

Minneapolis Institute of Art

# South & Southeast Asian Art @ Mia

Pujan Gandhi

Jane Emison Assistant Curator of  
South & Southeast Asian Art

# Mia



# South and Southeast Asia



# South & Southeast Asian Art at Mia

## Galleries

G211 (Jane Emison Gallery):

Arts of South Asia

G212: Arts of the Himalayas

G213: Arts of Southeast Asia

G243: Arts of the Islamic World

## Objects

SSEA 1,646 (approx.) / Mia's Collection of 90,000

India: 747

Textiles: 432

Paintings/Works on Paper: 123

Sculpture: 25

Thailand: 266

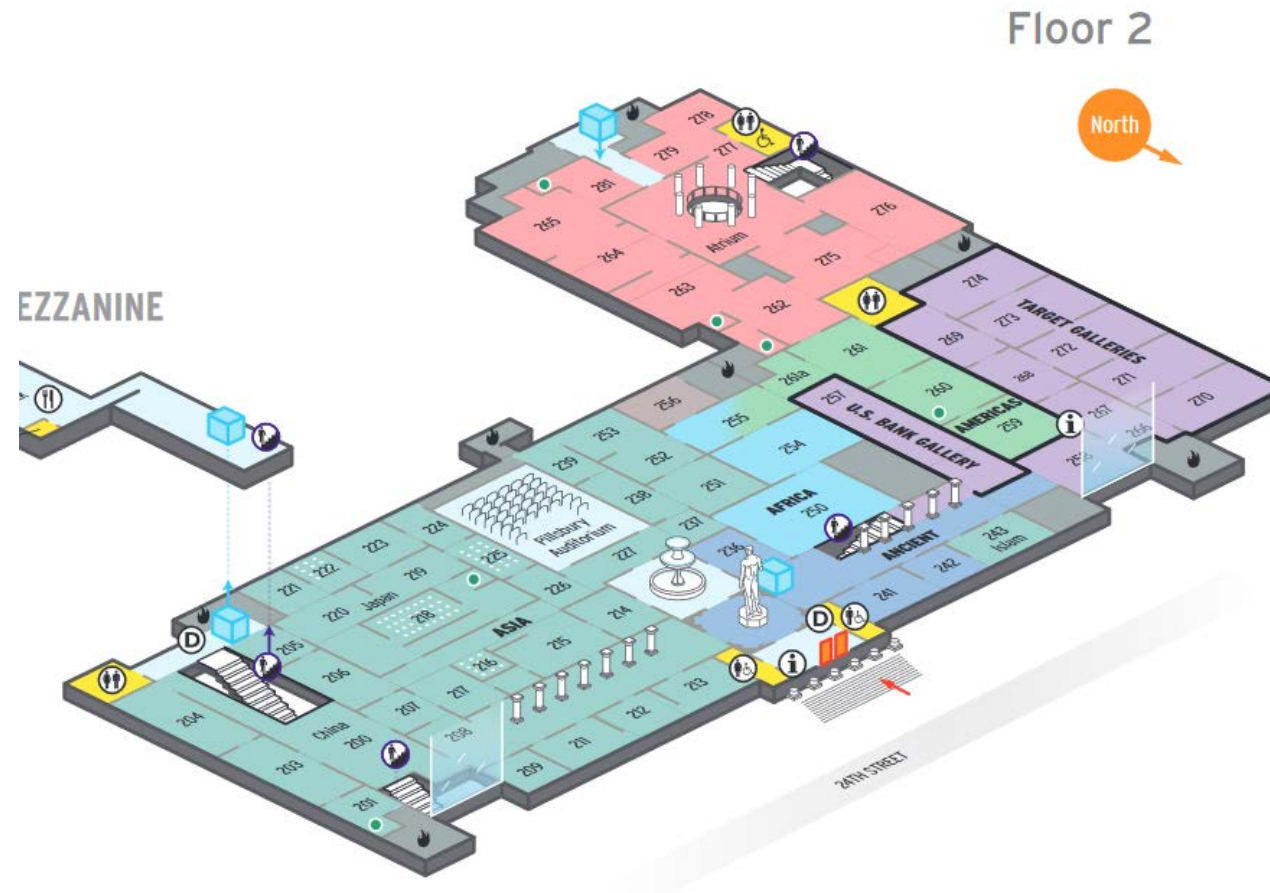
Textiles: 90

Ceramics: 106

Sculpture: 15

