

OPEN BOOKS

ARTISTS AND THE CHINESE FOLDING BOOK

RAJASTHAN LALIT KALA AKADEMI
STATE ACADEMY OF ART

Akademi Complex, J-15 Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur 302 004

RAVINDRA MANCH, ART GALLERY
Ramnivas Garden, Jaipur 302 004

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9th - 15th January, 2017
17th - 26th January, 2017



Association of British Scholars
Jaipur



Rajasthan Lalit Kala Academy
Jaipur



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INTRODUCTION

In the 1990s there was a flourishing programme of visual artists exchanges between Wales and the State of Rajasthan. This is an international aspect of the Artists in Residence Programme organised by the Arts Council of Wales in the 1980s and 90s. . These projects were reciprocal, proving opportunities for visual artists to experience a new culture, meet and work along side fellow artists in a different environment and to exhibit internationally.

Although this particular exchange officially only operated from 1993-98 over this five year period the connections, exchanges, residencies. exhibitions and collaborations have continued since 1998 for nearly 20 years. Many artists from Wales and Rajasthan, in a broad variety of visual arts disciplines ,have visited each others countries over this period.

Open Books, is an international Book Arts exhibition, created by Mary Husted, an independent curator who has been touring this exhibition since 2012. It now comes to Jaipur as part of this tour and as a continuation of the long standing relationship between Wales and India.

We wish especially to thank our collaborators in India, the Lalit Kala Academy in hosting this part of the tour. At each new venue artists from the hosting region and country exhibit alongside the existing show and their work then has the opportunity to travel to future venues as part of the extend tour. The current exhibition includes artists from Wales UK, China, Australia, Hong Kong, Canada and now Rajasthan. Future exhibitions are in prospect.

At different times the exchange between Wales and Rajasthan has had the important support from Wales Arts International, The Welsh Assembly, The Arts Council of Wales, The British Council, The Lalit Kala Academy, Jawahar Kala Kendra , The Charles Wallace India Trust, INTACH, Rajasthan School of Art, V-6 Group and Cardiff School of Art & Design, Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Richard Cox & Sue Hunt

OPEN BOOKS 2017
RAJASTHAN

Iwan Bala
G. W. Bot
Brendan Burns
Valerie Coffin Price
Richard Cox
Caren Florance
Dianne Fogwell
Angela Gardner
Noelle Griffiths
Clive Hicks Clive Jenkins
Sue Hunt
Mary Husted
Maggie James
Gukzik Lau
Tom Martin
Philip Nicol
Heather Nixon
Ou Da Wei
Alan Salisbury
Frank Vigneron
Wim de Vos
Robin Wallace-Crabbe
Lois Williams
Sue Williams
V S Upadhyay
Harshiv Sharma
Archana Joshi
Vinay Sharma

