



Victoria Memorial Hall

On the eve of International Museum Day (18 May 2019)
you are cordially invited to an illustrated lecture

Grassroots Museology in the Indian Context: The Making of Arna-Jharna – The Desert Museum of Rajasthan

Speaker

Rustom Bharucha

Author, research scholar, cultural critic

Friday, 17 May 2019, 5.30 pm

Victoria Memorial Hall

Conference Hall (Administration Wing)

1 Queen's Way, Kolkata – 700 071

Entry through East Gate (opp. St. Paul's Cathedral) only; cars are not allowed inside the VMH campus; seating on a first-come-first-served basis till the capacity is full

In this informal talk, Rustom Bharucha will look back and think aloud on his experience as a Project Director in the early stages of the making of an eco-museum – *Arna-Jharna: The Desert Museum of Rajasthan* – located in a rural area near Jodhpur in Rajasthan. Envisioned by the renowned folklorist and ethnomusicologist Komal Kothari, and supported by a team of practitioners affiliated to Rupayan Sansthan, this unique museum focuses on one particular object – the broom – to reflect on traditional knowledge systems and their sustenance in today's world. The talk will elaborate on the research that went into the broom at botanical, environmental, social, and political levels. It will provide some insights into the curatorial challenges of representing the broom, and will be paired with the screening of a documentary film, *Jhadu Katha* (Broom Stories), directed by Navroze Contrator, which was specially commissioned by the museum.

