

PRESS RELEASE



Bourne & Shepherd: Figures in Time

20th August to 15th September 2015

Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum and Tasveer are delighted to announce the opening of *Bourne & Shepherd: Figures in Time* in Mumbai on the 20th of August, 2015.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

One of the most famous of the early European commercial photographers, and the most prolific photographer of the 'picturesque' tradition, Samuel Bourne, a former bank clerk, arrived in India in 1836. Bringing with him a large amount of photographic equipment, developing local contacts here, and having access to Indian bearers, Bourne travelled the subcontinent widely — producing over 2000 negatives including some of the finest nineteenth century travel photography.

Initially partnering with William Howard, Bourne set up the *Howard & Bourne* studio in Shimla. They were joined by Charles Shepherd, and with the leaving of William Howard, the studio dropped his name to become *Bourne & Shepherd*. In 1866, in alignment with a growing culture of studio-photography, the *Bourne & Shepherd* establishment set up a branch in Calcutta, where it still trades as one of the oldest studios in the world, to this day.

One of the most prestigious studios of its time, it was patronised heavily by royalty, nobility, Europeans, Indians and a mushrooming upper middle class; and certain to be commissioned for special events such as the Delhi Durbar (some images of which form part of this exhibition). Though Shepherd was also a photographer of some standing, he became more known as a master printer, staying back to head the business side of operations; and was somewhat overshadowed by Bourne, who soon became the primary photographic expert on India, travelling the length and breadth of the subcontinent. Known for his architectural and topographical (especially mountain and hill views) photography, Bourne's work immortalised the Indian landscape and was fervently consumed by the British public — primarily in the form of postcards, book illustrations and views for albums.

The nature of this form of distribution, coupled with the available technology of the time, meant that these images were primarily realised in a relatively small size. One of the highlights of this exhibition, is its reproduction of select prints in enlarged ratios that allows viewers a unique insight into these historically significant photographs from a contemporary moment.

The exhibition will also be accompanied by the publication of a new catalogue that carries an original essay by Hugh Ashley Rayner, prolific British author and scholar of early Indian photography, on the life and works of Samuel Bourne.



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About Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum

The Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum was established in 1872 as the erstwhile Victoria and Albert Museum, Bombay. As Mumbai's oldest Museum, it showcases the city's cultural heritage and history through a rare collection of Fine and Decorative Arts that highlight Early Modern Art practices as well as the craftsmanship of various communities of the Bombay Presidency. The permanent collection includes miniature clay models, dioramas, maps, lithographs, photographs, and rare books that document the life of the people of Mumbai and the history of the city from the late eighteenth to early-twentieth centuries.

The Museum, once in a derelict condition, underwent a comprehensive five-year restoration by INTACH supported by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai and the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation. The project won UNESCO's international Award of Excellence for cultural conservation in 2005. The Museum re-opened in 2008 with an extensive exhibition programme and is committed to promoting contemporary art and culture. The Museum hosts an extensive exhibitions programme which explores the importance of the collection and includes a strong focus on contemporary art. A series of curated exhibitions titled, 'Engaging Traditions,' invites artists to respond to the Museum's collection, history and archives, addressing issues that speak directly to the traditions and issues that underlie the founding of the Museum, yet evoke the present by challenging orthodoxies and questioning assumptions.

The Museum has partnered with international institutions to showcase artists and exhibitions including the Victoria and Albert Museum, British Council, British Library, Dresden State Art Collections, Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, Museum of Modern Art, Ermenegildo Zegna Group and Guild of the Dome Association in an effort to facilitate international cultural exchange. The Museum has expanded its curatorial initiative to invite external curators to present exhibitions related to the focus areas of the collections.

The Museum's education and outreach programme aims to build and diversify the Museum's audiences, encouraging repeat visits and engaged participation with its permanent collections, contemporary exhibitions and activities. On offer is a rich selection of programmes including film, music and courses and lectures on history of art focused on providing stimulating, participatory experiences that respond to different age, interest and language groups, and recognize a diversity of backgrounds. These experiences are aimed at encouraging critical engagement with Mumbai's history, and artistic and cultural developments.

In December of 2012, the Museum introduced a dynamic cultural hub, the Museum Plaza, which offers the public a recreational space for performances, outdoor activities, and workshops. The Museum has restored and reappropriated abandoned spaces to accommodate a Special Projects Space, Museum Cafe, Museum Shop and an Education Centre.

For further information www.bdlmuseum.org | [Like us](#) | [Follow us](#)

About Tasveer

Established in 2006, Tasveer began as the first pan-Indian gallery dedicated exclusively to photography, conceptualised by Abhishek Poddar, Shalini Gupta and Naveen Kishore. The gallery is now the premiere photography venue in India with its primary space and head office in Bangalore, and additional spaces in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

Tasveer represents photographers who have made significant contributions to the history of photography in South Asia, and promotes their work through an extensive exhibitions programme, publications, and collaborations with museums and arts organisations around the world. Tasveer has participated in various national and international art fairs, and also organises several lectures and workshops as part of its outreach programmes.

About MAP

The Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) is a new museum project in Bangalore centred around a large and varied collection of art, photography, textiles and design, predominantly from the Indian subcontinent. At the heart of the MAP's identity is the idea of tracing and mapping relationships between artistic disciplines – breaking away from older schools of categorisation, and striving instead towards a newer idea of narrative building.

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Built on this precept, the MAP archives are a wonderfully eclectic assortment of artworks where modern Indian masters, such as M. F. Husain and Bhupen Khakhar, rub shoulders with Mughal miniature paintings and Chola bronzes, and hobnob with popular art forms like vintage cinema lobby cards and calendar prints. Giving equal importance to the various forms of visual art that it houses, from photography to lithographs, and antiques to contemporary work, the MAP collection is a minefield of treasures predominantly from the Indian subcontinent, dating from the 12th century to the present. Keeping practical archiving concerns in mind, the collection has been divided into six key departments – Modern & Contemporary, Photography, Folk & Tribal, Popular Art and Textiles, Craft and Design and Pre-Modern Art. It is however one of the museum's central principles to present the fluid nature of these categories, and the ways in which they both contest and overlap one another through its curatorial programmes and projects.

As well as adopting educational outreach programmes that include a series of lectures and new methods of archival storage, collection management, curatorial emphasis and narrative building, one of the aims of the museum is to partner with private collections and other institutions — to bring to light material in the country that has previously not been accessible to the public — in its attempt to create not only revolutionise the current museum cultures of India, but also create a new era of exhibition production, of cultural collaboration and content sharing.

For further information and to see the museum's collection, visit www.map-india.org

For Listings:

***Bourne & Shepherd: Figures in Time* is presented by Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum and Tasveer and organised in collaboration with MAP.**

Part of Tasveer's 10th anniversary celebrations, this exhibition of 19th century vintage photographs sourced from the rich photographic holdings of MAP (Museum of Art & Photography, Bangalore), includes a range of landscapes, architectural views and portraits by the photographers Samuel Bourne, Charles Shepherd and the *Bourne & Shepherd* studio.

Exhibition dates: 20th August - 15th September 2015

Exhibition Venue:

91A Rani Baug, Veer Mata Jijabai Bhonsle Udyan
Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Marg,
Byculla East, Mumbai 400027

Timings:

10:00 am to 6:00 pm | last entry 5:30 pm
Closed on Wednesdays and certain public holidays

For further details, please contact the below:

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