

Global Threads

The Art and Fashion of Indian Chintz

October 23, 2022–January 8, 2023

Members see *Global Threads* first!

Preview Days: October 21 and 22

Over several centuries, Indian artisans perfected complex methods for producing dyes and mordants to create painted and printed cloth in a spectrum of fade-resistant colors. Starting in the 17th century, these often brilliant and intricately designed textiles became known as chintz, and consumers worldwide were captivated by the lavish fabric.

Global Threads: The Art and Fashion of Indian Chintz reveals how this innovative and often beautiful textile revolutionized fashion, industry, and global trade. In addition to displaying a wide range of chintz textiles made in

India for various international markets, the exhibition includes a selection of European and American dress and furnishing textiles inspired by these fabrics. It also highlights contemporary Indian chintz artists who continue to advance this art form but with a deep concern for environmental responsibility and sustainable practices.

Largely drawn from the collection of Indian chintz at ROM (Royal Ontario Museum) in Toronto, Canada, the exhibition also features works from private collections and complementary objects from the Saint Louis Art Museum collection.



Global Threads: The Art and Fashion of Indian Chintz is curated by Sarah Fee, senior curator of fashion and textiles at ROM. The presentation in St. Louis is cocurated by Philip Hu, curator of fashion at the Saint Louis Art Museum, and Genevieve Cortinovis, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Curator of Decorative Arts and Design at the Saint Louis Art Museum.

ROM This exhibition is produced and circulated by ROM (Royal Ontario Museum), Toronto

Cover image: *Wall of Bed Hanging (Palampore) with Japanese-inspired Imagery (detail)*; Indian for European market; Museum ROM963.1.3; © Royal Ontario Museum, Photo: Tina Weltz

Above: *Floral overdress (robe à la française) and matching petticoat, lined with silk and adorned with silk trim, c.1770*; textile for European market; likely construction: French; cotton, painted mordants and resist and dyes, glazed, silk lining; Royal Ontario Museum, Holt-Renfrew Fund ROM959.80.A-B; © Royal Ontario Museum, Photo: Brian Boyle