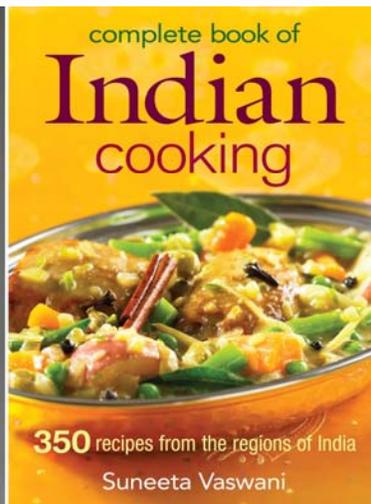


Artful Thursday



Artful Thursday

The Art of Indian Cuisine

Thursday, February 25, 2010

6:30 p.m.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Brown Auditorium Theater

Presented by Suneeta Vaswani,

a leading Houston authority on the culinary arts of India

"We live in a 'food without borders' world," says Suneeta Vaswani, a leading Houston authority on the culinary arts of India. Over many millennia, the influx of foreign invaders left an indelible mark on the culture, art, and food of India. Of these, the Mughals proved the most influential. Builders of the magnificent Taj Mahal and patrons of the art of the book, the Mughals introduced many exotic ingredients including saffron, nuts, and cream, creating the distinctive blend of tastes that characterize Indian cuisine today.

At the February Artful Thursday, Suneeta Vaswani describes the expansive palette of spices used in

Indian cooking, what foods are associated with various deities like Ganesh, the beloved god of good fortune, or Shiva Nataraja, lord of the dance, both represented in the new Arts of India gallery at the MFAH, and much more.

Born in Mumbai, Suneeta Vaswani is the author of the *Complete Book of Indian Cooking* (2007) and *Easy Indian Cooking* (2004), and a member of the International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP). Her Web site is www.suneetavaswani.com.

Artful Thursday programs receive generous funding from the Rockwell Fund.

*Promotional support is generously provided by KUHF 88.7 FM, Houst on Public Radio.
Refreshments generously provided by the Buffalo Speedway Starbucks (corner of Buffalo Speedway and Westpark) and the Rice Village Starbucks.*

*Images (Left to Right): Indian, **Ganesh and Siddhi**, 10th–11th century, buff sandstone, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, gift of Milton D. Rosenau, Jr., and Dr. Ellen R. Gritz, 99.310*

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*Indian, **Shiva Nataraja**, 13th century, Bronze, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; gift of Carol and Robert Straus, 73.77*