

## Exhibition of "Stefan Norblin : A Master of many Arts" at NGMA

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The National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai is showcasing an exhibition of renowned Polish artist Stefan Norblin. The exhibition titled "Stefan Norblin : A Master of many Arts" was inaugurated by Mr. N.C. Goel, Joint Secretary Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India and Mr. Janusz Wach, Consul General of the Republic of Poland was in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Dedicated to the famous Polish artist of the 20th century, Stefan Norblin; the exhibition lays special emphasis on his life and work in India (1941-46) while also bringing together his works from Poland and USA. These include portraits of Poland's pre-war elite, art déco posters, book covers, illustrations and designs for theatrical costumes.

The 60 curated works demonstrate the versatility of Norblin and his diverse output. The artist whose fascinating life took him to three continents, in a sense became a global and universal artist at a time when the boundaries of the world were changing. Presented in three distinct parts are a broad range of styles, subject matter, and techniques that weaves the artist's biography and his activities. A large body of the artist's work from his stay in USA has been brought from California, courtesy of Mr Andrew Norblin, the artist's son, and The Polish Arts and Culture Foundation.

During his stay in India he received patronage from royalties and was granted large commissions from several of India's Maharajas of the time. It was however in Jodhpur where Norblin received his most significant commission in India, to design the interiors and paint murals for the Umaid Bhawan Palace, a massive Art Dèco conceptualization built by Maharaja Umaid Singh. These have been restored and some of them form part of the current exhibition. Norblin

in India developed a new style inspired by Hindu mythology and elements previously unknown to him including characteristics from Indian art that permeated his pre existing European Art Dèco sensibilities and infused them to form a unique amalgam. Norblin's Indian productions are of special significance on a global scale, where Europe meets Asia on a cultural platform giving testimony to cooperation beyond all barriers.

The exhibition has been curated by Ms. Anna Szlázak, Poland and the Indian curator of the exhibition has been Mr. Karni Singh Jasol, Director, Umaid Bhawan Palace museum.

It is the result of the cultural agreements between the two governments of India and Poland. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Poland have played a pivotal role in the implementation of this exhibition, with immense support from the Embassy of India in Poland and the Embassy of Poland in India. The exhibition will be on in Mumbai up to January 8, 2012 .

Stefan Norblin exhibition photographs can be accessed at [www.pibmumbai.gov.in](http://www.pibmumbai.gov.in)

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