



SILVIA FURMANOVICH



MINIATURE
PAINTING



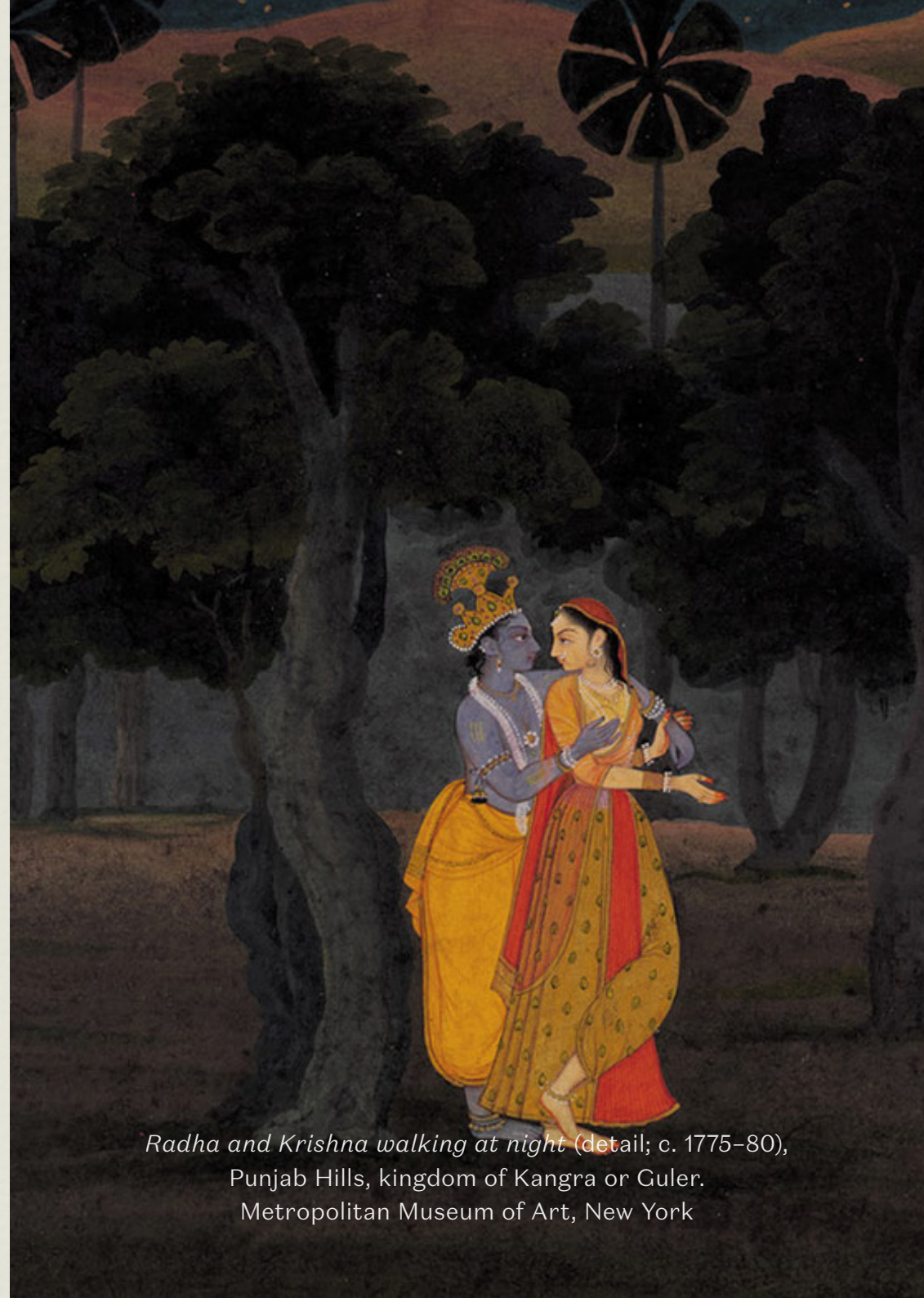
MINIATURE PAINTING

During a trip to New York in 2016, the designer found herself standing amid 100 masterful paintings in the exhibition “*Divine Pleasures: Painting from India’s Rajput Courts*” at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The works on view portrayed scenes of epic and poetic literature commissioned by Rajasthan royalty from the 16th through the 19th centuries, celebrating the diverse styles of Indian painting.

