



**Somaskanda, 14th or 15th century, India, bronze,
2009.12.2A-C**

Key Ideas:

- Shiva and his wife Uma (Parvati) sit on double lotus pedestals, Skanda (now missing), their small child, stands between them.
- Somaskanda, stands for Shiva (Sa) with Uma (ma) and Skanda. Symbolically, they represent the importance of family life and the importance of children in marriage
- format of Somaskanda arose in the 6th century, during the Pallava Period, and remains Shiva's main manifest form today in South India
- bronze images play a huge role in devotional practice, where they are treated as living embodiments of the gods
- holes in the base indicate that this bronze would have been carried in processions outside the temple grounds
- Priests dressed the gods in fine clothing, adorned them with flowers, and assembled an entourage of musicians and dancers to accompany them on a procession to bless the devotees who congregated along city streets.

Descriptive:

Interpretive:

Associative: