

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Instructor: Joanna H. Woś

Humanities Discipline: Art Appreciation

Date: 9/20/16

World Religion: Hinduism

Teaching Module Title: Shiva Nataraja

Teaching Module Goals: To understand the meaning of the sculpture of Shiva Nataraja in terms of its place in the Hindu pantheon; its iconography; and its use (and importance) in its cultural context.

Assigned Readings and Websites:

1. [Http://www.artic.edu/aic/collections/artwork/24548?search_noF2&index=15](http://www.artic.edu/aic/collections/artwork/24548?search_noF2&index=15)
 - a. Art Institute of Chicago, About this artwork
2. <http://www.asia.si.edu/explore/indianart/resources.asp> (The Image, History and Geography, Ritual
 - a. Religions and Spirituality, Art Process, Contemporary, Resources)
3. http://www.indianartcircle.com/arteducation/page_14_artofCholas.shtml (Art of Cholas)
4. Sullivan, B. M. (2001). *The A to Z of Hinduism*. The Scarecrow Press Inc. Lanham, Maryland and London.
 - a. P. 56 (Chola). Pp. 142-144 (Nātārāja). Pp. 203-204 (Śiva). Pp. 61-62 (Darśana).
5. Eck, D. L. (2007) *Darśan: Seeing the divine image in India*. Motilal Banarsidass Publishers Private Limited.
 - a. Delhi. Pp. 3-10

Teachers' Resources:

1. Coomaraswamy, A.K. (2011) *The Dance of Śiva: Essays on Indian art and culture*. Dover Publications Inc.
 - a. Mineola, New York. Originally published (1924) as *The dance of Siva: Fourteen Indian essays*.
 - b. Sunwise Turn Inc., New York. Pp. 56-59. Pp. 65-66
2. Storl, W.-D. (2004) *Shiva: The wild god of power and ecstasy*. Inner Traditions. Rochester, Vermont. Pp.
 - a. 135-138. (The dancer in the flames).

Study Questions:

1. How does Shiva fit into the Hindu pantheon of gods? (What is the Trimurti?)
2. What is a Shiva Nataraja?
3. Explain the iconography of the sculpture.
4. How is this sculpture used in its cultural context?
5. Explain the terms Murti and Darshan.

Written Assignment:

Write a one page narrative about the Shiva Nataraja sculpture at the Chicago Art Institute incorporating the study questions, giving particular attention to the iconography and how, and where, the sculpture was used.