Introduction

Traditionally, museums have been defined as repositories where objects belonging to our past and our culture are collected, conserved, documented, researched, exhibited, and used to impart education. This definitions of a museum creates a monologue in the interaction between the museum objects and the visitor. Story telling can be an effective tool to break this monologue and create a dialogue between the objects and the visitor. A museum object displayed without context loses its essence completely and thus its aesthetic value. Story telling can be used to bring the intangible aspects like historical and mythological relevance associated with the object inside the museum. This helps in increasing the essence of the object and builds better interactive connection with the visitors.

Our attempt is to use storytelling as a medium of museum’s interaction with the visitor. We have selected eight objects which are woven together as Akshaya Tritiya, a very auspicious day in the Hindu calendar. The objects belong to different time periods, multiple dynasties, different regions, various art schools and the collection itself is composite in nature. They have no visual or historical relation, but the beauty of these stories is that, it can weave anything into a smooth narration.

These stories narrate mythological events, forming part of our oral as well as literary traditions and are kept together as they share some common character of an auspicious object.

Akshaya Tritiya

Akshaya Tritiya is basically for both the Hindus and the Jains. It falls on the 30th of April (Bhaadrapad Shukla Paksha of the 5th month of Vaishakh).

According to the Hindu calendar, it is considered to be a day free of any evil which why multiple auspicious events have occurred on this day which has catapulted its significance. The day is considered auspicious for starting new ventures. The legend is that any venture initiated on the auspicious day of Akshaya Tritiya continues to grow and bring prosperity. Our stories focus on the various objects which have occurred on the day of Akshaya Tritiya.

Krintha and Sudama

Sudama and Krishna were childhood friends. Their transcending intrinsic social differences made Sudama abandon meekness which he is usually shown to have lost. Sudama’s one minor mistake as a child, a dream he had of being seen as Krishna, has seen his life turn into a nightmare. Sudama became a worker and was known to be an innocent and simple soul.

Krishna breaks all royal protocol and breaks his long lost friend’s heart. He later, however, apologizes and with much finesse, reconciles the former. Sudama continues to forgive and to end his life as a worker.

Draupadi Vastraaharan

Once upon a time... Duryodhana wanted to test the Pandavas for a game of dice in Pataliputra. Draupadi wore a set of garments which would not dry as well. As a result, Sudhakar loses everything everything, his gold, jewels, and lands to Duryodhana. In response, Draupadi puts up a bet for the next world and ends up losing her as well. Duryodhana attempts to take Draupadi’s husband, Bhoja, on Parwati’s way. Therefore, Duryodhana tries to take Draupadi to the court for her fair.

On Duryodhana’s command Draupadi decides to go to Gokul. Draupadi’s happiness is completed when Draupadi returns to her husband. Draupadi’s happiness is completed when Draupadi returns to her husband.

The events that took place in the story of Krishna and the game of dice were hilarious. Things could have been even worse if Draupadi had not been the daughter of Bhima. Drupada.

Conclusion

The passivity of the museum objects is a barrier in creating an interactive space with the visitors in a museum. The essence of an object would not reach out to a visitor until unless the visitor creates a dialogue which breaks this passivity. Storytelling is an effective tool to bring the objects alive.

In our pursuit to make the objects speak for themselves we have compiled stories of events occurred on the day of Akshaya Tritiya. These stories have spoken volumes about the objects and their associated with the tangibles of an intangible heritage. The common binding factor amongst them is the auspicious day of Akshaya Tritiya.
Sutradhar: Narrator

Akshaya Tritiya

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