



## Call for Papers

We welcome Contributions for the *Special Feature* section of the forthcoming issue (Vol 6 :1) of our journal *Caesurae: Poetics of Cultural Translation* (ISSN 2454-9495) which will be focus on “**Literature, Art, Architecture, Culture and Heritage of Rajasthan**”.

In Rajasthan, the traditional art forms are windows into the state’s diverse culture and history. Each region reflects its own history, beliefs and ways of life contributing to the rich mosaic of Rajasthani art and culture. From the vibrant Phad paintings and miniature paintings to the intricately designed architecture of Havelis and forts as well as folk tales, folk songs and folk dance, these art forms continue to enchant art lovers and critics. The artworks and literature in Rajasthan often depict nature, folk deities, court scenes, tales of heroism and divinity, geo-cultural specificities and so on, each distinguished by their unique aesthetic elements and themes. Various styles of paintings such as Mewar, Marwar, Bikaner, Jaipur, Bundi and Kishangarh schools fall under the umbrella of miniature paintings that flourished from the beginning of the sixteenth century down to the mid-nineteenth century. They are characterized by bright colours and portray the life of the rulers though Indian divinities and gods, Krishna, Radha and *gopis* in particular, as well as numerous *bhakti* cults became the focus of these paintings. For instance, Kishangarh paintings, an eighteenth-century school of the Rajasthani style called ‘Bani Thani’ that arose in the princely state of Kishangarh, is distinguished by its individualistic facial type and its panoramic landscapes transmitting the romantic and religious passion of its patron into visual images. Phad paintings from the state are large scale cloth-paintings illustrating local deities and epic narratives and are a blend of the folk, heroic and religious themes. They are traditionally used in storytelling performances where the painted cloth serves as a backdrop for narrating tales.

Rajasthani literature, traversing through centuries, demonstrated its verve in writings, focused on multiple rasas/themes including *vira*, *shringara* and *bhakti* at the same time. The genre dates from the *Veer-gatha* period inspired by heroic sentiments and composed by loyal courtiers. It continues through the medieval era (when Meera’s poetry, festered with elements of romance, mystery and *bhakti*, exhibit feminist overtones), to the modern era during the colonial period. A number of poets and writers like Surya Mall Mishran and others composed poetry and fiction expressive of the rebellion of the people against British rule and it comes down to the literary works of contemporary writers like Vijaydan Detha whose collection *Bataan ri Phulwari* (Garden of Tales) draws on folklore in the spoken dialects of Rajasthan. Many of Detha’s stories and novels have been adapted for the stage and screen.

Folk songs and oral narratives depicting natural beauty, landscape, geography, seasons, flora and fauna, festivals, clothes, traditional rituals and rites, instructive and practical proverbs related to pragmatic wisdom, praise of wars heroes, saints and patrons, eulogy of gods and kings, sufferings of the people at the time of famine and flood, water-scarcity in the desert region and so on also form a part of the literary and cultural traditions of Rajasthan. Architectural spaces like forts, havelis, courtyards, stepwells, temples, *jharokhas* (spiracles, peep-holes, vents, breathing holes, skylights, or window-like structures to permit the passage

of light and air) etc. spread through the desert state of Rajasthan. These are the storehouses of socio-cultural memorabilia which call for an examination not only for their magnificence, grandeur and intricately designed/crafted artwork but also open up possibilities to understand the patterns of traditional and modern elements embedded in architectural constructions in relation to gendered spaces, patriarchal ideology and feminism.

This issue of the journal invites papers on the themes related to Literature, Art, Architecture, Culture and Heritage of Rajasthan and at the same time intends to explore the representation and re-imagining of these cultural spaces in literary compositions, showing how folkloristic or architectural constructions as cultural forms in the historical context of Rajasthan will serve as a foundational introduction to the emerging interdisciplinary study of art and literature.

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