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Nirmala Rajasekar playing the veena, a plucked stringed instrument whose origins date to ancient India

## Vibrant Accompaniment

COUNTLESS ARTISTS with Indian roots call Minnesota home. Among them is Nirmala Rajasekar, a world-class veena player who specializes in Carnatic music—the classical music of South India.

This story is one of many told in *Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation*, exhibited at the Minnesota History Center from April 30 to July 10, 2016. The

exhibit, developed by the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American Center and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, is augmented with artifacts, oral histories, and personal reflections assembled by the Minnesota Historical Society in collaboration with members of Minnesota's Indian American community.



### About the cover...

Gertrude Lippincott performs *A Full Moon in March*, a somber dance based on the play of the same name by William Butler Yeats. In Yeats's retelling of the Salome story, a queen is serenaded by a swineherd. When he offends her, she has him put to death. In Lippincott's performance, the Lady laments this loss, gazing at a mask meant to represent the man's severed head. This undated photo by Louis Mélançon displays the athleticism of Lippincott's modern dance, as well as the care with which she designed her costumes, this one made of stretch knit, with corded arm holes, skirt hem, and crown. For more on Lippincott's costuming genius—and to see this dress in its gorgeous yellow hue—turn to the article on page 26.



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