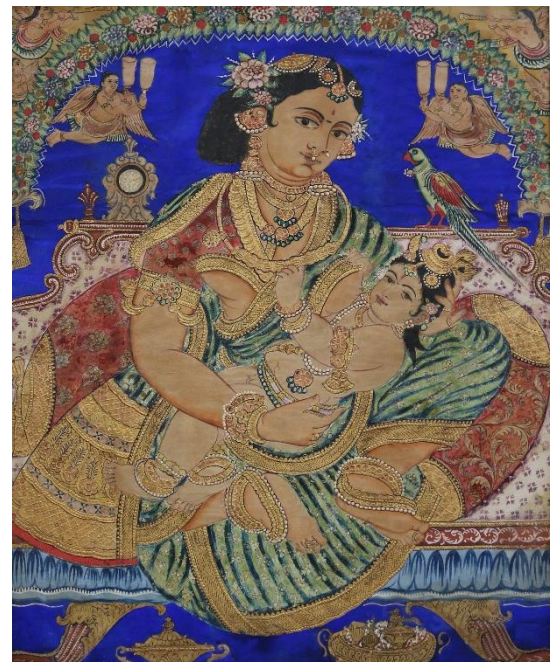
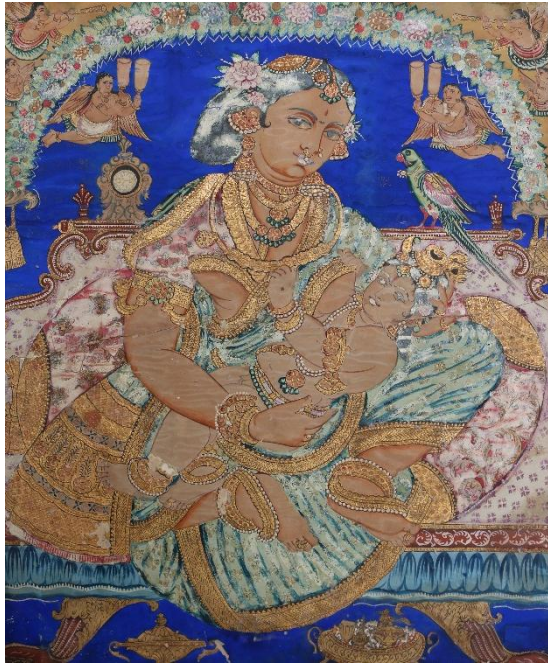


**Times of India Building Collection:** A fire in the Times of India Building in Delhi in February 2017 resulted in damage to the art collection housed within. Most fire-related damages included deposition of soot on paintings, blisters in paint layer due to extreme heat and damage due to prolonged exposure to moisture as water used for fire-fighting caused considerable damage to the collection, with the paper paintings worse affected. Water transferred acidity of the backboard on to the paintings resulting in brown patches of water stains. The paper support had also become wavy. High humidity had resulted in mold growth. The collection included valuable paintings by many eminent artists like Jamini Roy, Jogen Chowdhury, Ram Kumar, Swaminathan and others as well some traditional Indian paintings. Fire, smoke, soot, heat or other fire related residue can cause serious damage to works of art. Also, the fire-fighting methods and water are detrimental but most damages can often be reversed with the right treatment and expertise. ICI Delhi team was called in for preventive and emergency conservation. Paper paintings were removed from their mount boards and frames and given anti-fungal treatment. The damaged works were brought to the ICI Delhi Centre for conservation treatment with a total of forty-six paintings received in three lots from May 2017 for conservation treatment. They included works by eminent artists such as Jayashree Chakravarty, Arpana Caur, J Swaminathan, Ram Kumar, Bikash Bhattacharya, Jamini Roy, Jogen Chowdhury, Jaideep Mehrotra and Thomas Easley. The collection also had traditional Indian paintings including miniatures, Tanjore paintings, Pichwais and Mysore art, which were restored and sent to Times of India in August 2018.



*Thomas Easley painting (before and after conservation)*



*Mysore painting, covered with white deposition, before and after conservation*