Sri Lanka: 5

Philippines: 1



# First Impressions



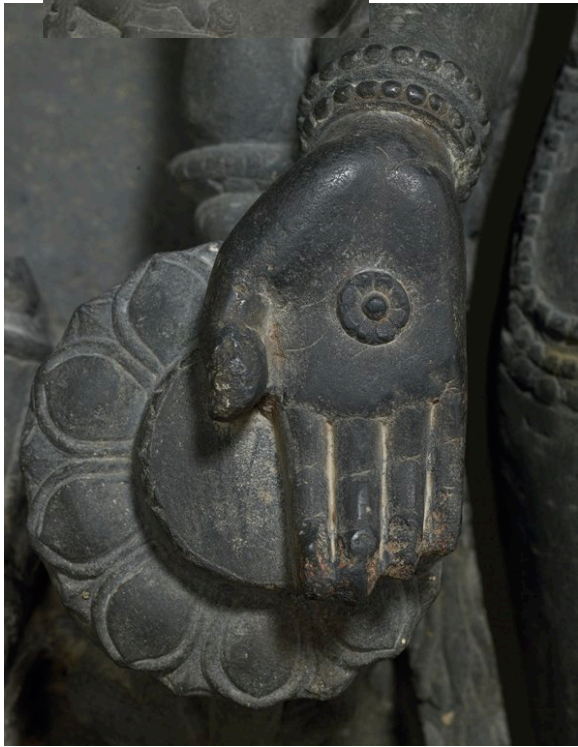
Madhya Pradesh, India  
Shiva, late 10th century  
Red sandstone  
The Margaret McMillian Weber Fund 96.44

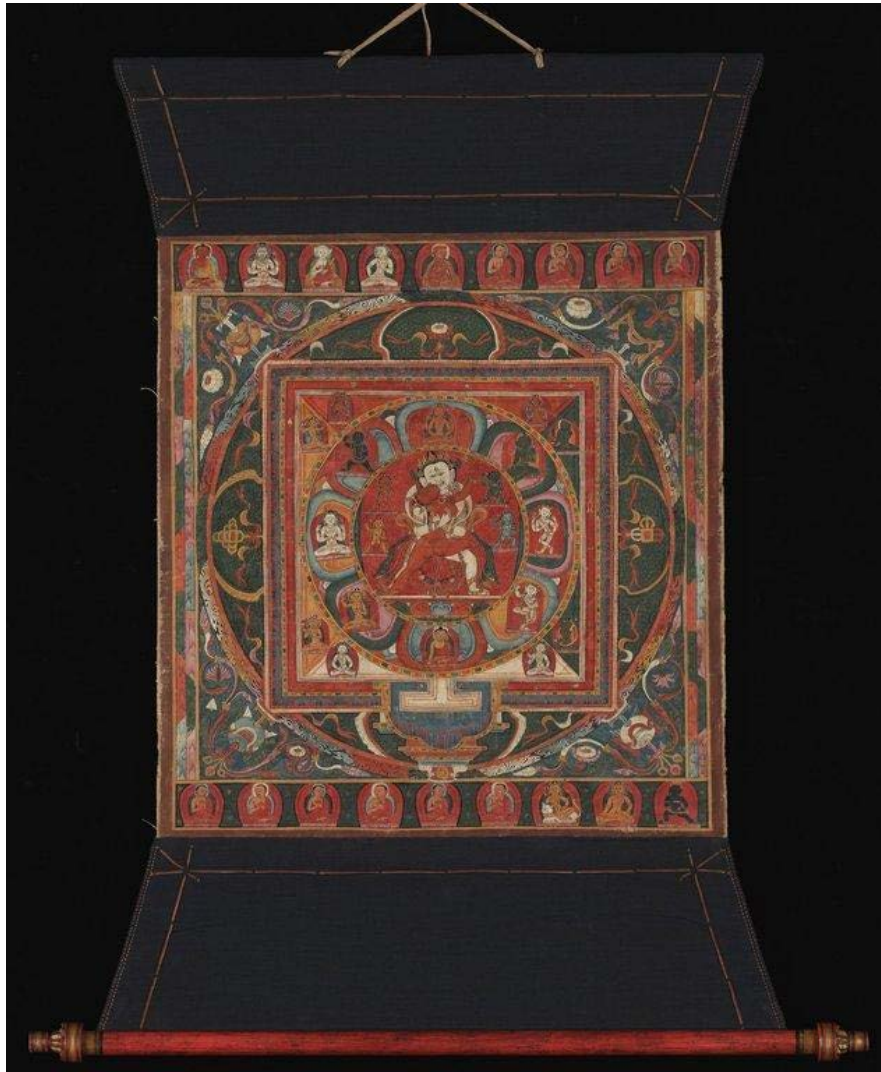


West Bengal or Bangladesh  
Vishnu with Lakshmi and Sarasvati, 11th century  
Grey schist  
The John R. Van Derlip Fund 90.67



Cambodia  
Prajnaparamita, 12th-13th century  
Grey sandstone  
The John R. Van Derlip Fund 97.105





Western Tibet  
Chakrasamvara and Vajravarahi Mandala, 1400-1500  
Pigments on cloth  
Gift of Ruth and Bruce Dayton 2000.150.2