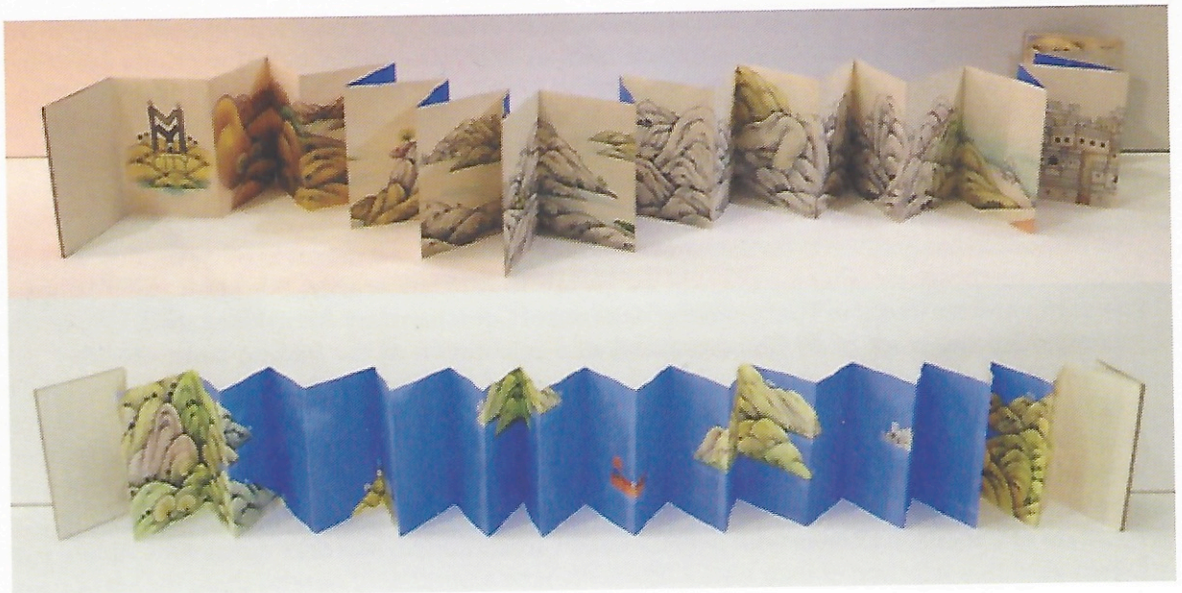
Suneet Ghidial
Meena Baya
Lalit Sharma
Shahid Parvez
Ruchika Wason Singh
Barbara Ballachey
Linda Carreiro
Eric Chan
Pierre Durette
David Garneau
Helen Gerritzen
Jill Ho-You
Charlotte Jones
Jerry Evans
Christain Quesnel
Richard Smolinski
Susan Wood
Ding Yi
Gu Rong
Huang Jinjie
Huang Jun
Li Shun
Le Yong
Wang Dongling
Wang Hailong
Wang Xi
Yang An
Zhang Yu

HOW AN IDEA BECAME AN EXHIBITION AND GREW

In 2004-5 I returned home to Wales from working and travelling in Hong Kong and China with some blank the folding books, and gave away some to fellow artists. Over talks with friends the idea came up for an exhibition of these books by various artists. In 2009 I passed through Hong Kong again en route for Australia. I bought a large number of blank books and handed them out to artists I knew in Australia, Hong Kong and Wales. I chose artists with very diverse ways of working. I approached the National Library of Wales, and thus was Open Books born. When the exhibition opened in the National Library of Wales in June 2012, there were sixteen of us.

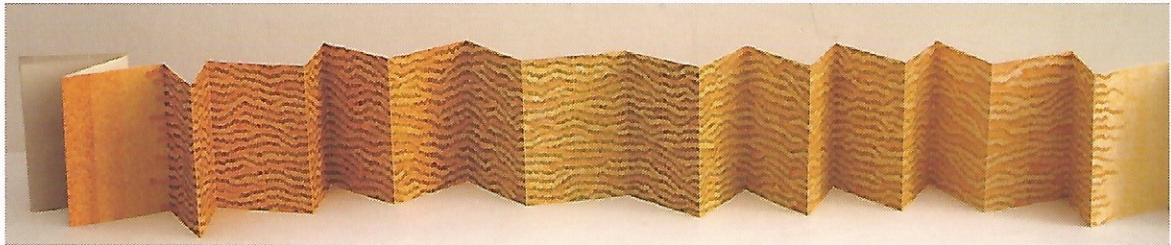
The exhibition has gone on to further showings and gradually as it moves to other venues, we add new artists, some chosen by other members of the group. In 2013 fellow artist, Sue Hunt, came on board as a co-curator and we took it to The Sanshang Museum of Contemporary Art in Hangzhou, China, where it accompanied the work of 40 Chinese artists in a celebration of the folding book. In May 2014, in collaboration with the Sanshang Museum, a group of the Chinese books was selected and taken together with our Open Books to Australia, to the Logan Gallery in Brisbane and to the University of New South Wales Academy Library in Canberra. In Australia new artists joined us. In November 2014 it opened in the Art Museum of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where we were again joined by a large and impressive group of artists from China. In 2016 it opened at the National Library and Archives of Canada in Ottawa with new Canadian artists added, and once again our Chinese partners joined us with a selection of their books. There are now a number of us who share the job of travelling and curating the exhibitions.

In each new country we invite a new group of artists to join us. It is an exhibition that can expand and shrink to fit its venues. In this way the exhibition continually grows and changes. Our next venue is in India and there are plans for further venues after that, each time with new artists added. Like the books themselves, the exhibition unfolds and expands.

