

Indian Miniature Painting

Dates	Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 June 2024
Times	10.30-16.30 BST
Location	At the museum (Learning Studio)
Tutor	Simran Kaur Panesar
Level	All Levels



Tawarikh-i Jahander Shah, an incomplete account of the reigns of Bahadur Shah and his successor Jahandar Shah, Punjab, Late 18th century © From the British Library Archive

Course Description

Our new exhibition *Ranjit Singh: Sikh, Warrior, King* presents a variety of exquisite miniature paintings from the Sikh Empire. Join us to discover the methods, materials and techniques surrounding the Pahari miniature painting tradition, over a creative weekend in our studio.

Delving into natural pigments, handmade papers and age-old brush techniques that give Pahari miniature paintings their distinctive appearance, you'll develop knowledge and skills in this painting tradition as well as in finishing techniques, such as shell gold gilding. Over the course of the weekend you'll create a colourful, gilded miniature painting to take home.

Saturday

On our first day we'll explore different miniature painting traditions before introducing you to natural pigment making. Drawing from a range of reference materials, you'll begin to trace and transfer your miniature design onto wasli paper, and be shown how to outline your drawing in walnut ink. We'll then guide you through the application of base paints so that by the end of the day, you'll have a fleshed-out miniature to start detailing on Sunday.

Sunday

On our second day you'll learn how to burnish your painting and be guided through shading and detailing techniques. You'll be introduced to using squirrel hair miniature brushes and spend 1-1 time with the tutor to help develop your skills and approaches. The day will close with learning how to apply 23 carat shell gold to your painting.

Course Tutor

Simran Kaur Panesar is a Kenyan born artist, living in London, with roots hailing in Punjab and India. From Indian and Persian miniature painting to motif and fresco designs, Simran's work follows a path deep into the history of the Sikhs, exploring the rich traditions of her religious identity alongside her present identity living as a Sikh artist in the 21st century. Her work takes form around many concepts and philosophies linked to her faith, utilising the natural world to bring these into form.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

None required. This course is designed as an introduction to the subject.

Equipment and Materials

Please wear clothes suitable for a messy workshop. All materials and equipment are provided.

Joining Information and Format

This masterclass will take place in the Learning Studio, Lower Ground Floor and includes a visit to the exhibition *Ranjit Singh: Sikh, Warrior, King*.

We recommend participants bring a packed lunch. When walking through the museum, food and drink must be packed away in a bag and must only be consumed when in the Learning Studio.