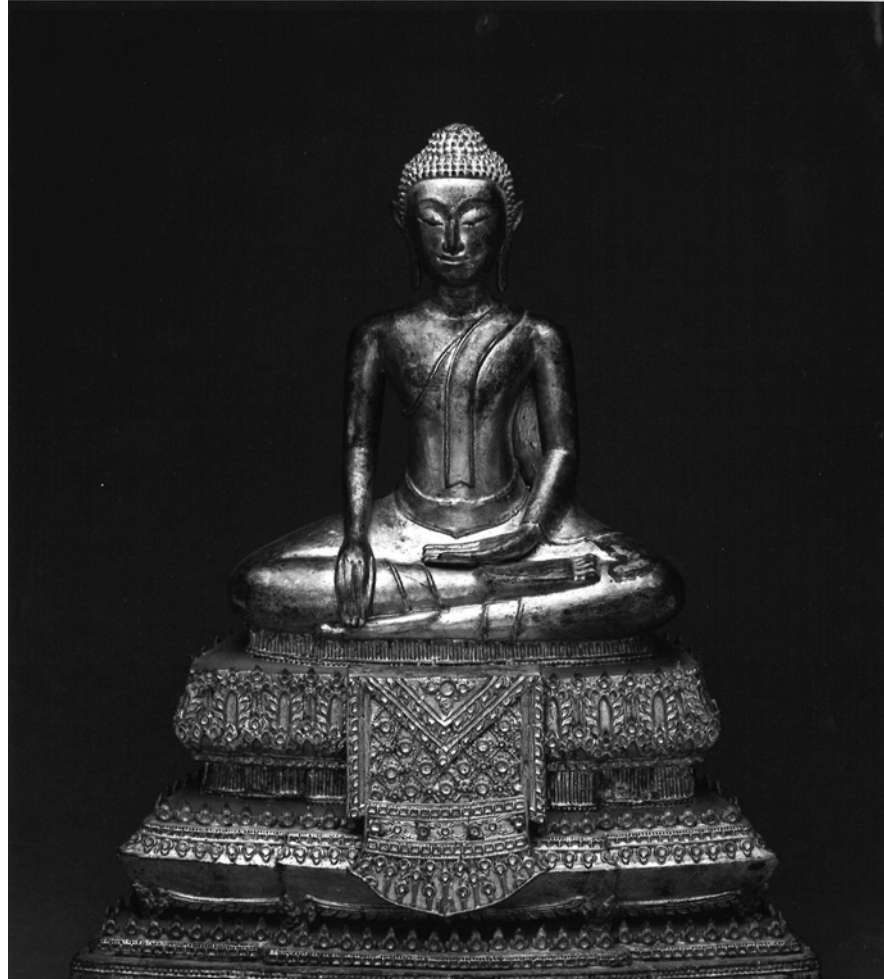


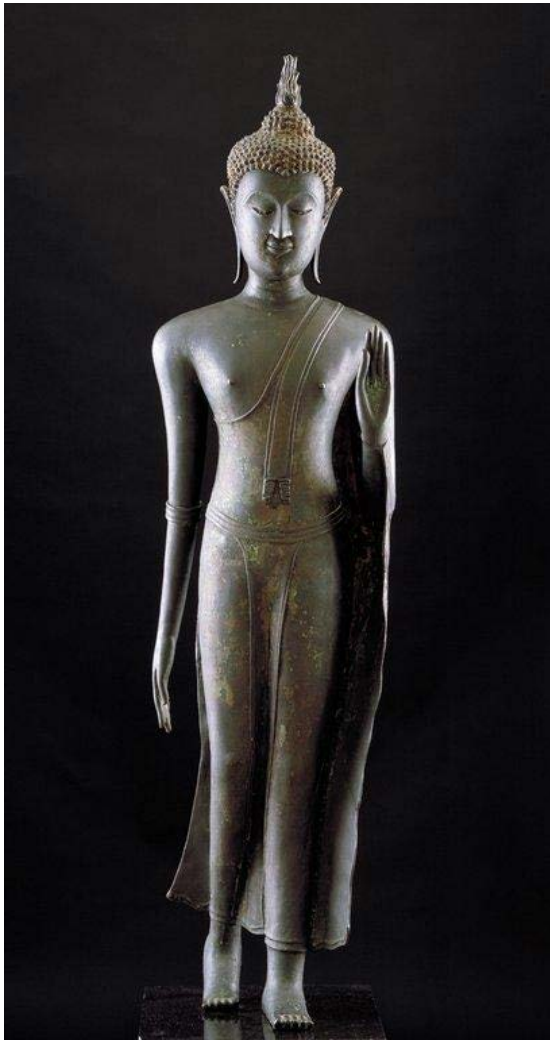
Tibet  
Chorten, 13<sup>th</sup> century  
Brass  
Gift of Ruth and Bruce Dayton 2000.31.7

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# The Beginnings

Thailand  
Seated Buddha, 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Gilt bronze  
Gift of Charles L. Freer 17.118





