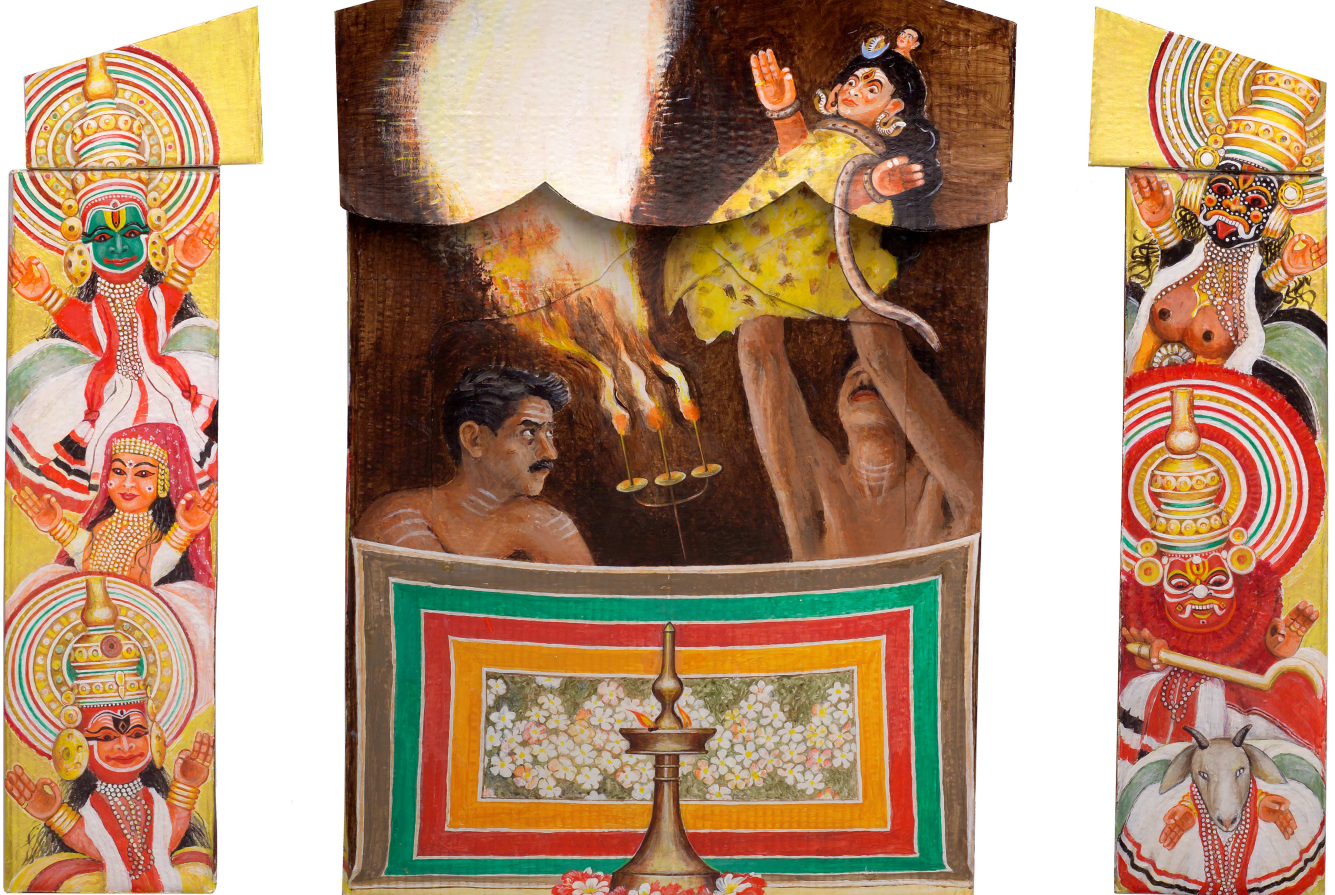


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Newsletter and Scribblings No. 26d



Pavakathakali: glove puppet theatre from India

Try it yourself? Another exciting activity from the *Puppetry Museum*. *Pavakathakali* is the traditional *glove puppet theatre* from the *Indian* federal state of *Kerala*. When the show starts a brass oil lamp is lit. *Dakshayagam* is part of *Pavakathakali*'s fixed repertoire. The god *Daksha* is holding an offering ceremony, for which he does not invite his daughter *Sati* and her husband, the god *Shiva*. *Shiva* feels offended. *Sati* still goes to the ceremony. When *Daksha* threatens to chase her away from the house *Sati* immolates herself. Now *Shiva* appears at the ceremony transformed into a demon. In a rage he cuts off *Daksha*'s head and attaches a *goat's head* to his body. The pictures on the small *pastiche theatre* were painted by *Hetty Paërl*. The character on the left at the top is *Daksha*. He has a green face. Below him *Sati* and *Shiva* are shown. You can see *Daksha* with a *goat's head* at the bottom on the right of the theatre. At the front of the theatre *Shiva* is depicted as the demon *Virabhadra*. A *snake* coils around her neck and wrists. How many hands does the puppeteer use to move this angry god at the offering fire?

Concept: Otto van der Mieden © (2010), *Poppenspe(e)lmuseum NL*.

Have lots of fun looking and searching. Applause!

Doepak presents some unusual theatre forms, far beyond the confines of our own fantasy! Doepak is a cheerful, educational and colourful Dutch-language newsletter packed with background information about folk and mainstream puppet theatre. In this newsletter and scribblings you can also read about all kinds of activities in the Puppetry Museum such as which exhibitions are on show, whether new books were issued, and how the website is developing. The Dutch verbs of 'doen' (do) and 'pakken' (take) are hidden in the name of the Doepak newsletter. This name was composed for good reason, because you are supposed to 'do' and 'take' things yourself. The name 'Doepak' is also the phonetic transcription in Dutch of the Czech word dupák. A dupák is a rod marionette and trick puppet. Where the dupák swings his arms wide as he twirls around, Doepak embraces the international world of puppetry and related arts with its hints and tips, questions and answers, illustrations and DIY activities. In Slovakian and Hungarian puppet theatre the dupák is called Paprika Janesi.