FLEMING MUSEUM OF ART
PRESS RELEASE

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Exhibition of Catherine Jansen’s photographs of India comes to the Fleming this winter

BURLINGTON, VT - American photographer Catherine Jansen has traveled to India over twenty-five times, always with camera in hand. With a profound knowledge of the country, she travels alone and is able to visit places and witness rituals usually inaccessible to foreigners as well as to many Indians, particularly women. The artist has written, “My own vision is informed by a living study of Indian spiritual practices in which my camera becomes an instrument of that discipline of attention.” The finished photographs, selected from the tens of thousands she takes, are not as much individual moments as expansive visions, what she calls “intimate immensities,” crafted from composite views, which seek to recreate how we experience spaces in spiritual, emotional, and sensory ways.

The idea for the exhibition is drawn from an artist’s book Jansen made entitled 1008, the number of images she included in the book and a sacred number in Hinduism, corresponding to the 1008 names for Lord Shiva. By combining carefully arranged clusters of seven images (also a spiritual number) on each page, and presenting them without the influence of captions, Jansen invites the viewer to move meditatively through the book and respond to the images aesthetically and emotionally, without the need to know exactly what, where, or who is depicted.

Honoring the artist’s vision for the project, the Fleming Museum’s exhibition of her work is not a traditional one. As in the book, the photographs are unlabeled. Juxtapositions of paired images structure the exhibition. A media installation includes projections of each of the 1008 images, as well as ambient sounds captured on Jansen’s journeys. Visitors are invited to delve into the stories behind some of the images through video commentary by the artist. The exhibition, Catherine Jansen: 1008, will be on view for nearly four months, opening on January 31 and closing on May 21, 2017.

Complementing this exhibition will be the opening of a long-term gallery dedicated to the Museum’s large and diverse collection of Asian Art. “It’s wonderful that at the same time our historic art from India goes
on view in our new Gallery of Asian Art, we will present Jansen's unique and personal vision of the India that she experienced on her many trips there,” says Fleming curator Andrea Rosen, who worked closely with the artist to put the exhibition together. In addition, the Wolcott Gallery will feature an exhibition titled *Imbibe: Drinking in Culture*, which features drinking vessels and containers from all over the world, curated from the Museum's permanent collection.

An exciting schedule of programs and events accompanies the exhibitions featured at the Museum this spring including a festive opening reception hosted by UVM President Thomas Sullivan and Fleming Director Janie Cohen on Wednesday, February 8, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

*The University of Vermont’s Fleming Museum of Art serves as a gateway for active cultural exchange and critical thinking and has presented diverse artistic traditions for over 80 years. The Museum is Vermont’s premier public showplace for exhibitions, education, and scholarship about local and world cultures, both historical and contemporary. For more information regarding the Fleming Museum's exhibitions, programs, and location call (802) 656-0750 or go to the Fleming Museum website at [www.flemingmuseum.org](http://www.flemingmuseum.org).*

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