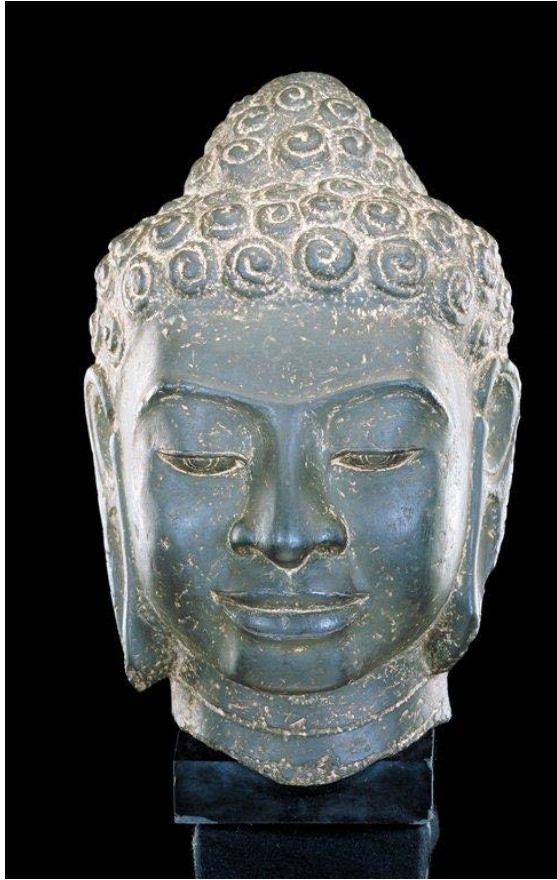
Thailand  
Walking Shakyamuni Buddha, 15<sup>th</sup> century  
Bronze with traces of pigment  
The William Hood Dunwoody Fund 31.115



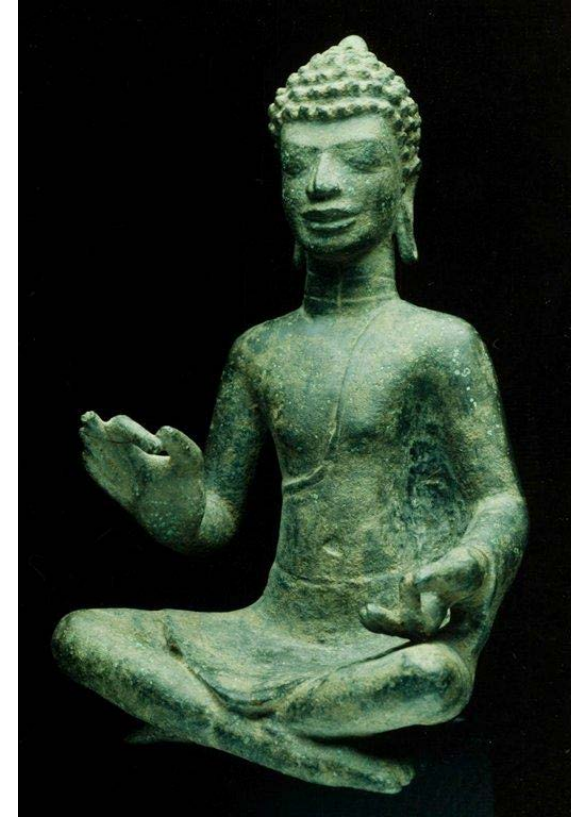
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
Thailand  
Standing Buddha, 16<sup>th</sup> century  
Bronze  
Gift of Mrs. Albertine W. F. Valentine  
19.691



# The Encyclopedic Approach: Identifying Collection Strengths



Thailand  
Buddha Head, 8<sup>th</sup> century  
Limestone  
Bequest of Alfred F. Pillsbury 50.46.219

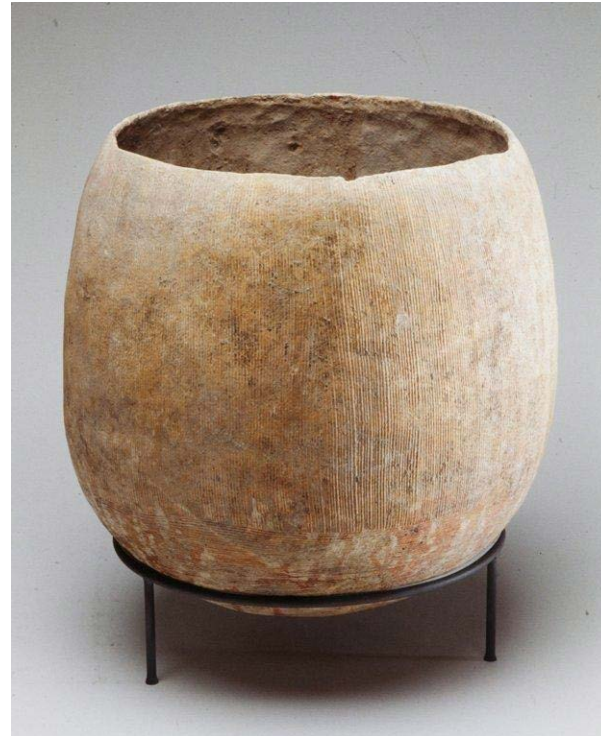


Thailand  
Seated Buddha, 7<sup>th</sup> Century  
Bronze  
The William Hood Dunwoody Fund  
69.86.2

