Maharana Ari Singh (1761-1773) attending a nautch in the Chhini ri Chitrasarai. By Bhima, Udaipur, dated 1761

- Red border with black rules, old repairs, slight flaking of white pigment, thakurdana Hindi inscription on reverse, gauze reinforcement on reverse, inventory number 3/33
- 59.7 by 45.6cm., page 66.8 by 49.3cm.

The entertainment takes place at night as indicated by the burning lamps. The guests and courtiers present are listed in the inscription: (on the left) Zalim Singh of Bhanerj, Kaka (uncle) Baghji, Kaka Durjan Singh, Baba Bagat Singh, Jaha Gulab Singh, Ravat Akhai Singh, Ranavat Sagat Singh, Ranavat Surat Singh, Jait Singh of Devara and Bhai Lal; (on the right) Ghazan Nahi, Ghudavat Bhim Singh, Ravat Durjan Singh, Guman Singh, Amar Chand, Mamaji, Ranavat Sambhu Singh, Dabhshai Kikaji, Dabhshai Udai Ram, the chowdy-bearer Pejaji, and others not legible.

For the artist Bhima see Topsfield, 1980, nos.158 and 166; Topsfield, 1990, nos.19.21. Another nautch scene of Maharana Ari Singh by Bhima was formerly in the British Rail Pension Fund collection, sold in these rooms 26 April, 1994, lot 46.

£4,000-6,000

Maharana Ari Singh (1761-1773) presiding over the sacrifice of a buffalo during the Festival of Naaurati. By Bahka, Udaipur, dated 1761

- Red border with black rules, slight defects to border, two repairs at bottom, twenty-three line Hindi inscription on reverse with the date V.S.1818 (A.D.1761), gauze reinforcement on reverse, inventory number 3/32
- 60.3 by 44.5 cm., page 64.5 by 48.2cm.


The Naaurati festival is described in detail by James Tod who was in Mowar from 1818 until 1822. It was a martial festival and Tod describes how a special double-edged sword was taken ceremonially from the armoury and carried in procession to the temple of Devi. A buffalo was sacrificed in honour of the war horse, one of several buffalos to be sacrificed during the festival (Tod, 1920, II, 681). The Maharana is here shown standing close to the temple while the buffalo is beheaded with the special sword. The full inscription names the courtiers attending: Baghji, Baba Bahkut Singh, Rawat Nar Singh and many others. The swordsman is Durjan Singh, an uncle of the Maharana.

This is an early work by the artist Bahka who is best known for his later works painted for the Rawats of Deogarh, a feudatory court (shikarrai) of Mowar (Ardabare, 1967; Beath, 1971; Topsfield, 1989, nos.130 and 167).

£5,000-7,000
51
The abode of Shiva and Parvati on Mount Kailasa. Mewar, late eighteenth century
red border with yellow and black rules, gauze reinforcement on reverse, inventory number 14/403
27.3 by 18.7 cm., page 32.5 by 23.5 cm.
This fanciful depiction of the home of the gods is inspired by the precincts of Udaipur with its palaces, lakes, islands and pleasure barges. For a companion picture of a similar scene, apparently by the same artist, see Topsfield, 1980, no. 226.
£1,000-1,500

52
Rama and Sita travelling in a chhatri borne aloft by eight angels, Hanuman flying beneath and two angels appearing from the clouds above. Mewar, early nineteenth century
gold decorated and green borders, outer border trimmed, gauze reinforcement on reverse, inventory number 14/686
21.7 by 13.1 cm., page 27 by 21.2 cm.
£1,000-1,500

53
Prince Jawan Singh out riding on horseback with Rawat Dule Singh. Udaipur, c.1828-25
red border with black and white rules, Hindi inscription of identification in top border, inventory number 6/121
20.5 by 27.5 cm., page 28.7 by 35.5 cm.
Rawat Dule Singh was the bosom companion of Jawan Singh who succeeded to the Mewar throne in 1828.
£1,000-1,500

54
Maharana Jawan Singh (1828-1838) dining in a hunting lodge at Khasodi. Udaipur, c.1830
gold and red borders with black and white rules, one-line Hindi inscription on reverse, inventory number 6/17
51.5 by 38.5 cm., page 35.5 by 43.7 cm.
A meal has been prepared at a temporary cooking site beneath the walls of the hunting lodge, to be carried to the rooftop where the Maharana and his companions are seated. The inscription gives no reason for the event which appears to be semi-official rather than a hunting expedition.
£3,000-5,000
55. Prince Jawan Singh seated in a suspended throne in durbar with his nobles. By Ghazi, Udaipur, c.1825.

Hindi inscription at top, painting extending into border at right, red border with black rules, trimmed at sides, inventory number 6/19

38.7 by 40cm., page 44.3 by 40.5cm.

In addition to his paintings the artist Ghazi is noted for the architectural drawings (now in the Royal Asiatic Society) which he made for Captain James Tod during his residence at Udaipur 1818-1822. For other paintings by or attributed to Ghazi see Topfield, 1990, no.24, and the British Rail Pension Fund sale in these rooms 20 April, 1991, lot 48.60.

£1,000-1,500

56. A prince of Marwar smoking a hookah in the company of ladies in a garden. Jodhpur, mid-eighteenth century.

applied border of pink paper with yellow rule, Hindi inscription of identification in top border and on reverse, green reinforcement on reverse, inventory number 25.27

46.2 by 32.5cm., page 49 by 35cm.

Though inscribed as Maharaja Gaj Singh of Jodhpur, this likeness does not match his other portraits. Gaj Singh reigned at Jodhpur from 1649 to 1638 and was loyal to the Mughals, in whose miniatures he was often depicted, invariably with a fuller face and shorter, more drooping moustache (e.g. the double portrait of Gaj Singh with a prince, now in the Los Angeles County Museum, Welch, 1965, no.44: Okada, 1992, 169). More probably this portrait is of a lesser Marwar prince of the eighteenth century; the mood and style can be compared with the Jodhpur picture of Baha Mahal Singh, formerly in the British Rail Pension Fund collection and sold in these rooms 26 April, 1991, lot 9.

£2,500-3,500

57. The rishi Shukdeva reciting the Bhagavata purana to assembled sages and children. Devgarh, c.1820.

pink border with black rules, green reinforcement on reverse, inventory number 14/720

19.6 by 31.6cm., page 28.5 by 41.3cm.

Shukdeva was taught the entire Bhagavata purana by his father Vyasa, who dictated the Mukhahman to Ganesha. For another depiction of his assembly by the Ganges see Chimno, 1985, no.44. For painting at Devgarh see Amin, 1997, and Beach, 1970-71.

£1,000-1,500


applied border of tinted and silver-splashed paper, inventory number 34/1

32.4 by 22cm., page 37 by 26cm.

This portrait is uninscribed, though the prince bears a likeness to the prince depicted in lot 56 of this sale.

£1,000-1,500
Malwaea Chattar Sal of Kotah (1758-1764) on horseback with courtiers. Kotah, c.1760
identified as a ruler of Kotah in Hindi at top, red border trimmed, inventory number 15/111
26.3 by 21cm., page 27.5 by 21.5cm.

For another portrait of Chattar Sal of Kotah see Beach, 1974, fig. 82.

£1,000-1,500

END OF SALE

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