



Shringara and Bhakti

**Sacred and Profane Love at the Court of Orchha
(Orchha, Datia, Panna: Miniatures from the
Royal Courts of Bundelkhand (1590–1850) Vol.
II)**

Konrad Seitz

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- Offers an in-depth look at Orchha painting from 1605 to 1675
- Explains the concepts of love for the divine (bhakti), and the love between Krishna and Radha (shringara)
- Exquisite images of about 170 traditional Indian paintings enhance the visual appeal of the book

This lavishly illustrated book, the second volume in the series *Orchha, Datia, Panna: Miniatures from the Royal Courts of Bundelkhand (1590–1850)*, deals with the second and third periods of Orchha painting, which span the years 1605 through 1675. A central theme of the paintings presented in this volume is the love between the archetypal couple Krishna and Radha, which is both mystical-religious and secular-playful in nature. Indeed, it is the confluence of sacred and profane love that gives India's culture and art its unique spirit. The images were created to illustrate poetic works such as the *Rasikapriya*, whose author, the Orchha court poet Keshavdas, invites his readers to savor the aesthetic and religious delight of Radha-Krishna love through his *riti* lyrics in the vernacular language of his era. Through stylistic analyzes and interpretations of over 100 paintings from his collection, many of them published here for the first time, the author brings to light the accomplishments of the Orchha school during its heyday in the seventeenth century.

The author, **Konrad Seitz**, lived in India for many years, including from 1987–1990 as German ambassador. He and his wife, Eva Seitz, rank among the most important private collectors of Indian miniature painting worldwide. Their readiness to share their collection with art lovers all over the world both in publications like this one and through major donations to museums has done much to enhance our appreciation of the marvels of Indian painting.