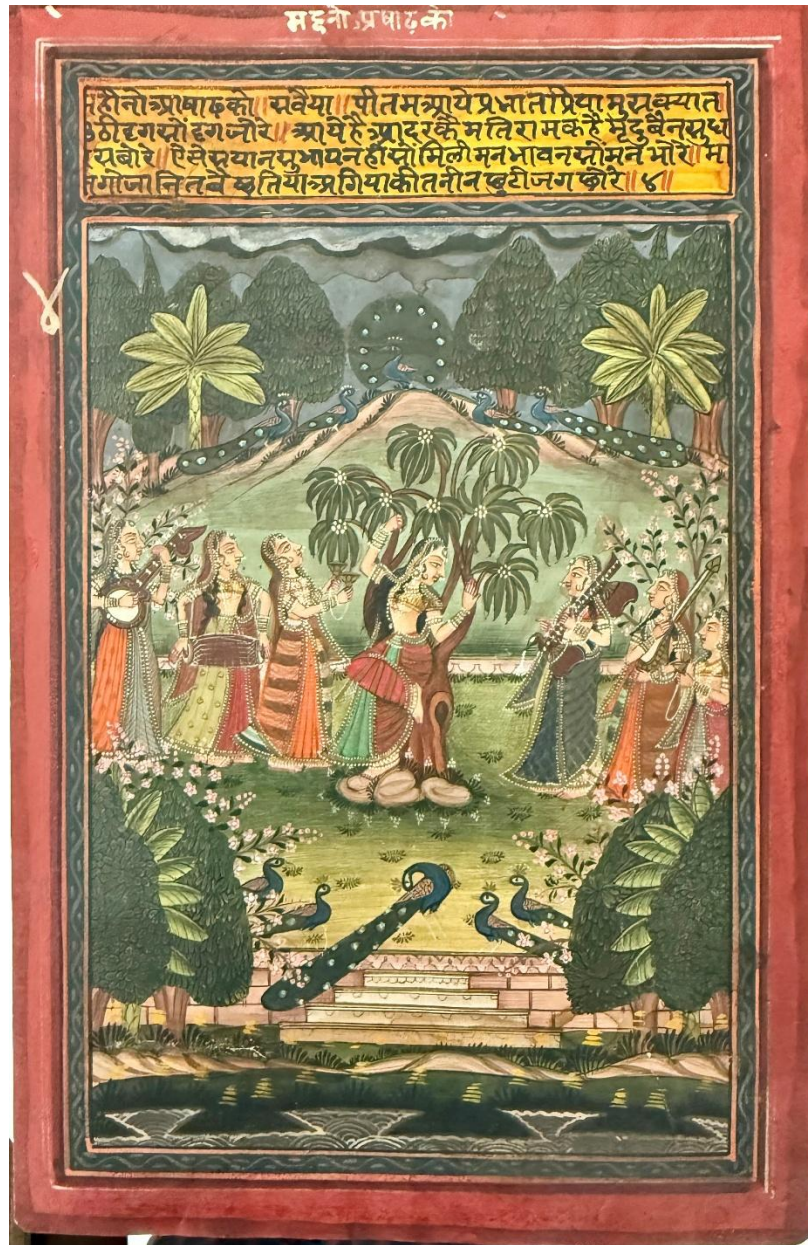


## A Kishangarh Baramasa Painting of Āṣāḍha

Rajasthan, Kishangarh School, circa 1820–1850

Opaque pigments and gold on paper

23 × 15 cm



This elegant and highly evocative miniature belongs to the celebrated *Baramasa* (“Songs of the Twelve Months”) tradition of North Indian painting and poetry. Executed in the refined idiom of the Kishangarh school, the work depicts the month of Āṣāḍha (Ashad), the beginning of the monsoon season — a time associated in Indian aesthetics with longing, romance, music, emotional awakening, and the arrival of rain.

The composition is animated by many of the defining visual hallmarks of Kishangarh painting: elongated feminine beauty, lyrical landscape, rhythmic vegetation, and poetic

atmosphere. Female attendants gather amidst lush greenery and flowering trees, accompanied by musical instruments and surrounded by peacocks, the quintessential symbols of the monsoon. Dark rain clouds gather above, transforming the landscape into a visual metaphor for emotional intensity and romantic anticipation.

Particularly significant is the extensive inscription panel above the painting, identifying the month and preserving a *savaiyā* — a refined Braj poetic metre — associated with the celebrated poet Matiram, one of the major literary figures of the North Indian *Rīti* tradition. The verse describes the joyful arrival of the beloved at dawn and the emotional ecstasy of reunion, perfectly complementing the mood of the painting.

The work belongs to the later flowering of the Kishangarh tradition and preserves the lyrical inheritance of the great eighteenth-century atelier associated with Raja Savant Singh and the legendary painter Nihal Chand. While more intimate in scale and spirit than the rare museum-level masterpieces of the earlier court period, the painting retains the elegance, refinement, and emotional sophistication that have made Kishangarh among the most admired schools of Indian miniature painting.

Baramasa paintings of this quality and literary sophistication remain increasingly desirable among collectors for their combination of:

- poetic subject matter,
- decorative beauty,
- literary association,
- and strong visual identity.

The present work is especially appealing for its harmonious monsoon palette, atmospheric composition, identifiable inscription, and highly decorative presence. It represents not merely a miniature painting, but a complete synthesis of poetry, music, romance, and seasonality — a quintessential expression of the refined aesthetic world of Rajput India.