

History Museum of Mobile
111 South Royal Street

Phoenix Fire Museum
203 South Claiborne Street

Historic Site at Fort Condé
150 South Royal Street



David Alsobrook, Director

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historymuseumofmobile.com

Exhibit Fact Sheet

Exhibition

õArk of India: An Alabama Artist Explores Southern Indiaö
October 16, 2014 ó September 1, 2015

Location

History Museum of Mobile
111 South Royal Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602

Description

õArk of India: An Alabama Artist Explores Southern Asiaö is an exhibit about personal discovery and exploration. It is an account of late 19th and early 20th century India as seen by Alabama artist, Roderick D. MacKenzie, using his paintings, drawings, sculptures, and most importantly, photographs, and writings. MacKenzie spent more than a decade in India, a place he described as exotic, dangerous, and colorful. He rode with princes on tiger hunts, climbed mountains along India's Northern border, and observed the sacred rituals at the Ganges River in Benares, India's most holy city. MacKenzie was the official painter of the Delhi Durbar in 1903, which marked the coronation of King Edward VII.

Returning to America in 1913, MacKenzie soon found other topics for his artwork, such as Bellingrath Gardens, the Mobile waterfront, and Birmingham's steel mills. Yet his time in India remained with him for the rest of his life. He earned a deep and abiding respect for the people of India, perhaps because they were not so different from the artist himself.

Comprising more than 100 artifacts and images, this exhibition is the first to fully explore MacKenzie's Indian sojourn.

The exhibition is organized by the History Museum of Mobile to be a traveling exhibit once it closes on September 1, 2015.

Programs

-- A *Learning Lunch* presentation on Wednesday, October 29, at Noon, entitled "City of Light: Roderick D. Mackenzie in Benares, India's Most Holy City," by Scotty E. Kirkland, curator of history, History Museum of Mobile.

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- Collaboration with local Indian community concerning cultural activities.
- Exhibit based activities and tours on one or more Free Sundays.
- Teacher Preview Night scheduled for Thursday, October 2nd from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm
- School and group tours are available for 10 or more people Tuesday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. To schedule a tour contact the Education Department at 251.208.7510 or visit www.historymuseumofmobile.com for more information.

Exhibit Interactives

The exhibition features hands-on activities, which will help visitors understand how MacKenzie created his works of art.

Publication

An accompanying book on MacKenzie's time in India was written by Scotty E. Kirkland, curator of history at the History Museum of Mobile. It is the first publication of Southern Market Press, the publication division of the History Museum of Mobile. Books will be available for purchase at the History Museum and select locations in Mobile.

Credit

Ark of India: An Alabama Artist Explores Southern Asia, is organized by the History Museum of Mobile. Support for the exhibition was provided by the following:

The History Museum of Mobile Board of Directors
The A.S. Mitchell Foundation, Inc.
Historic Mobile Preservation Society
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The Mobile Public Library
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