

# Decorative Art

The Decorative section displays a huge collection of ivory objects along with different schools of textiles. The artefacts of this gallery came from various colonial exhibitions where the dazzling opulence of the Orient was on show. The Lord Carmichael collection and the Rai Manilal Nahar Bahadur collection (1927-1928) comprising paintings, miniatures, zed objects, textiles and Tibetan artefacts are here.



Here is the overview of the Decorative Art gallery:

## **Location:**

- The Decorative Art Gallery is part of the Indian Museum in Kolkata, West Bengal. The Indian Museum, established in 1814, is one of the oldest and most prominent museums in India.

**Exhibits and Collection:** The Decorative Art Gallery showcases a diverse range of artistic and decorative objects. Key highlights include:

- **Indian Decorative Arts:** The gallery features intricately crafted items such as textiles, ceramics, and metalwork from various regions of India, reflecting traditional craftsmanship and design.
- **Artifacts:** Exhibits include items like intricately carved wooden furniture, ornate jewelry, and beautifully decorated household objects.
- **Historical Artifacts:** The collection also includes artifacts that illustrate historical styles and techniques used in decorative art across different periods and regions.

### **Historical Significance:**

- **Founding:** The Decorative Art Gallery has been a key component of the Indian Museum's collection, providing insights into India's rich tradition of decorative arts.
- **Cultural Heritage:** The gallery's collection reflects the artistic achievements and cultural practices of various Indian communities, offering a glimpse into the historical and aesthetic values of different periods.

### **Research and Conservation:**

- **Research:** The gallery supports research into decorative arts, including the study of traditional techniques, styles, and materials used in various artifacts.
- **Conservation Efforts:** The museum employs specialized conservation methods to preserve delicate and historically significant items, ensuring their longevity and maintaining their artistic integrity.

### Visitor Information:

- **Opening Hours:** The Indian Museum, including the Decorative Art Gallery, is open from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Tuesday through Sunday. It is closed on Mondays.
- **Admission Fees:** The entry fee is ₹50 for Indian adults, ₹20 for Indian students, and ₹500 for foreign tourists. Additional charges may apply for special exhibitions or photography.
- **Guided Tours:** Guided tours of the Decorative Art Gallery are available and can be arranged in advance. These tours offer detailed explanations of the exhibits and their historical context. Contact the museum for booking details and fees.

### Additional Features:

- **Educational Programs:** The gallery offers educational programs and workshops focused on decorative arts, providing visitors with deeper insights into traditional craftsmanship and design techniques.
- **Interactive Displays:** Some exhibits feature interactive elements that enhance visitor engagement and understanding of decorative art forms.

The Decorative Art Gallery at the Indian Museum is a vibrant celebration of India's artistic and cultural heritage. With its extensive collection of beautifully crafted objects and artifacts, the gallery offers a unique perspective on the evolution of decorative arts. Through its exhibits, research initiatives, and educational programs, the gallery plays a crucial role in preserving and showcasing the artistic traditions of India.

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