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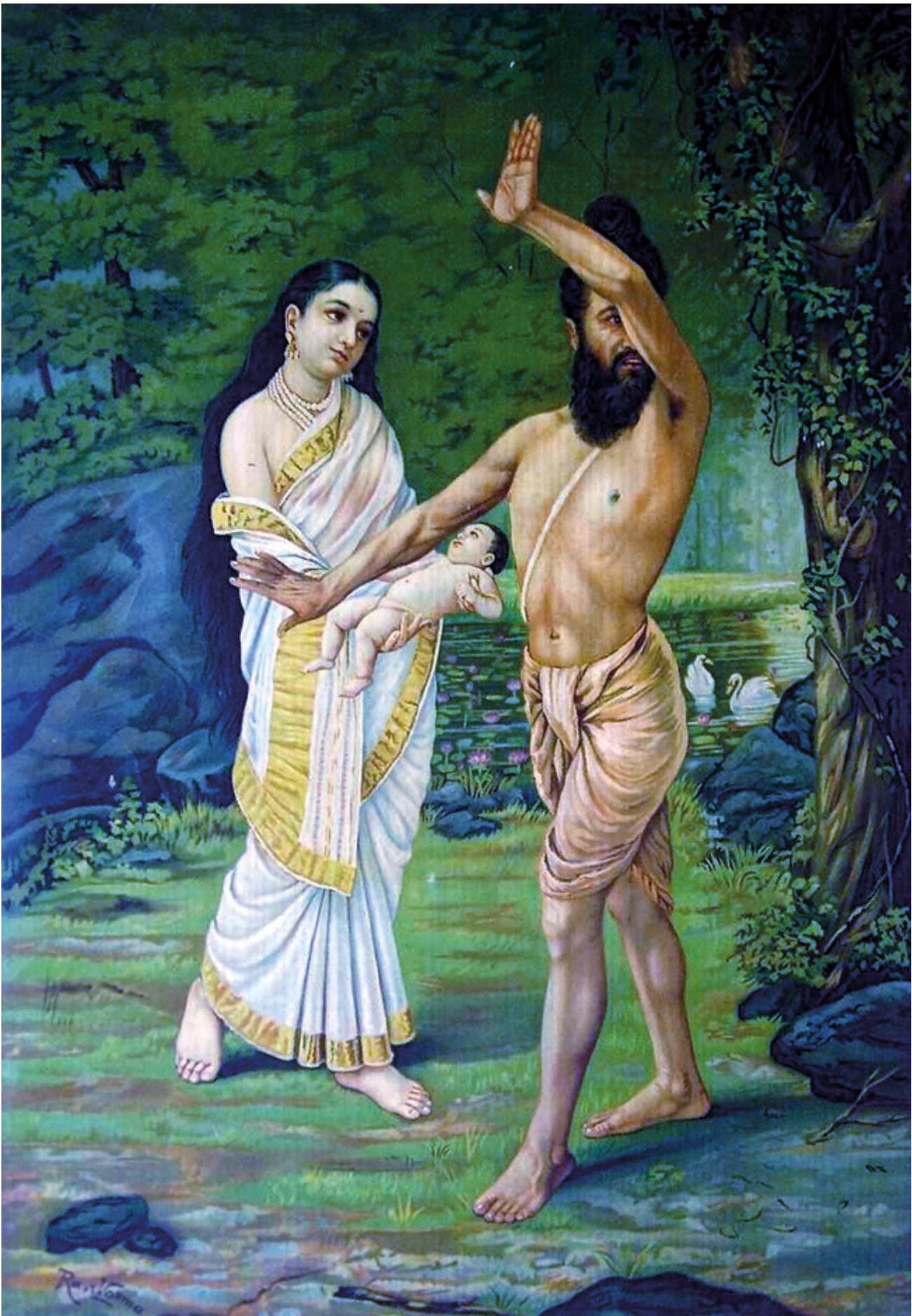
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*The Partition Museum in Amritsar***By Urmi Chanda***The second edition of the acclaimed virtual museum event packs in plenty of activities and sessions.*

Even as nations grapple with the rise in Covid cases, many of us have adapted to a virtual way of living. We've found connections and comfort, as well as education and enrichment in it. Perhaps many have even come to believe that the virtual is better than the real in some cases. An upcoming virtual event for museum lovers and professionals promises to pack in the kind of extensive programming a real event can only ever dream of. Also, given that physical museum spaces are still not open to the public, this is the only option for museophiles.

The first edition of Ghar Se Museum was held earlier this year in May 17-18 to mark the occasion of International Museum Day and was titled 'Equality: Diversity & Inclusion'. Even in the early days of the lockdown, when virtual platforms were still alien to many, the event's organisers made swift moves to adapt to new mediums.

Rashmi Dhanwani, founder of The Art X Company, one of the organising agencies says, "Sudden loss of visitors affected the outreach and marketing strategies. Virtual walkthroughs and exhibitions were a novel idea for many museums. What we provided through the first edition was a platform where all museums could come together and prove that we could be agile and continue to do what we do best. With novel ideation, curation and execution strategies, we could move towards virtual audience engagement and outreach."



Birth of Shakuntala by celebrated painter and artist Raja Ravi Varma

In its second edition, the concept has been taken several notches higher. This event aims to celebrate the

museums of India, featuring institutions and heritage collections from across the country, including those from Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi, Bihar, Chennai, Chandigarh, Udaipur and Amritsar among others.

Scheduled for November 27 and 28, the two-day event has curated workshops, masterclasses, talks, discussions, virtual walkthroughs and more featuring over 18 museums, heritage organisations and museum professionals.

Imagine that — 18 museums! Even at your fastest and most time efficient museum run, you are unlikely to cover that kind of expanse. Of course, it doesn't have everything from everywhere, but this expertly curated programme definitely promises something for everyone.

You could tune in to learn about the legacy of Raja Ravi Varma, you could take an art appreciation workshop, or could have fun learning how to make classical art GIFs with your kids. If art is not your cup of tea, you have choices in archaeology and history — oral, colonial, maritime and music. And if even that isn't what you're seeking, perhaps networking sessions with museum professionals and a session of post-Covid business recovery will cater to your learning needs. Now that even the proverbial water has been led to the horse, all that remains to be done is to drink deep.