

Hirsch Library Research Guide



Shiva Nataraja 73.77

Artist: Unknown Indian

Date: 13th Century

Dynasty: Chola Dynasty

Place: Southern Region, India

Medium: Bronze

Dimensions: 74.3 x 53.3 x 22.9 cm

Shiva, the god of dance and cosmic movement, is the most dramatic and popular Hindu deity. Shiva dances a cosmic dance (Anandatandava) in which the universe is the light reflected by his limbs as he moves in the orb of the sun. In most sculptures of Shiva this sun is evident, here it's missing. Multiple arms suggest his protection of the worshipper. Shiva holds the fire and drum in his hands which symbolize his dual nature of destruction and creation. Pressed under Shiva's foot is a demon, which represents ignorance.

Online Resources:

[Hirsch Library Online Catalog](#)

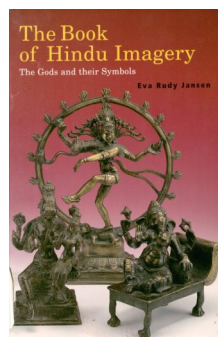
[MET Museum of Art Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History](#)

Articles: (full-text access available on-site; off-site access available through your school library or HPL Systems)

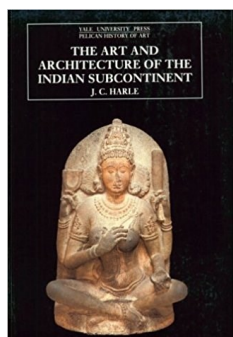
[Kaimal, Padma. "Shiva Nataraja: Shifting Meanings of an Icon." *The Art Bulletin* 81, no. 3 \(1999\): 390-419.](#)

[Srinivasan, Sharada. "Shiva as 'Cosmic Dancer': On Pallava Origins for the Nataraja Bronze." *World Archaeology* 36, no. 3 \(2004\): 432-450.](#)

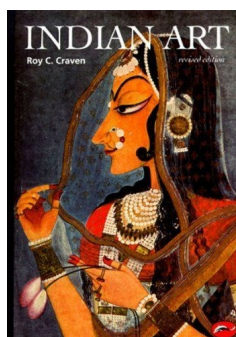
Print Resources:



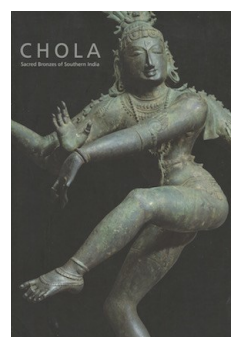
[The Book of Hindu Imagery](#)



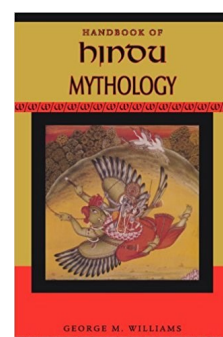
[The Art and Architecture of the Indian Subcontinent](#)



[Indian Art: A Concise History](#)



[Chola: Sacred Bronzes of Southern India](#)



[Handbook of Hindu Mythology](#)

Bibliography

Object Specific Information

[Agee, William C. and Celeste Adams. *The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston: A Guide to the Collection.* \(Houston: The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1981\): 7.](#)

N 576 .H7 A6 Ready Ref.

[Marzio, Peter C. *The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston: A Permanent Legacy.* \(Houston: The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1989\): 70-71.](#)

N 576 .H7 A63 1989 Ready Ref.,

General Surveys of Indian Art

[Mitter, Partha. *Indian Art.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. See esp. Part I. "Buddhist and Hindu Art and Architecture \(c. 300 BCE—1700 CE\)"](#)

N 7301 .M48 2001 Ref.

[Gardner, Helen, Fred S. Kleiner and Christin J. Mamiya. *Gardner's Art through the Ages.* Belmont: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2005. See esp ch. 6, "Paths to Enlightenment: The Art of South and Southeast Asia before 1200."](#)

N 5300 .G25 2005

Hinduism

[Long, Jeffery D. *Historical Dictionary of Hinduism.* Lanham: The Scarecrow Press Inc., 2011.](#)

BL 1105 .L65 2011 Ref.

[Johnson, W. J. *A Dictionary of Hinduism.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009](#)

BL 1105 .J65 2009 Ref

Shiva

[Kramrisch, Stella. *The Presence of Siva.* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992](#)

NB 1007 .S67 K7 1992

[Srinivasan, Doris. *Many Heads, Arms, and Eyes: Origin, Meaning, and Form of Multiplicity in Indian Art.* Leiden: Brill, 1997.](#)

NX 576 .A1 S6 1997

India

[Johnson, Gordon. *Cultural Atlas of India.* Oxfordshire: Andromeda Oxford Limited, 1996.](#)

DS 421 .J6 1996 Ref.

[Keay, John. *India: A History.* New York: Grove Press, 2000.](#)

DS 451 .K365 2000

Chola Dynasty Art and Bronze Sculpture

[Coomaraswamy, Ananda K. *Introduction to Indian Art.* New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd, 1999. See esp. ch. 13, "Southern India: Tenth to Eighteenth Century."](#)

N 7301 .C583 1999 Ref.

[Dehejia, Vidya. *Art of the imperial Cholas.* New York: Columbia University Press, 1990](#)

NA 6007 .S6 D44 1990

Symbolism

[Dallapiccola, Anna L. *Dictionary of Hindu Lore and Legend.* London: Thames & Hudson, 2004](#)

BL 1105 .D35 2004 Ref.

[Bunce, Fredrick W. *A Dictionary of Buddhist and Hindu Iconography: Illustrated.* New Delhi: D. K. Print World \(P\) Ltd., 1997.](#)

N 8193 .A4 B86 1997 Reserves

This reference guide is just the tip of the iceberg on helpful resources in the library's holdings. Many of the suggested resources above have their own bibliographies. Each of these may lead you to another resource that would also be helpful in your research here in the museum or in another library. To find additional resources, use keywords such as "Hindu," "India," and "sculpture" in the online catalog and in periodical indexes. Once you find a few relevant titles, pay attention to the subject headings to identify similar materials. Examples of useful subject headings are:

Hindu mythology

Hindu art

India Civilization

Sculpture, Chola

Siva (Hindu deity)

For guidelines about writing it may be helpful to look at Sylvan Barnet's *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*, which includes tips for looking, reading, and writing about art. Ask for it at the reference desk. At every stage of your work, please allow the library staff to help you. Contact us at 713-639-7323 or Hirsch@mfah.org