



Walking Shakyamuni Buddha, Thailand, 15th Century, 31.115

Key Ideas:

The creation of a walking Buddha image is a distinctive feature of Thai art.

Sukhothai Style, from the Sukhothai Kingdom of Thailand, flourished in the 1300s and 1400s and was the first Theravada Buddhist kingdom of Thailand.

The Sukhothai style of sculpture is very distinctive, with smooth long limbs, an oval face and smooth modeling of clothing and the flame-like ushnisha, walking peacefully with his eyes lowered.

It is a distinctly human presentation of Shakyamuni as a monk walking among the people emphasizing his earthly aspects.

The historical Buddha, born Gautama Siddhartha but more commonly known as Shakyamuni (Sage of the Shakya Clan), renounced his princely life at age 29 after becoming aware of the suffering inherent in human life—disease, aging, and death. Several years later he attained enlightenment and devoted his life to teaching people throughout northern India about a means of escaping from forms of suffering.

Descriptive:

Compare and contrast

Interpretive:

Associative: