

South and Southeast Asian Art

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

- South, East, and Southeast Asia have ancient artistic traditions.
- Great religions were established in Asia.
- Asian art is a reflection of Asian aesthetics.
- Asian art spreads throughout the world through trade

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

- Ancient ceramics survive from China and India.
- Religious beliefs developed locally, but spread throughout Asia. Artistic traditions were exchanged throughout the great civilizations of Asia. Asian art heavily influenced the art of Europe.
- Ancient belief systems, called Indic, spread throughout the region, eventually developing into religions like Hinduism and Buddhism. Chinese religions were influenced by Buddhism and stressed living in harmony with nature and one another. Daoism and Confucianism emphasized living ethically within society's boundaries.
- Islam, Christianity, and ancient European cultures play a role in Asian art. Architecture is best expressed by religious temples, shrines, and rock-cut caves.
- There is a wide range of materials used in this region.
- Indian painting was often done in miniatures for court patrons. The Silk Road was key to the spread of artistic styles.
- Asian art shows evidence of the interconnectivity of regional schools with the wider world.

IDEAS AND CONCEPTS

1. Concepts and practices of Hindu religious devotion.
2. Imagery and symbolism of Buddhist and Hindu art.
3. The appearance of Buddhist and Hindu sacred spaces.
4. Relationship with nudity and sexually erotic imagery.
5. Form and function of religious architecture.

VOCABULARY

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Ashlar masonry | Sakyamuni |
| Bas-relief | Shiva |
| Bodhisattva | stupa |
| Buddha | torana |
| Darshan | urna |
| horror vacui | ushnisha |
| iconoclasm | Vairocana |
| mandorla | Vishnu |
| mithuna | Wat |
| mudra | Yakshi |
| nirvana | |

RESOURCES

Angkor Wat
<https://www.google.com/maps/about/behind-the-scenes/streetview/treks/angkor/>
 ProstatingPilgrims at Jokhang Temple
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gQKxaa76ms>
 Fire at Jokhang
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/17/world/asia/tibet-temple-fire.html>
 Great Stupa of Sanchi
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g38r0OfRt8Y>

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JOURNAL

The Great Stupa (3.1, 1.3, 3.2)
Shiva Lord of the Dance (3.1, 1.1, 3.3)

CONTEXT

The fertile Indus and Ganges valleys were too great a temptation for outsiders, and thus the history of India has become a history of invasions and assimilations. But those who invaded came to stay, and so Indian life today is a layering of disparate populations to create a cosmopolitan culture. There are eighteen official languages in India—Hindi, the one foreigners think of as the national language, is spoken natively by only 20 percent of the population. Along with Hindus and Muslims, there are many concentrations of Jains, Buddhists, Christians, and Sikhs, as well as a myriad tribal religions. Geographically, India has enormous range as well, from the world's tallest mountains to vast deserts and tropical forests. This is one of the most diverse countries on earth.

The diversity of the Indian subcontinent is reflected in the wide range of artistic expression one finds there. Indians typically unify the arts so that one large monument is realized as a single creative expression involving painting, sculpture, and architecture.

Buddhist images dominate early Indian art. Buddha himself is often depicted in a meditative state, with his various mudras revealing his inner thoughts. Hindu sculptures feature a myriad of gods, with Shiva as the most dominant. Both Buddhist and Hindu temples are mound-shaped, the Buddhist works a large, solid hemisphere, and the Hindu a sculpted mountain with a small interior.

Both Hindu and Buddhist art are marked by horror vacui, forms piled on atop the other in crowded compositions.



WORKS OF ART

- Jowo Rinpoche, enshrined in the Jokhang Temple. Lhasa, Tibet. Yarlung Dynasty 641
- The Great Stupa at Sanchi. Madhya Pradesh, India. Buddhist: Maurya, late Sunga Dynasty 300BCE-100 BCE
- Borobudur Temple. Central Java, Indonesia. Sailendra Dynasty 750-842
- Lakshmana Temple. Khajuraho, India. Hindu, Chandella Dynasty 930-950
- Angkor, the temple of Angkor Wat, and the city of Angkor Thon, Cambodia. Hindu, Angkor Dynasty 800-1400
- Shiva as Lord of Dance (Nataraja). Hindu; India (Tamil Nadu), Chola Dynasty 11th cent
- *Bichitr*. Jahangir Preferring a Sufi Shaikh to Kings 1620

ASSIGNMENTS

- Read Gardner's pgs 435-459 and 1033-1047
- Complete homework packet
- Write journal
- Fill in flashcards

HOMWORK DUE: _____