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PRESS RELEASE

'Retracing Ribeiro' exploring the painter, Lancelot Ribeiro, wins Heritage Lottery Fund support



Retracing Ribeiro has been awarded £98,400 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), a project that will explore the artistic and cultural heritage of the prolific painter, Lancelot Ribeiro through an exploration of his art and poignant archive.

Developed in association with six high profile partners, this year-long project forms part of the 2017 UK-India Year of Culture. *Retracing Ribeiro* will be launched with an exhibition at the Burgh House Museum and presented at public events where newly-acquired artworks will be unveiled, including The British Museum, '*Remembering Lancelot Ribeiro and other Indian artists in 1960s Britain*', during Asian Art in London week, and a V&A evening, '*Ribeiro: A Celebration of Life, Love and Passion*'.

In partnership with Central Saint Martins and the V&A, the project will run a series of creative learning sessions and reminiscence and oral history workshops, designed to engage audiences with Ribeiro's life and work. A *Retracing Ribeiro* film and website will capture memories of the artist's life and times, interspersed with rare archival material and first-hand interviews to engage audiences with the project.



Photograph of Ribeiro in his Belsize Park studio, 1960s © Marsha Ribeiro

Lancelot Ribeiro (1933-2010), born in Bombay, spent his childhood in India under the British Empire. He first arrived in Britain in 1950 to study accountancy at the urging of his brother, the well-known artist FN Souza, but soon abandoned this for life drawing at St Martins School of Art. Returning to India, he began to paint professionally and settled in Britain in 1962. His earliest works were in oils, strongly coloured townscapes with bold outlines in an expressionistic style. In the early 1960s, Ribeiro sought new effects experimenting with polyvinyl acetate and oil mixes – the forerunner of acrylic paints. Over the next 50 years, a restless imagination prompted works which included flying and tangled townscapes under explosive skies, brilliantly-coloured surreal scenes, playful wood sculptures and ceramics. Recent years have seen a surge in interest in the work of this artist following posthumous exhibitions at London’s Asia House, exhibitions in India, and a biography by arts writer, David Buckman: *Lancelot Ribeiro: An Artist in India and Europe*.

Commenting on the award, Marsha Ribeiro, daughter and Project Manager, said “I am thrilled to have received such invaluable support from the Heritage Lottery Fund which not only preserves the Ribeiro legacy for generations to come, in a way that previously had been impossible, but unveils what, to me, is a deeply poignant life story which continues to have resonance today”.

Explaining the importance of the HLF support, Stuart Hopley, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund London, said: “Lancelot Ribeiro’s artwork has a strong influence and presence in the history of British art, and as part of the 2017 UK-India Year of Culture, HLF is pleased to support the Retracing Ribeiro project. Thanks to National Lottery players, this project will engage audiences with Ribeiro’s life and work – exploring artworks and memories through a new website and film, oral history workshops, and exciting events and exhibitions taking place at the V&A Museum and the British Museum.”

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Notes to editors

About the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk
@HLFLondon

Further information

Heritage Lottery Fund: Felix Gott, Communications Manager, 020 7591 6138 or felixg@hlf.org.uk

For further information, images and interviews, please contact

Marsha Ribeiro

Project Manager

enquiries@lanceribeiro.co.uk

www.lanceribeiro.co.uk

Emily Phillips

Creative Director

enquiries@lanceribeiro.co.uk



'Retracing Ribeiro' Programme

Burgh House & Hampstead Museum		
26th October 2016 – 19th March 2017	EXHIBITION & LAUNCH	Retracing Ribeiro Art and Archival Exhibition
23rd November 2016	TALK	<i>Ribeiro Rediscovered</i> David Buckman – Arts Writer, Journalist and Author of 'Lancelot Ribeiro: An Artist in India and Europe'
The British Museum		
6th November 2016, 15:00-16:15	LECTURE	<i>Remembering Lancelot Ribeiro and Other Indian Artists in 1960s Britain</i> Nicholas Treadwell - Gallery Proprietor, Austria
Victoria & Albert Museum		
17th March 2017, Evening	FRIDAY EVENING	Ribeiro – A Celebration of Life, Love and Passion <i>Ribeiro: A Lifetime of Experiment - From Bombay to the V&A</i> David Buckman – Arts Writer, Journalist and Author of 'Lancelot Ribeiro: An Artist in India and Europe' <i>Ribeiro: Music and Art - The 'Crushed Crystal Sound of Colour'</i> Gerard McBurney - Writer, broadcaster, composer and arranger
Camden Local Studies & Archives Centre		
6th February – 31 st March 2017	HERITAGE EXHIBITION	<i>Heritage Exhibition</i>
21st February 2017	TALK	<i>Ribeiro Rediscovered</i> David Buckman – Arts Writer, Journalist and Author of 'Lancelot Ribeiro: An Artist in India and Europe'