# Collecting Opportunities: Southeast Asian Ceramics



Thailand  
Ceremonial Vessel, c. 1000 BCE  
Earthenware with impressed designs  
The Ethel Morrison Van Derlip Fund, The Helen Jones Fund for Asian Art, and the Suzanne S. Roberts Fund for Asian Art  
2000.204.1



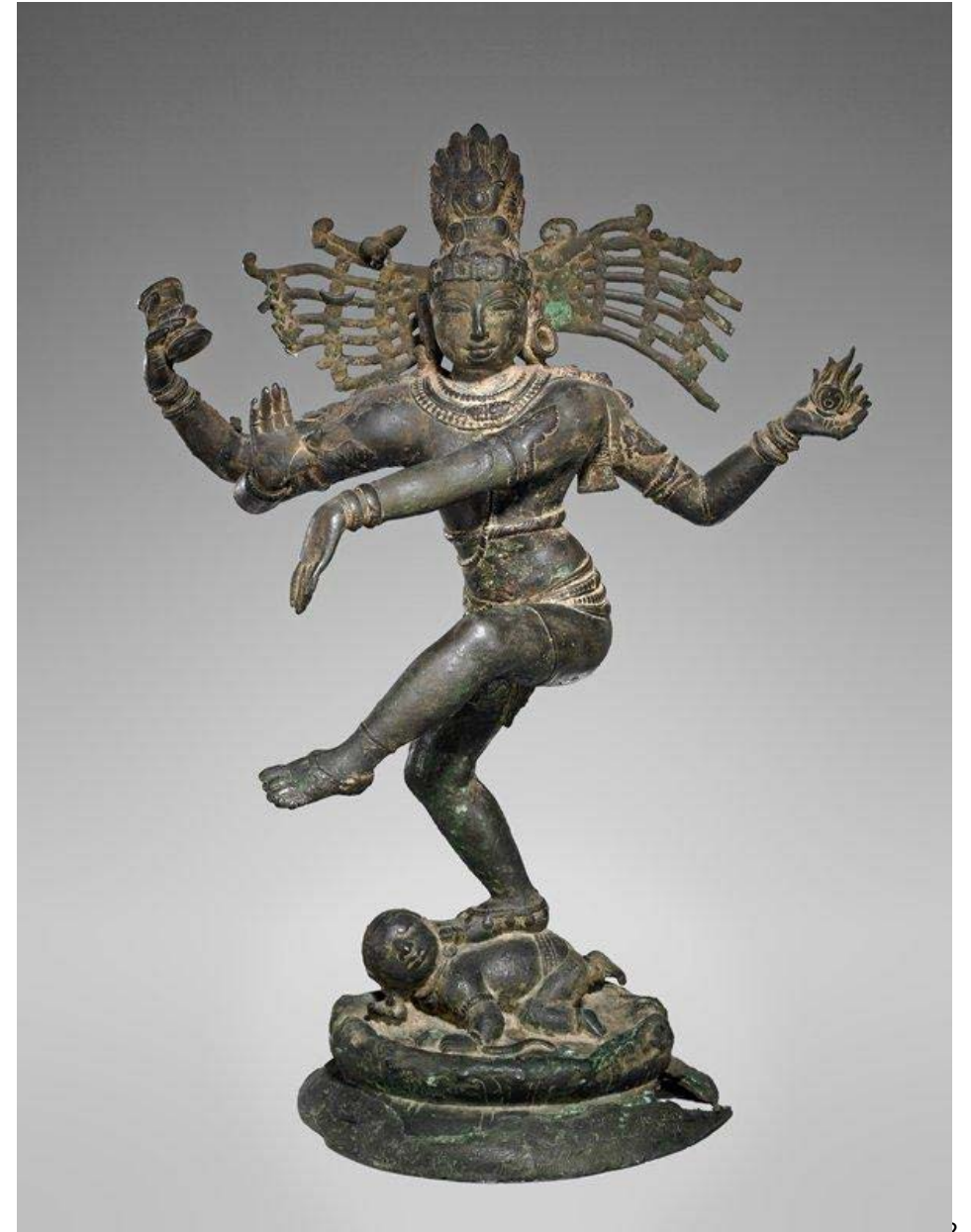
Thailand  
Vessel, 1500-500 BCE  
Earthenware  
Gift of Ruth and Bruce Dayton 93.7



Vietnam  
Grain Storage Building, from a model farmstead, c. 1st-2nd century  
High-fired earthenware  
Gift of the Asian Art Council 2001.31.6.2a,b



