

Martina Klinkert / MA Thesis 2023/2024 / ABSTRACT

THE PAINTED ROOM IN THE KUTHU MATH IN BHAKTAPUR, NEPAL.

Investigation of the Wall Paintings and Suggestions for Sustainable Conservation, Maintenance and Management Strategies

Abstract:

The painted room in the Kuthu Math, a former Hindu priest house in Bhaktapur, contains elaborate wall paintings on earthen plaster and wood, depicting the Krishna Leela and Hindu deities. They date from around 1750, the end of the Malla period. The paintings, which were repaired and repainted several times, are scientifically analysed in terms of materials and techniques. Their condition and the risks contributing to their deterioration are assessed. Initial tests are carried out to find suitable methods for their preservation and maintenance. A sustainable and cost-effective approach is aspired, favouring locally sourced materials and incorporating local craftsmanship.

Keywords: wall paintings, Malla period, Math, earthen mortar, maintenance and conservation