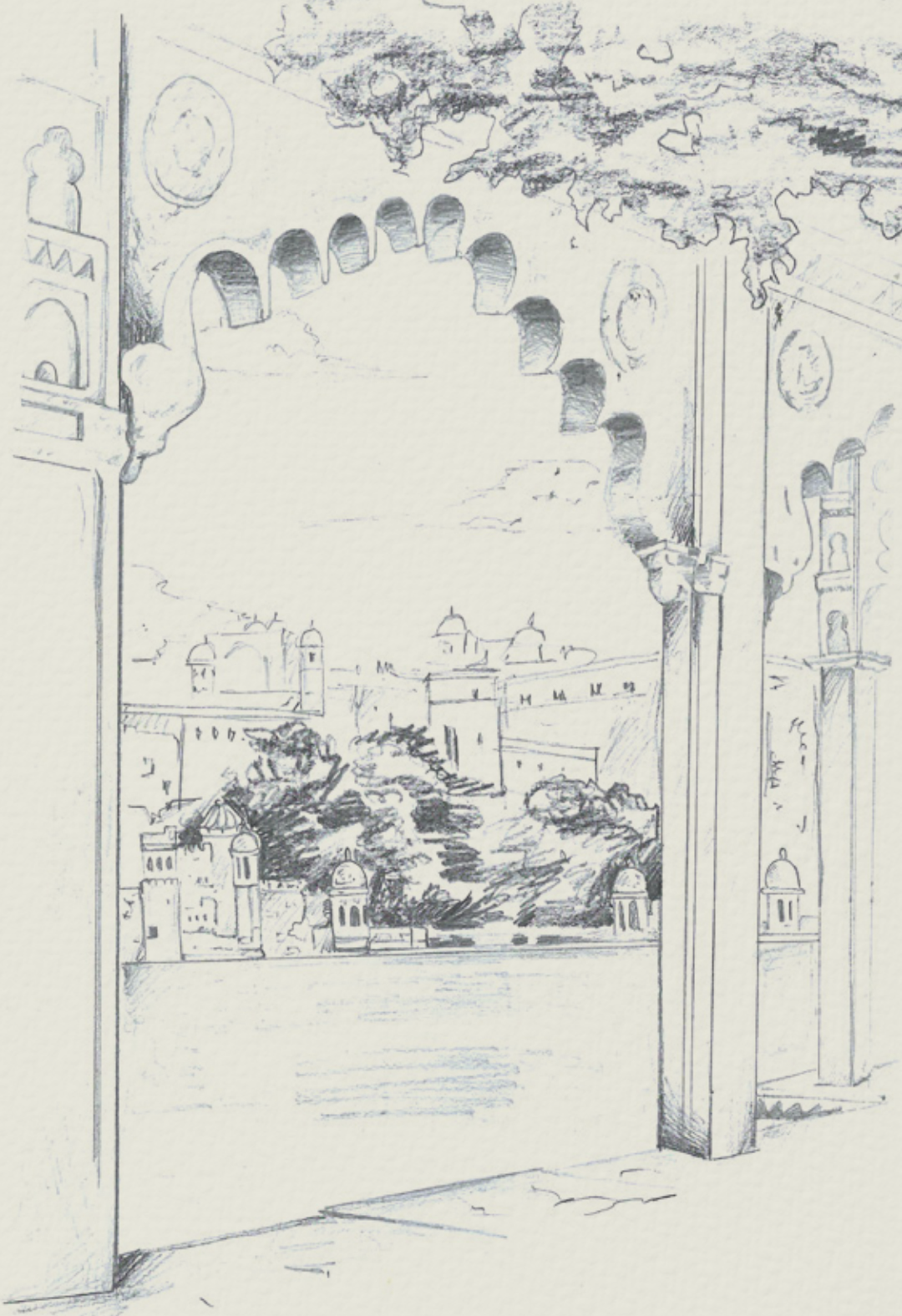
Mesmerized by the works, Furmanovich later embarked on a 40-day artistic pilgrimage through India, including New Delhi, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Jaipur and Pushkar. In Udaipur, the designer encountered artisans who have since the 16th century specialized in the painstaking tradition of miniature painting. Their art form evoked the vividly colored works Furmanovich encountered in the New York exhibition.

Furmanovich regularly commissions artisans from Udaipur to create dreamlike natural sceneries, intricate figures and vibrant patterns on scalloped pieces of wood and bone. The pieces are painted with brushes of just one or two squirrel-tail hairs, utilizing mineral-based pigments made of crushed gems such as blue lapis lazuli and green malachite, as well as yellow sulfur, black carbon and red iron oxide. Rendered in silhouettes reminiscent of Mughal architectural elements, the works are then mounted into statement earrings with gemstones echoing the hues of the paints, including emeralds, rubies, sapphires, tourmalines, diamonds and South Sea pearls.



*Radha and Krishna walking at night (detail; c. 1775–80),
Punjab Hills, kingdom of Kangra or Guler.
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York*





Silvias' sketchbook



In subsequent collections, Furmanovich has further explored the technique to portray finely detailed compositions which draw from other cultural traditions, such as Egyptian frescoes, Persian miniatures and Japanese textiles.