# The Gale Nataraja



India  
Shiva Nataraja, c. 1100  
Bronze  
Gift of Mrs. E. C. Gale 29.2

INTERNATIONAL STUDIO

Notes of the Month

THROUGH the generosity of Mrs. E. C. Gale, the Minneapolis Institute of Art is now in permanent possession of a bronze Nataraja, or dancing Siva, which experts believe dates from the thirteenth century. Discovered in a village near Pondicherry, this dancing god had been worshipped by its natives for something like six or seven hundred years. To remove this historic figure, whose every gesture possessed an aesthetic significance for the Hindu, it was necessary to obtain the consent of every one of the villagers, and even then this consent was not obtained until a new effigy had graced to the god, the townspeople finally gave their consent to the transaction. Still it remained sacrilege to touch the bronze god. Long poles were inserted through its base, and the statue was

reverently and cautiously placed in a primitive cart of the district. Until the Nataraja's spirit had by mystic rites been induced to transport itself into the new statue, no orthodox worshipper could be induced to handle the effigy now permanently at home in the Near East room of the Minneapolis museum.

According to a recent bulletin published at the Art Institute, the exact period of Mrs. Gale's gift is difficult to determine. Older Natarajas are full and solid with round faces and heavy forearms, in contrast to the attenuated, shapely and oval faces of later examples. From this we may consider the Institute's Nataraja to be fairly recent. Authorities believe that it may have been made as early as the eighth century, which would place the figure among the oldest in this country.



BRONZE NATARAJA, INDIA, THIRTEENTH CENTURY

BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Volume XVIII JUNE 1, 1929 Number 22



A BRONZE NATARAJA OR DANCING SIVA, XIII CENTURY. GIFT OF MRS. E. C. GALE





India  
Yogini with a jar, early 10th century  
Igneous rock  
The Christina N. and Swan J. Turnblad Memorial Fund 60.21



Tamil Nadu, India  
Child-Saint Sambandar, 15th century  
Bronze  
The Miscellaneous Works of Art Purchase Fund 59.6



India  
Somaskanda, 14th or 15th century  
Bronze  
The John R. Van Derlip Fund 2009.12.2a-c



Tamil Nadu, India  
Devi Uma Parameshvari, Great Goddess Uma, 14th century  
Bronze  
The John R. Van Derlip Fund 2009.12.1

## Conservation Needs

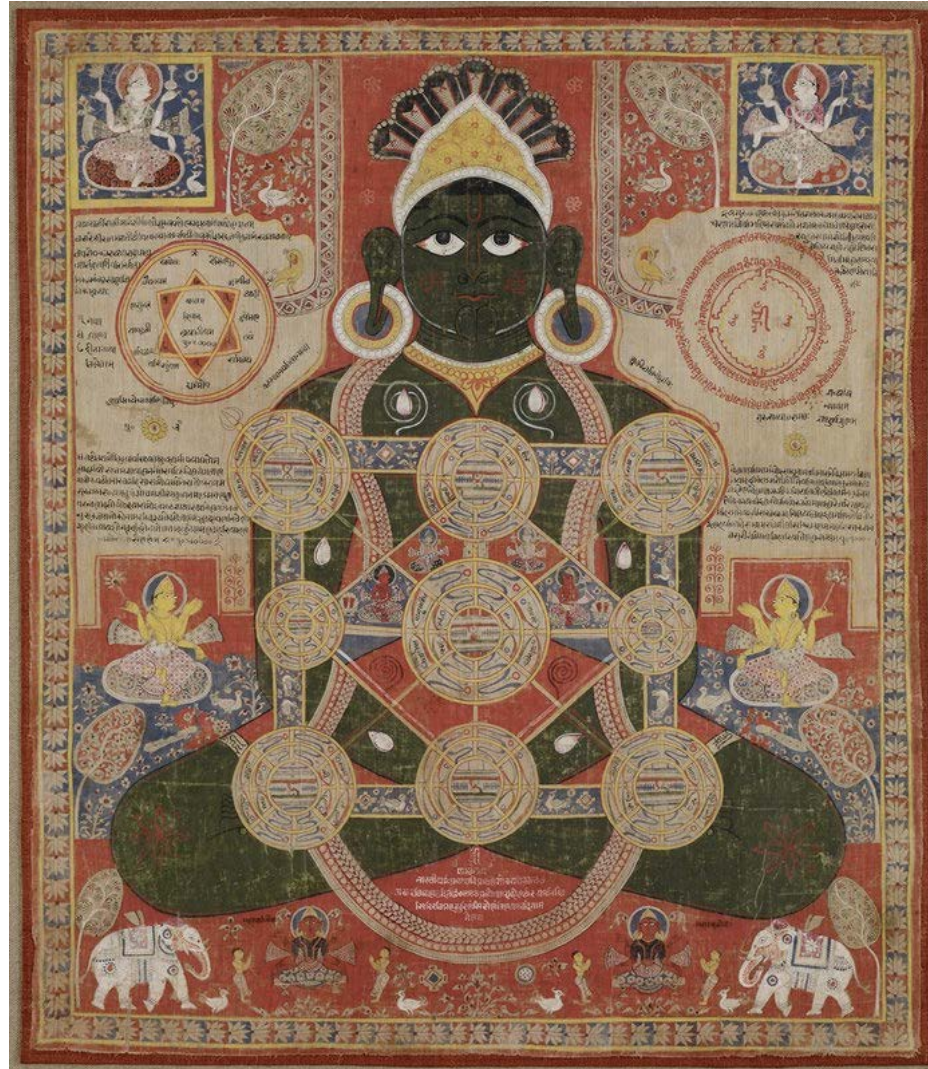




# Jainism



India  
Seated Jina, 1108  
Black stone  
The Katherine Kittredge McMillan  
Memorial Fund 98.211