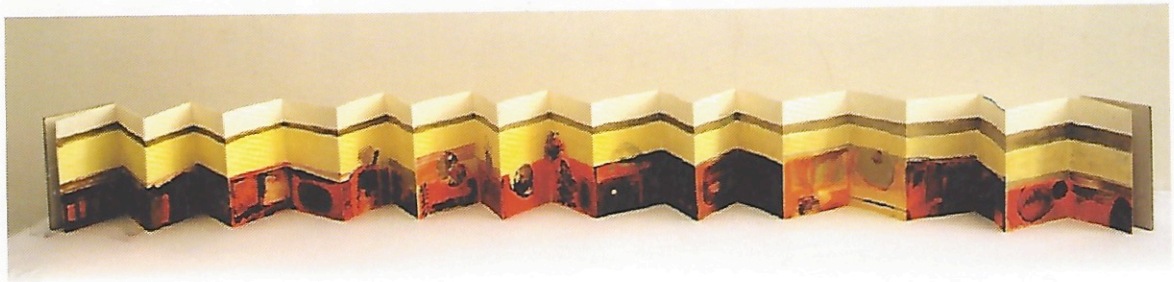


V S Upadhyay

Lalit Sharma

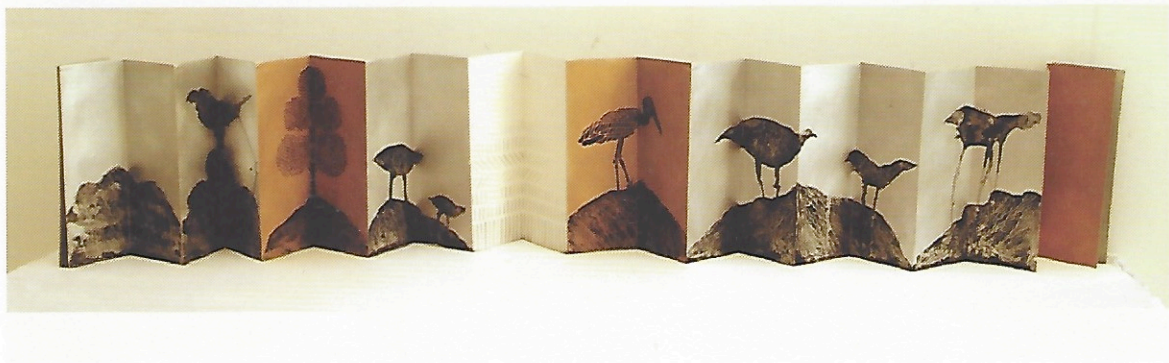
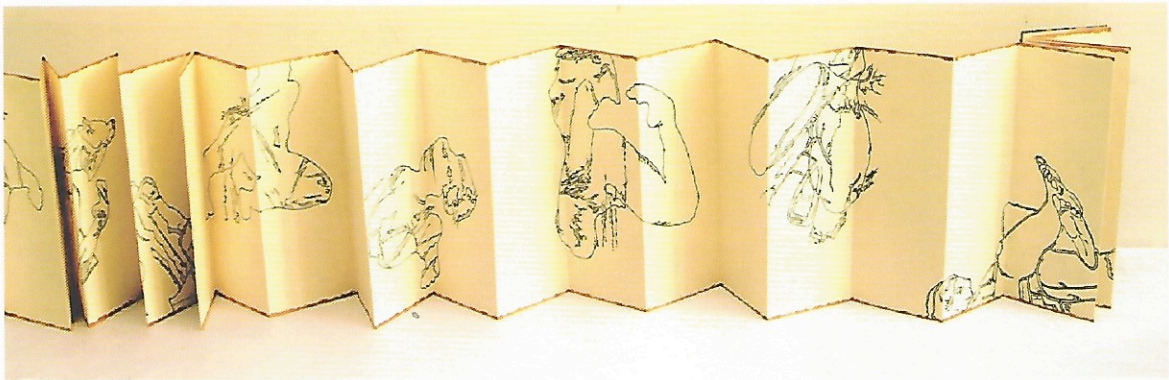


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Vinay Sharma