



VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL, KOLKATA



Victoria Memorial Hall
cordially invites you to an illustrated lecture on

Paintings done on Mica in Nineteenth-century India

Speaker

Shreedevi Nair Pal

Independent Researcher

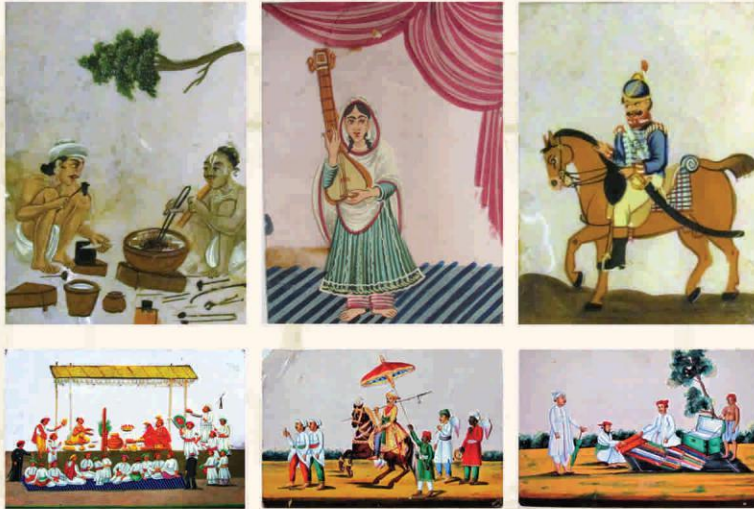
Wednesday, 11 March 2020, 5.30 pm

Victoria Memorial Hall

Conference Hall (Administrative Wing)

1 Queen's Way, Kolkata - 700 071

*Entry only through East Gate (opp. St. Paul's Cathedral) from 5.00 pm till seating capacity is full;
visitors' cars are not allowed inside the campus*



From the early-nineteenth century, a new kind of painting done on thin sheets of mica emerged in different parts of India. Stylistically they were very different from anything that came before. The paint used was English watercolour, mixed with some kind of glue like gum Arabic. These paintings were of Indians done by Indians, even if the patrons were mostly British. They are an important visual document of the lives of Indians, probably the single most extensive visual documentation of life in nineteenth-century India. But why was mica used as a medium for these paintings instead of paper? What led to this new genre of painting, so completely different from anything attempted before? Why did it die out? The lecture will address these and related issues with relevant illustrations.