

The University of KwaZulu-Natal and The Consulate General of India, Durban

cordially invites you to a

Public Lecture by renowned Art Historian Mr Benoy Behl of India

Date

Thursday, 27 August 2015

Time

18h00

Venue

Howard College Theatre, Howard College Campus

RSVP:

Pamela Adams – 031 2607718 | adamsp@ukzn.ac.za



BENOY K BEHL
Chair, Buddhist Heritage
Centre of Indology, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

Member, Governing Society of
Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath

Member, Board of Governors, Central Institute of
Himalayan Culture Studies, Government of India.

Benoy K Behl is a film-maker, art-historian and photographer who is known for his tireless and prolific output of work over the past 36 years. He has taken over 46,000 photographs of Asian monuments and art heritage, made 132 documentaries which are regularly screened at major cultural institutions worldwide. His photographic exhibitions have been warmly received in 54 countries around the world. These have been inaugurated by ministers of the governments of various countries, ambassadors, archbishops and others dignitaries. He holds the Limca Book Record for being the most travelled photographer.

His films, including 26 documentaries on 'The Paintings of India', 26 documentaries on 'The Sculpture of India' and 26 documentaries on 'Spectacular India' have been nationally telecast on prime time in India, as well as repeat telecasts. These have also been screened at scores of universities and museums in several countries around the world. In January, 2008, National Geographic magazine carried an 18-page story about ancient Indian art revealed through Behl's photography to the world. He is the first Indian about whose work National Geographic magazine have carried a story.

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BBCWorld News have also carried 3 major stories about Behl's pioneering work in India and Vietnam. The vastness of Behl's documentation presents a wide and new perspective in understanding the art of India and Asia. His photography of ancient murals in remote places has clearly established the continuous tradition of painting in India, from ancient times through the medieval period. This is significant, as earlier, the Indian tradition of painting was believed to begin in medieval times.

Behl's recent work on Yoga has made a notable contribution to the knowledge of the subject. On International Yoga Day 2015, his exhibition on the subject was held in 20 countries and his film on Yoga was shown in Indian Embassies and High Commissions in 50 countries. Behl's film on 'Indian Roots of Tibetan Buddhism', with interviews with HH Dalai Lama won the Best Documentary Producer Award at the Madrid International Film Festival 2015. It has also won two awards at international film festivals held in India.

He has been invited to lecture by most of the important universities and museums around the world, who have departments of Asian art. His book on 'The Ajanta Caves' is published by Thames & Hudson, London and Harry N. Abrams, New York. His books on 'The History of Indian Art: Sculpture and Mural Paintings' and on Buddhist heritage of Andhra Pradesh are expected to come out by end 2014. His book on the Buddhist heritage of Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kalmykia, Tibet, China, Mongolia and Buryatia, was released in April, 2014 by H.H. the Karmapa. H.H. the Dalai Lama accepted an advance copy of the book at IGNCA in November, 2013.