



Non-Western Art History

The Art of India 2

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◆ Origins of Hinduism

- Developed about the first century AD
- There is no single founder, no single spokesman, no single prophet
- Hinduism is a blend of:
 - Aryan Vedas, hymns in praise of deities, often personifications of natural elements
 - Ancient faith in the mother goddess and efficacy of fertility symbols
- Emphasizes the supremacy of the god Vishnu, the god Shiva and the goddess Shakti.

Source: *Hinduism and Hindu Art*, Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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◆ Basic Hindu Beliefs

- Everyone should aim for:
 - *Dharma* or righteous living
 - *Artha* or wealth acquired through the pursuit of a profession
 - *Kama* or human and sexual love
 - *Moksha* or spiritual salvation
- Hindus accept many deities
 - There are many aspects to the Infinite
 - There are varied paths toward the ultimate goal.



Source: *Hinduism and Hindu Art*, Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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◆ Hindu Gods and Their Manifestations

- Deities frequently are shown with multiple arms, to emphasize their immense power or their ability to perform several feats at the same time.
- Demons are frequently shown with multiple heads to indicate their superhuman powers.
- Deities may also have multiple heads to shown various aspects of their character.
- Images are of idealized forms, whether a god or a mortal
- Humans and gods are shown equally as sensuous beings



Source: *Hinduism and Hindu Art*, Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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Linga With One Face (Ekamukhalinga), 9th century, H: 22.5 inches, Unknown Afghanistani Artist, Metropolitan Museum of Art

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Shiva As Lord of Dance (Nataraja).
c. 11th century, H: 27 inches,
Unknown Chola Artist,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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Shiva's Family,
10th century, H: 59 inches,
Unknown Indian Artist,
Minneapolis Institute of Art

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Seated Ganesha.
14th - 15th century,
H: 7 inches,
Unknown Orissa Artist,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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Ganesha Dancing.
c. 750, H: 50 inches,
Unknown Gwalior Artist,
Philadelphia Museum of Art

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Vishnu Image at Hindu Festival, 2005. H: 5 feet,
Unknown Bombay Artist, Source: Photo by Shyam Pillai

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*Vishnu Killing The Horse
Demon Keshi.*
5th century, H: 21 inches,
Unknown Gupta Artist,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

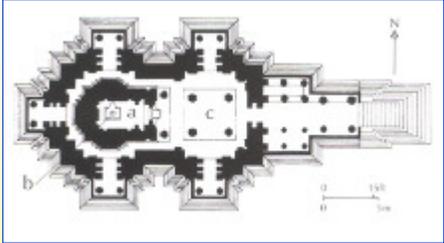
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*Kandarya Temple with Plan, 11th century,
Unknown Indian Architect,
Scan: Art Beyond The West, by Michael O'Riley*

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*Kandarya Temple with Plan, 11th century,
Unknown Indian Architect,
Scan: Art Beyond The West, by Michael O'Riley*

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*Tiruvanmalai Temple at the foot of Mt. Arunachala,
Founded before 1st century BC, H: 195 Tallest Tower,
Unknown Southern Indian Artist, Source: sacredsites.com*

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*Tiruvanmalai Temple, Tamil Nadu,
Founded before 1st century BC, H: 195 Tallest Tower,
Unknown Southern Indian Artist, Source: sacredsites.com*

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*Tiruvanmalai Temple, Tamil Nadu,
Founded before 1st century BC,
H: 195 Tallest Tower,
Unknown Southern Indian Artist,
Source: sacredsites.com*

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*Loving Couple (Mithuna),
13th century, H: 72 inches,
Unknown Ganga Artist,
Metropolitan Museum of Art*

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*Maharana Ari Singh
Worshipping In His Palace,
1765, H: 27 inches,
Unknown Sisodia Dynasty Artist,
Freer & Sackler Galleries*

End



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*Maharan Bhim Singh of
Mewar at a Palace Window,
1810-1820, H: 58 inches,
Workshop of Chokha,
Freer & Sackler Galleries*

End



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*Krishna Plays the Flute Before
a Devoted King, 1690-1700,
Unknown Rajput Artist,
The British Museum*

End



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*Asavari Ragini,
1640, H: 8 inches,
Unknown Central Indian Artist,
San Diego Museum of Art*

End



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*Manuscript Cover with scenes from Kalidasa's Play, Shayuntala,
12th century, H: 2 inches, Unknown Nepalese Artist, Metropolitan Museum of Art*

End



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*Manuscript Cover with scenes from Kalidasa's Play, Shayuntala,
12th century, H: 2 inches, Unknown Nepalese Artist, Metropolitan Museum of Art*

End



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Parmasukha-Chakrasamvara Mandala, c. 1100, H: 27 inches, Unknown Nepalese Artist, Metropolitan Museum of Art

End



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Parmasukha-Chakrasamvara Mandala, c. 1100, H: 27 inches, Unknown Nepalese Artist, Metropolitan Museum of Art

End



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Abhimanyu Hunting In A Forest, 1885, H: 12 inches, Unknown Maharashtra Artist, Freer & Sackler Galleries

End



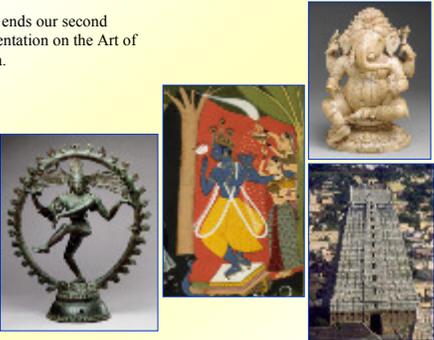
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Japanese Story Teller with Illustrations, 2010, Kiyomizudera Temple, Japan, Photo: H. Rindsberg

End

✦ This ends our second presentation on the Art of India.



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End