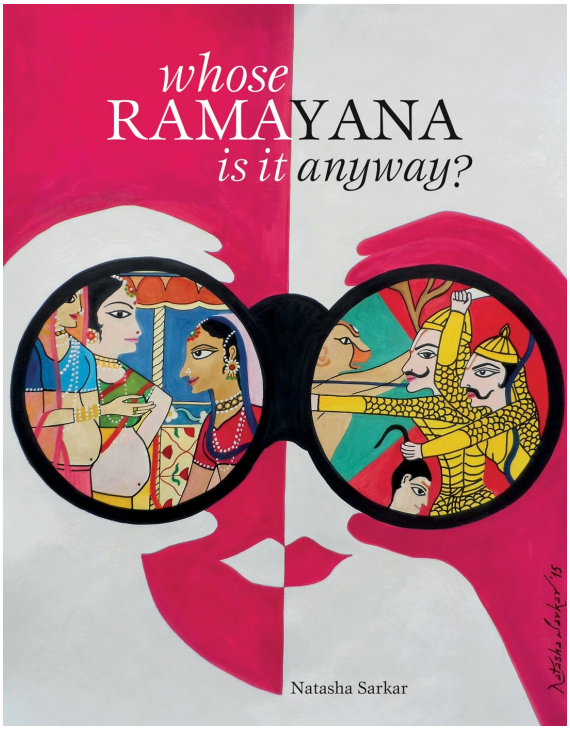
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Whose Ramayana Is It Anyway?

Natasha Sarkar

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- Highlights various South and Southeast Asian traditions and adaptations of the great Indian epic Ramayana
- Illustrated with nearly a 100 spectacular watercolor paintings
- Through stunning original artworks, celebrates the all-inclusive tradition of the epic
- Magnificent visuals open up inventive ways of looking at this cultural phenomenon traversing time and place

If there is one grand tale that has impacted Asia, it has to be the Ramayana, the great Indian epic. From India, the Rama tale is presumed to have traveled along three routes — by land, the northern route took the story from Punjab and Kashmir into China, Tibet, and East Turkestan; by sea, the southern route carried the story from Gujarat and South India into Java, Sumatra, and Malaya; and again by land, the eastern route delivered the story from Bengal into Burma, Thailand, Laos, and to some extent, Cambodia and Vietnam. In Indonesia and Malaysia, the epic has been incorporated into the Islamic tradition; Theravada Buddhism in Thailand and Cambodia adopted Hindu divinities from the Rama story into its fold.

With stunning original art, this sumptuously illustrated volume celebrates this all-inclusive tradition of the epic, foregrounding it as a cultural phenomenon across time and space.

Natasha Sarkar is an academic who has engaged in teaching and research across Asia and the United States. A recipient of several awards and grants, including the Rockefeller Grant-in-Aid, she has to her credit several publications and articles on history, gender and science. Sarkar had a solo show of her art at the Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata, in December 2016.

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