India  
Cosmic Parsvanatha, c. 1525  
Colors on cotton  
The Katherine Kittredge McMillan Memorial Fund 97.77

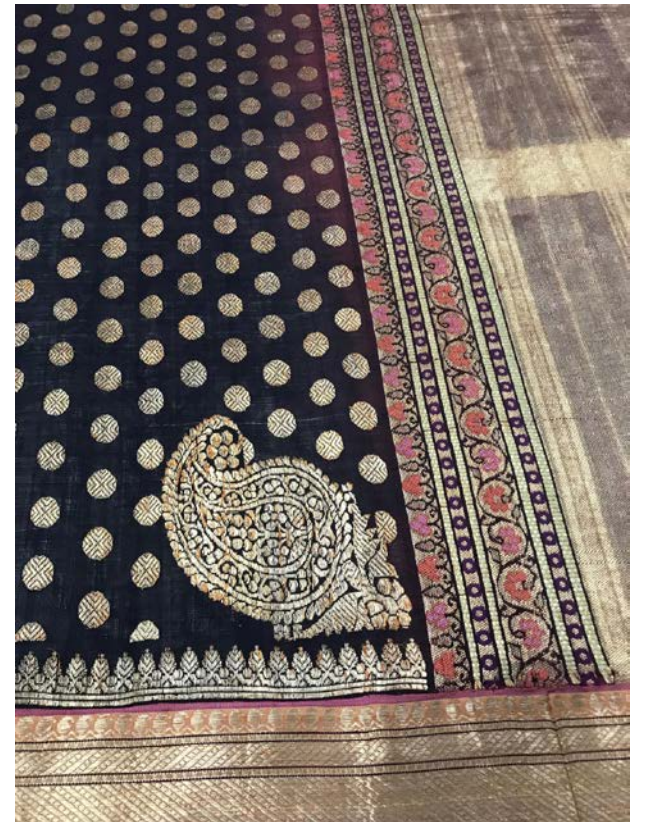
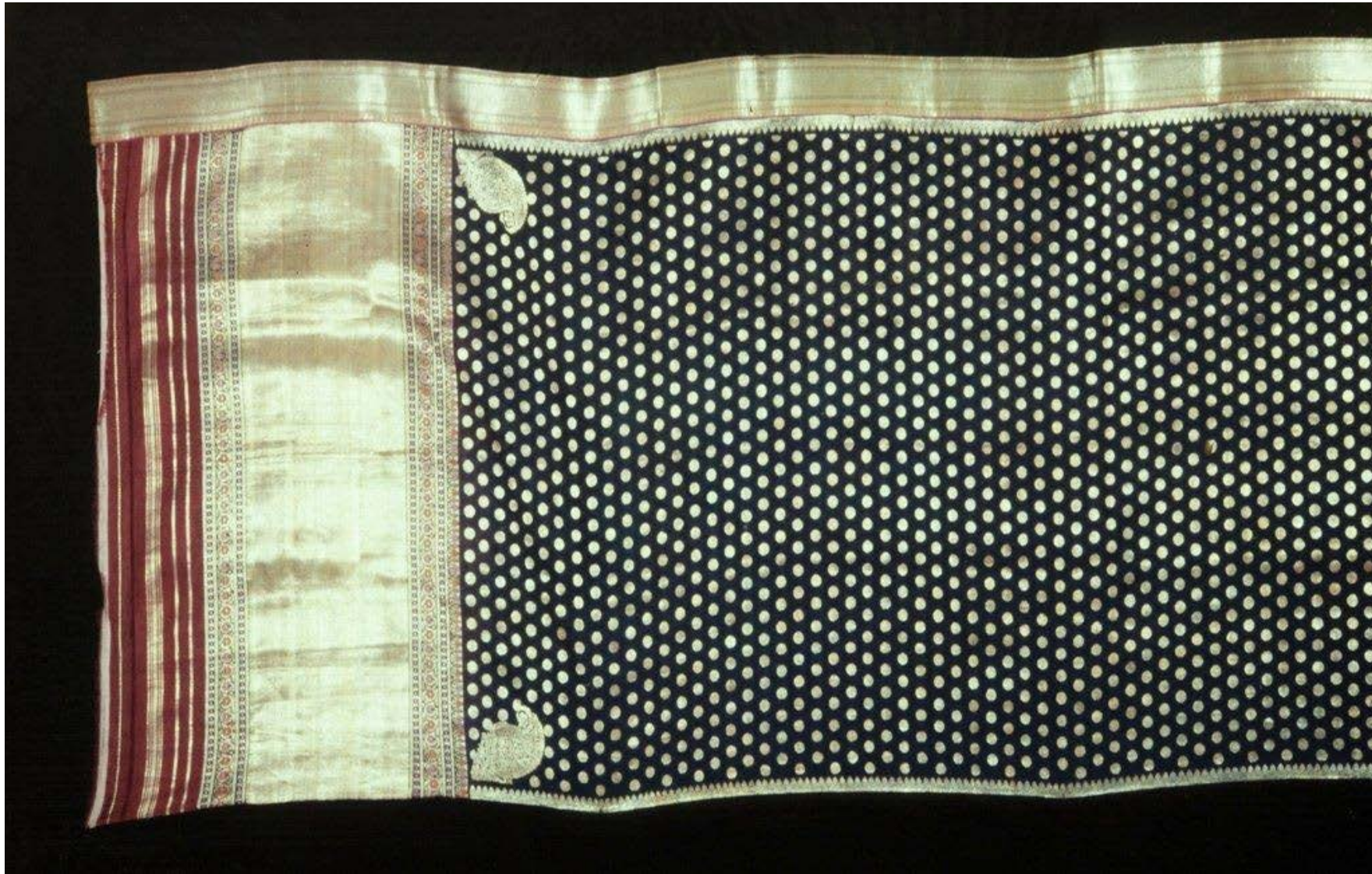
India  
Textile panel, 14th-15th century  
Cotton  
The Ethel Morrison Van Derlip Fund and gift of Robert T. Coffland  
in memory of Mary Hunt Kahlenberg 2018.50.32



