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For Immediate Use
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Daughters of India: Photographs by Stephen P. Huyler
Opens at Fowler Museum at UCLA on Mar 29



For a country as vast and paradoxical as India, it is impossible to generalize about the role of women in society. Worshiped as *shakti* (the Hindu concept of divine, feminine sacred force), oppressed as chattel—these seeming contradictions have left many Western observers stumbling into stereotypes and misunderstanding. In *Daughters of India*—on view at the Fowler Museum at UCLA from March 29–July 26, 2009—photographer Stephen Huyler celebrates the resiliency and creativity of Indian

women from a wide variety of backgrounds in a series of thirty-eight works that includes both contemplative, detailed portraits and daily scenes enlivened with the bright hues of India.

Notably, artistic creativity plays an important part in the lives of many of the subjects. Several of the photographs on display depict women expressing themselves and addressing others through paintings, sculpture, embroidery, and the creation of decorative elements in their households (including *kolam*, rice flower drawings executed on the ground in front of their homes). In others, visitors can consider how the full force of these women’s creativity is brought to bear simply in overcoming the obstacles presented by poverty, caste prejudice, and other hardships. Taken together, these sensitive photographs form intimate portrayals of the lives, activities, and rituals of these remarkable Indian “everywomen.”

Stephen Huyler is a cultural anthropologist, art historian, author and widely exhibited photographer. This exhibition is presented in conjunction with his new book *Daughters of India: Art and Identity*. His other books include *Painted Prayers: Women’s Art in Village India* (1994) and *Meeting God: Elements of Hindu Devotion* (1999) and his work is featured in the current San Diego exhibition *India Adorned: Selections from the Mingei International Museum’s Stephen Huyler Collection*.

2-2-2 'Daughters of India' Opens at Fowler Museum at UCLA on Dec 14

Daughters of India: Photographs by Stephen P. Huyler will be on view in the Fowler Museum's Goldenberg Galleria. The Fowler is open Wednesdays through Sundays, from noon to 5 p.m.; and on Thursdays, from noon until 8 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays and Tuesdays. The Fowler Museum, part of UCLA's School of the Arts and Architecture, is located in the north part of the UCLA campus. Admission is free. Parking is available for a maximum of \$9 in Lot 4. For more information, the public may call 310/825-4361 or visit fowler.ucla.edu.

Opening Day Program:

Sunday, March 29, 2009 2 pm

Fowler OutSpoken Lecture with Stephen Huyler: Daughters of India

In a sumptuously illustrated lecture drawn from his new book and current Fowler exhibition, photographer and cultural anthropologist Stephen Huyler speaks about the many ways that Indian women use traditional and innovative art forms to meet the challenges in their lives and leverage changes in their futures. A book-signing reception in the Fowler courtyard follows the lecture.

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