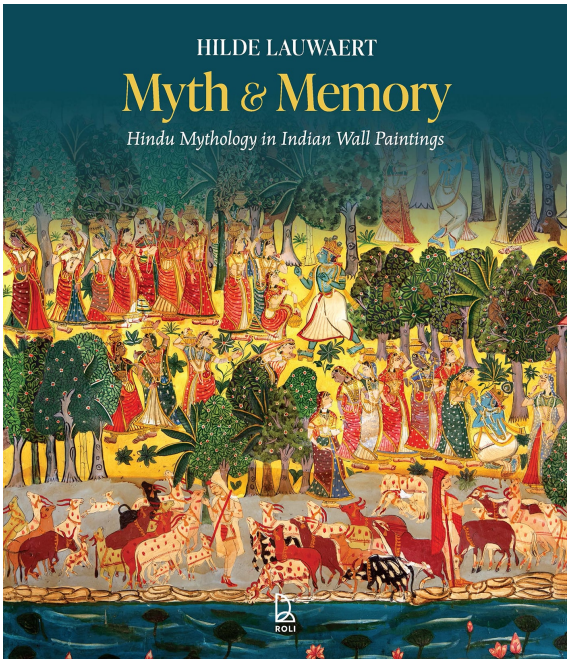
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Myth & Memory

Hindu Mythology in Indian Wall Paintings

Hilde Lauwaert

ISBN	9789349474154
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Binding	Hardback
Territory	USA & Canada
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Pages	400 Pages
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- A unique visual introduction to Hindu mythology, using wall paintings as narrative guides to make complex myths accessible and engaging for a wide readership
- Based on extensive fieldwork and photography, documenting centuries-old murals across Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh - from royal palaces and temples to merchant havelis
- An important record of India's painted heritage, combining art history, storytelling, and living religious practice to show how myth continues to shape ritual and belief today

Following the publication of *The Bundi Wall-Paintings in Rajasthan*, **Hilde Lauwaert** photographed hundreds of wall-paintings, across Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. In her new book, she introduces readers to the great stories of Hindu mythology, as depicted in refined artistic wall-paintings found in centuries-old temples, palaces, forts, cenotaphs and wells, as well as more popular examples in the havelis, the wealthy merchant houses from the 18th to the 20th centuries. These richly decorative wall-paintings, a unique form of cultural heritage in India, bring the principal Hindu myths vividly to life in visual form. Taking these paintings as her guide, the author aims to make the stories of Hindu mythology recognizable and understandable to a wide audience. She also explores the ways in which the gods are worshiped today, through rituals at home, in temples, and during festivals.

In 2009, during a visit to Rajasthan, **Hilde Lauwaert** was deeply moved by the overwhelming splendor of the richly painted rooms in the palace of Bundi. This experience inspired her to create her photo book *An Unknown Treasure in Rajasthan: The Bundi Wall-Paintings*, with texts by Milo Beach. During the many journeys that followed, through Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh, she photographed countless exquisite murals in temples, palaces, forts, and cenotaphs dating from the early 16th to the late 19th century. In addition, she also documented the more popular paintings in the wealthy merchant houses of the Shekhawati region dating from the late 18th to the 20th century.

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