# Miss Lily Place : 'The Most Prodigious Shopper in the Suq'



"Lily Place Corridor" July 6, 1926



India  
Sari, 19th century  
Silk, gold thread  
Bequest of Miss Lily Place  
30.23.3

# 1926 Traveling Exhibition: Kashmir Shawls



Kashmir, India  
Shawl, 19th century  
Wool; woven fabric  
Gift of Mrs. C.C. Bovey 42.47.9

[Nashville, Tenn. Dec. 1926]

Schedule of Shawls

Mrs. William J. Leverett, 121 Pearl Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa	October [1926]
Edgar C. McMechon, Secretary, Denver Art Museum, 1300 Logan Street, Denver, Colorado	November [1926]
Miss Louise Upton, Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California	December [1926]
Theodore Hanford Pond, Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, Ohio	January [1927]
Miss Valeria Farrington, Brooks Memorial Art Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee	February [1927]
Lillian K. Agnew, Travel Club, Great Falls, Montana	February 22 - [1927]
Miss Lulu Frances Miller, Director Haskell Gallery of Fine Arts, Muskegon, Michigan	March 26- April 26) [1927]
Grace Margaret Morton, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb. (Charge Miss Morton also for one magnifying glass which was lost while in the possession of the U. of Nebraska - \$1.50)	April 26-May 29) [1927]
[Broadman Art Academy Colorado Springs Colo]	Sept. 1927
Oregon Agricultural College Corvallis, Oregon	Nov-Dec 7 1927
University of Illinois Urbana, Ill.	Jan 1928

COPY Minnesota Institute of Arts, Archives  
Ex: Exhibitions: Indian and other Shawls from the collection of Mrs. Charles C. Bovey: 3/6/1928-6

# Painting: 101, Text to Image



Leaf from a Gandavyuha Manuscript, late 11th-early 12th century

Unknown artist, *Kathmandu Valley, Nepal*

*Ink and opaque watercolor on palm leaf The Margaret McMillan Webber Fund 95.86*



India  
 Cowherd Women Seek the God Krishna in the Forest, 1520-1540  
 Opaque watercolors on paper  
 The Katherine Kittredge McMillan Memorial Fund 95.4.1



Bhora, Indian  
 The Armies of Timur Combat the Forces of Nasir al-Din Mahmud Tughluq, from the Zafarnama, 1595-1600  
 Opaque watercolors and gold on paper  
 The Katherine Kittredge McMillan Memorial Fund 2014.101



Sheikh Zain al-Din, Indian  
Indian Roller on Sandalwood Branch, 1779  
Opaque colors and ink on paper  
Gift of Elizabeth and Willard Clark 2018.53.9

# Art of Yesterday and Today



Siji Krishnan, b.1983  
Family Portraits I, 2018  
Watercolor on ricepaper  
Christian N. and Swan J. Turnbland  
Memorial fund 2018.52



# Cross-Departmental Collaboration



Germany  
Turban snail shell cup, c. 1560  
Turban snail shell, turquoise, rubies or garnets, glass stones, gold lacquer, silver gilt mounts  
Gift of Funds from Mary Agnes and Al McQuinn 2018.60



Taj Mahal, Agra, India, 1860s  
*Samuel Bourne*  
*Albumen print*  
Gift of Fred Scheel 98.144.15

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# What's Next?

