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Intimate Worlds: Indian Paintings from the Alvin O. Bellak Collection

Darielle Mason, B. N. Goswamy : Intimate Worlds: Indian Paintings from the Alvin O. Bellak Collection before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Intimate Worlds: Indian Paintings from the Alvin O. Bellak Collection:

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One of the world's finest private collections of Indian 'miniature' paintings, a promised bequest to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, is represented by some 90 works of art created in workshops across India over the course of four centuries. The paintings, all reproduced in full color and accompanied by a detailed scholarly examination, span the period from before the rise of Islamic Mughal rule in northern India during the 1500s to the heyday of the British Raj in the late 19th century. The 'intimate worlds' evoked by these images vividly illustrate Hindu, Muslim, and Jain religious stories; offer visions of life at court; and explore the pleasures and pains of love. Essays include a statement from the collector and an introductory history of courtly painting on the Indian subcontinent, as well as discussions of

the history of the collecting of Indian art, hierarchies of taste, and the relationship between artists and patrons.