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Gauri Dancers

Waswo X Waswo

Contributions by Pramod Kumar KG

Contributions by Sonika Soni

Illustrated by Rajesh Soni

ISBN	9789385360725
Publisher	Mapin Publishing
Binding	Hardback
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- The first book of its kind to shed light on the tradition of Gauri dance
- Featuring hand-painted photographic prints

Gauri (also known as Gavri or Gavari) is celebrated by tribal communities in the southern part of Rajasthan as a forty-day festival that entails fasting and celebration in honor of Lord Shiva and his consort, the Goddess Parvati. Public performances put on as part of the revelry include dance, storytelling, music and worship.

The tradition of the Gauri dance has been celebrated for centuries, yet there have been no books in English till now on this mystical and enchanting practice. Photographer Waswo X. Waswo has joined with art historian Sonika Soni to create this book that delves into the esoteric world of Gauri dance.

Through Waswo's distinctive studio portraiture, with the photographic prints hand-painted by hand-colorist Rajesh Soni, the astonishing visuals of Gauri costuming and performers is presented in beautiful color reproduction. In her essay, Sonika Soni explores the history of this ritual dance with an eye to examine both what is known about it, and what still needs to be discovered, keeping central the conflicting stories of its origins and the folk tales that make Gauri the enigmatic opera of Mewar.

Contents:
Photographing the Elusively Liminal – Pramod Kumar KG; An Enigmatic Opera – Waswo X. Waswo; Gauri Dancers 2010-2018; Gavri – Sonika Soni.

Waswo X. Waswo is a photographer and writer, noted for his chemical process sepia-toned photographs of India, and also hand-colored portraits made at his studio in Udaipur, Rajasthan. **Rajesh Soni** is a third generation Rajasthani hand-colorist, also known for his abilities at drawing, painting, and photography. **Sonika Soni** has a master's in art history from the Faculty of Fine Arts, MSU Baroda, and a post graduate diploma in Museology and Conservation from CSMVS, Mumbai. **Pramod Kumar** KG is founder and managing director of Eka Cultural Resources & Research.

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