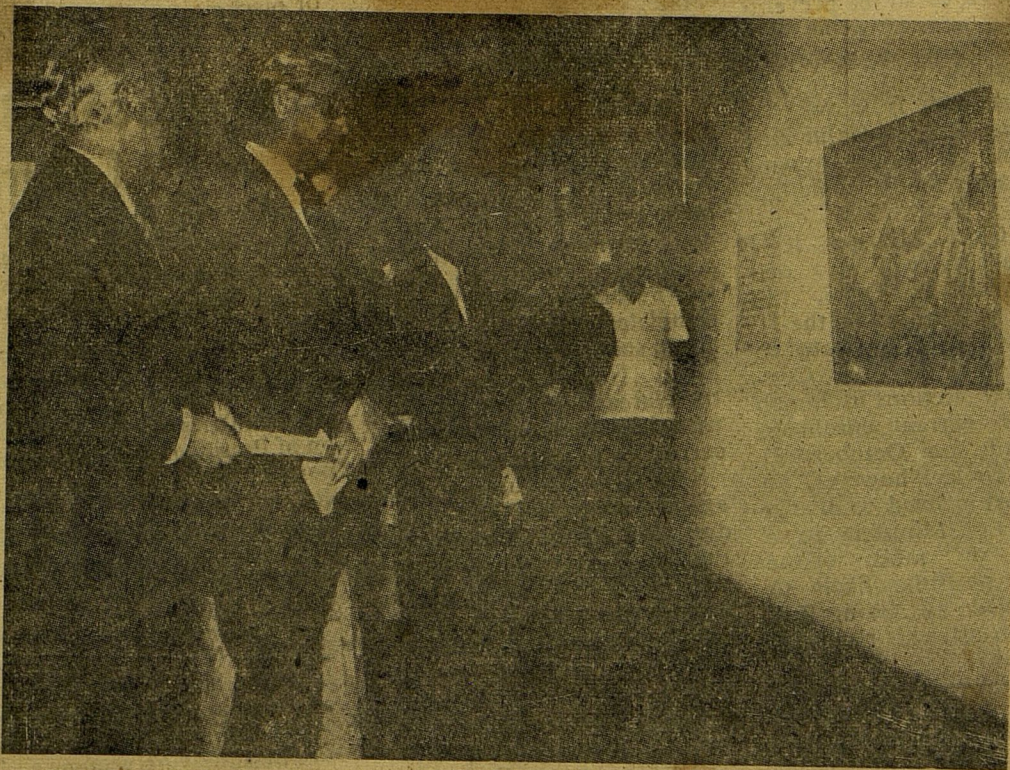
Welcoming the gathering Mr B.S. Ojha, Home Secretary, Union Territory, Chandigarh, paid high tributes to the genius of Nicholas Roerich.

Mr Sushil Sarkar, Director of the Museum, proposed vote of thanks.

The present exhibition includes six original paintings, 64 photographic reproductions and extracts from his writings. The exhibition will remain open till today.

*Suppl  
This may be sent  
to Mrs. Denka Rain,  
along with our  
report*

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Waxmy*



Mr. N.P. Mathur and Dr. M.S. Randhawa going around Nicholas N. Roerich's Exhibition in Government Museum & Art Gallery, Chandigarh.