



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:
Stacie Wheelock Adams
work/ 214-271-4485
cell/214-552-6416
sadams@crowcollection.org

CROW COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART TO PRESENT SEEING AND BELIEVING: KRISHNA IN THE ART OF B. G. SHARMA July 19, 2014 through January 18, 2015

DALLAS (June 24, 2014) – The Crow Collection of Asian Art proudly presents *Seeing and Believing: Krishna in the Art of B. G. Sharma* Saturday, July 19, 2014 through Sunday, January 18, 2015. These works, by one of India's preeminent miniature painters, offer visitors a glimpse into the personal and spiritual life of B.G. Sharma and acquaint the viewer with the Hindu god Krishna.

Born in Nathdwara, India, near the famed Shrinathji Krishna temple complex, Banwarhlal Giridharlal (B. G.) Sharma (1924-2007) hails from generations of devotional artists. However, unlike many artists of miniature paintings, Sharma produced original ideas rather than simply copying traditional pictures. He gained early commercial success in the print-making industry in the late 1940s and early 1950s, creating small religious icons and prints, opening his own successful publishing house, *Sharma Picture Publications*, in Bombay. During Sharma's later life, he began to see his life's mission as restoring Indian paintings to the quality and caliber of art from the Mughal period (18th and 19th centuries). These paintings that Sharma completed during the later period of his life constitute the collection presented in *Seeing and Believing: Krishna in the Art of B. G. Sharma*.

Historically, Indian paintings have been broadly classified as murals or miniatures. Murals as huge works executed on the walls of solid structures, such as on temple walls, or what is known as miniature paintings, distinguished because of their smaller scale and creation on perishable materials such as paper or cloth.

The twenty vibrant "miniature" paintings featured in this exhibition celebrate and embody many of the spiritual values of Krishna, including but not limited to, acceptance, friendship, love, protection and respect for others and nature. These finely-painted works of art were made with precious mineral colors on cloth, paper, or ivory. The works included in the exhibition are on loan from collector and philanthropist Henry Flood Schoellkopf, who obtained them from the

artist. The prints are drawn from the collections of pioneers in this field, Marc Baron and Elise Boisanté, and the Richard Davis Archive at Bard College.

In addition to Sharma's paintings, some of his most successful prints will be on view digitally in the *Alcove*, at the center of the Mezzanine Gallery at the Crow Collection, along with prints by other influential Indian artists of the 20th and 21st centuries. These works helped expand Indian art and culture into media today, including advertising, film, television and digital arts.

Friends of the Crow Collection are invited to an opening *Day of Devotion* led by exhibition community partners from the Sri Sri Radha Kalachandji Hare Krishna Temple on Saturday, July 19, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Crow Collection of Asian Art. Members' will have the chance to learn about the traditions while experiencing devotional chanting and delicious vegetarian cuisine from the temple's popular restaurant, Kalachandji's.

Admission is free. The Crow Collection of Asian Art is open Tuesdays – Thursdays (10 a.m. – 9 p.m.), Fridays – Saturdays (10 a.m. – 6 p.m.), Sundays (12 p.m. – 6 p.m.) and closed on Mondays. For more information, please go to crowcollection.org or call 214-979-6430.

About the Crow Collection of Asian Art

The Crow Collection of Asian Art features a variety of spaces and galleries with changing exhibitions of the arts of China, Japan, India, Korea and Southeast Asia drawn from cultures ancient and contemporary. Fifteen years in operation, this lovingly-curated free museum offers a serene setting for quiet reflection in the heart of the Dallas Arts District. The Crow Collection continues to grow in art and service to the Dallas-Fort Worth community with an emphasis on shared learning and fun.