



## MEMORIAL ART GALLERY AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT TO CONSERVE ASIAN MINIATURES



ROCHESTER, NY, September 18, 2014 — The Memorial Art Gallery is one of 196 not-for-profit organizations nationwide selected to receive a Museums for America award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The \$24,085 award will be used to conserve 22 high-quality miniature paintings from the Gallery’s Asian art collection.

Many of the paintings—which represent about 30 percent of the Indian, Persian, and Nepalese miniatures in the collection—have never been on view because of their fragile condition. Most belonged to art historian Robert F. Reiff, a Rochester native whose private collection came to the Gallery in the 1980s. Following conservation treatment, they will finally be available to the public, whether exhibited in the Asian galleries in rotation with other light-sensitive items or experienced on the Gallery’s website.

“This group of high-quality miniatures is remarkable for its diversity of subject matter, which includes Buddhist and Hindu deities, poetic themes, and portraiture,” says Nancy Norwood, curator of European art. “MAG is privileged to have them in our collection, and we look forward to sharing them with our visitors.”

“This is the kind of work we are so proud to do at MAG, to steward and share our collection’s treasures with our members and the wider community,” says Gallery director Jonathan Binstock. “To this end we are grateful to the IMLS for its support.”

Completion of the project is expected in fall 2015.

### About the award

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. “Our grants are highly competitive,” says IMLS director Susan H. Hildreth in announcing the grants today. “The IMLS enlists hundreds of library and museum professionals throughout the United States to review grant applications and make recommendations on projects most worthy of funding.” [more about the IMLS](#)

Of 554 applications requesting more than \$56 million for this cycle of Museums for America awards, only a third were selected to receive \$20.4 million in funding. [see the list](#)

### MAG on the web

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