

NEWS RELEASE

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Penn Museum Celebrates Springtime with *CultureFest! Holi*

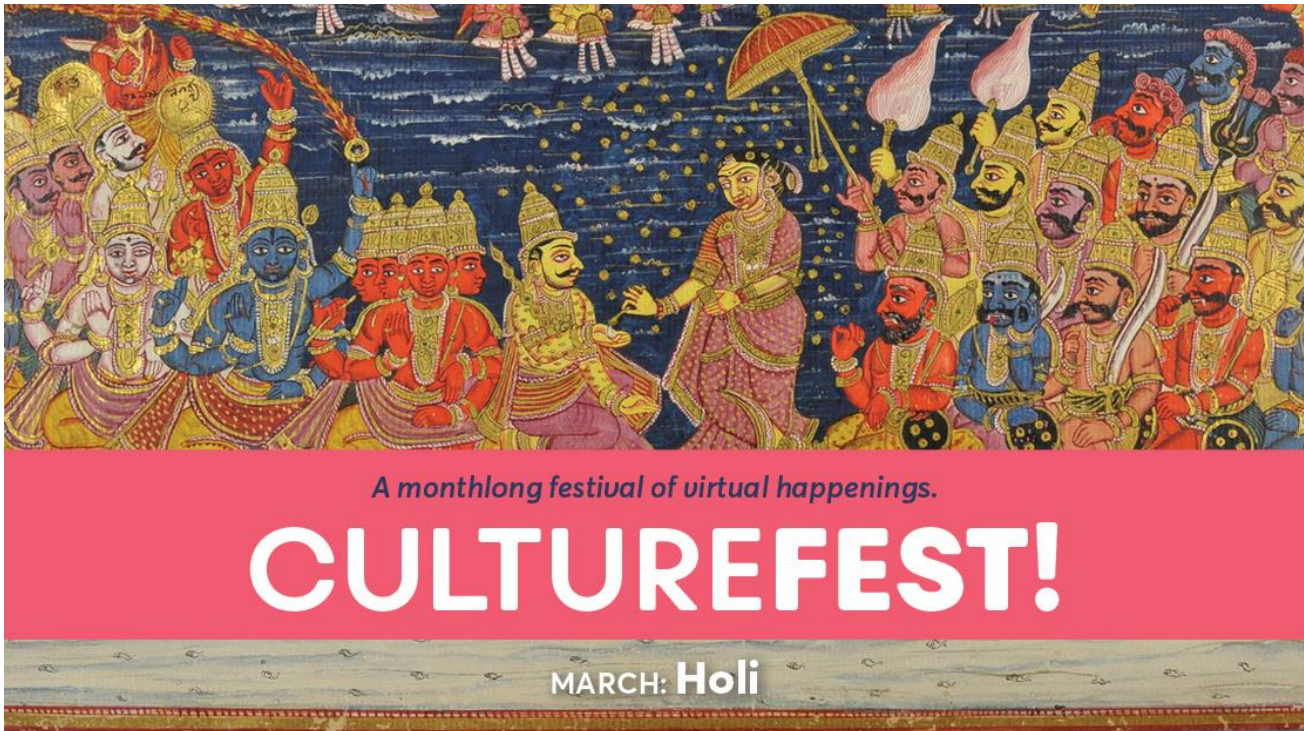


Image: 19th century watercolor “Churning of the Oceans” depicts Lord Vishnu distributing nectar that was found in the sea. Object 2017-22-19.

PHILADELPHIA — The Penn Museum marks the dawn of spring throughout March with ***CultureFest! Holi***, highlighting the Hindu celebration widely known as the Festival of Colors. Originally a festival honoring fertility and the harvest, *Holi* occurs on the last full moon day of the Hindu lunisolar calendar month and features colorful parades, dances, and folk songs. Presented in partnership with **Penn’s South Asia Center**, ***CultureFest! Holi*** offers live events and activities for all ages, such as:

Tuesday, March 2 at 1:00 pm ET | At-Home Anthro LIVE: Mehendi (Henna tattoos)

Used for special events, Mehendi (henna tattoos) is a popular form of body art from South Asia that stems back to ancient times. Kids ages 5-12 learn how henna plant leaves are turned into powder, then a paste to stain the skin and create their own designs. **FREE**. Register here.

Wednesday, March 3 at 6:00 pm ET | Commemoration and Monuments in Medieval India

In this virtual Great Lecture, the Director of Penn’s South Asia Center, Dr. Mark Lycett draws on archaeology and landscape history to illustrate how monumental spaces were built, used, and re-used in India, providing clues to their meanings and functions. **\$5**. Register here.

Tuesday, March 9 at 1:00 pm ET | At-Home Anthro LIVE: Holi, The Festival of Colors

Holi celebrates the coming of Spring with colorful powders. Kids ages 5-12 learn more about the plants that make the powders and the meaning of each color. **FREE**. Register here.

Thursday, March 11 at 1:00 pm ET | Holi, The Mythology Brought to Life

For Holi, artist Soumya Dhulekar creates live illustrations to tell the story behind a legend in Hindu mythology, alongside a special guest narrator. **\$5**. [Register here](#).

Tuesday, March 16 at 1:00 pm ET | At-Home Anthro LIVE: Mughal Miniature Paintings

Often found in book illustrations, Mughal miniature painting is an artform that developed in India during the 16th-18th centuries. Kids ages 5-12 learn more about how Persian miniatures influenced this painting style and create their own designs to tell stories. **FREE**. Register here.

Wednesday, March 17 at 4:00 pm ET | World Wonders: Holi, Triumph, and Colors

In India, Holi signals the coming of the spring season. This virtual presentation examines the myths and rituals that are a part of the popular Hindu festival celebrating life, love, vitality, and the triumph of good over evil. Families with children ages 5-12 will hear stories of Hindu deities and learn to make organic colors for their own Holi celebration—using spices, flour, and vegetables. **Pay-what-you-wish**. Register here.

Thursday, March 25 at 5:30 pm ET | Living Room Lecture: Penn's South Asia Center

In a casual happy hour livestreamed on Facebook, attendees virtually hang out with one of the faculty from Penn's **South Asia Center** to learn more about India and its social and cultural expressions, along with an insider's view on the Holi festival.

Monday, March 29 at 6:00 pm ET | Holi Celebration with Three Aksha

Celebrate the Hindu holiday Holi with a live performance from **Three Aksha**, a Philadelphia-based dance academy that preserves and promotes Indian culture and heritage through classical Indian Bharatanatyam dance choreography. **\$5**. [Register here](#).

In addition to the live programs, other resources inspired by **Holi** are available on the Museum's website—with **Digital Daily Digs** (three-minute videos about one artifact) and at-home DIY projects. The Museum invites families who complete projects to tag **@PennMuseum** on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Other crafts and recipes can be found on the Museum's [Pinterest](#).

The entire **CultureFest! Holi** lineup can be found here.

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About the Penn Museum

Since 1887, the Museum has been transforming our understanding of the human experience. Dedicated to building connections between cultures, the Museum welcomes everyone to uncover the past, gain an understanding of our shared humanity, and find one's own place in the arc of human history.

The Penn Museum is open Tuesday–Sunday, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM with safety guidelines. For more information, visit www.penn.museum, call 215.898.4000 or follow **@PennMuseum** on social media.