



Raja Ravi Varma's Indulekha

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- Recently, amidst celebrations marking the **176th birth anniversary of renowned artist Raja Ravi Varma (29th April 1848)**, the unveiling of the first true copy of his iconic painting "Indulekha" is set to take place at Kilimanoor Palace, Travancore, the artist's birthplace.
- Indulekha, a portrayal of the protagonist from ***O. Chandu Menon's seminal Malayalam novel***, holds cultural and literary significance as a symbol of early modern literature in the region.
 - The unreleased painting of Indulekha garnered attention upon its emergence into the public domain in 2022.
- Raja Ravi Varma is considered the **father of modern Indian art**, as he combined **Indian iconography with Western realism**. His influence is seen in diverse fields such as art, literature, advertising, textiles, and comic books.
- Raja Ravi Varma, born into an aristocratic family in Kerala, started his professional art career at 22 and mastered **oil painting**.
 - Varma was **among the first Indian artists to use oil paints** and is considered a **representative of the Europeanised school of painting in India**.
- Varma built his reputation through royal patronage, he received significant commissions from **Maharana Fateh Singh and Sayajirao Gaekwad III**.
- **Works:** Damayanti Talking to a Swan, Shakuntala Looking for Dushyanta, Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair, and Shantanu and Matsyagandha.
- **Recognition: Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal** by the British colonial government in 1904 and in 2013, a crater on the planet Mercury was named in his honour.

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Read more: [Raja Ravi Varma](#)

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