

Syllabus:

ARTH 104/SAST 200/SAST 500

Introduction to the Art of South Asia

Instructor: Professor Michael W. Meister

Teaching Assistant: Beth Citron

Fall 2008

TR 3-4:30

Jaffe 113



Atul Dodiya, "Between Two Thresholds," 2005

Interview with the artist:

<http://www.artinfo.com/News/Article.aspx?a=22615>



Nandalal Bose, "Annapurna," 1942

June 14 - December 7, 2008

Multiple Modernities: India, 1905-2005

Philadelphia Museum of Art

<http://www.philamuseum.org/exhibitions/321.html>

Course Description: "Art of South Asia" is a survey of painting, sculpture and architecture in the Indian sub-continent from 2300 B.C., touching on the present. It attempts to explore the role of tradition in the broader history of art in India, but not to see India as 'traditional' or unchanging. The Indian sub-continent is the source for multi-cultural civilizations that have lasted and evolved for several thousand years. Its art is as rich and complex as that of Europe, and as diverse. This course attempts to introduce the full range of artistic production in India in relation to the multiple strands that have made the cultural fabric of the sub-continent so rich and long lasting.

Methodology: Textbooks and image-study pages on-line provide a substantial outline of the material covered. My role as teacher is to think through the material with you. One of several issues I have tried to focus on before, for example, is the continuing 'hybridity' of South Asia in all periods (try looking the word up).

Image study pages for ARTH 104: are available on the Web.

These provide a range of images to review and study:

<http://dept.arth.upenn.edu/104/review.html> . [to access larger images, click on the thumbnail. Use "arthistory" as ID and "!jaffee!" as password]

Sections: Sections will meet in alternate weeks during class hours. One of the first sections will be a visit to the Philadelphia Museum of Art's special exhibition announced above. *Participation in sections and visits to museums are essential.*

Written Assignments: There will be short written assignments for sections throughout the course and one short research paper.

Required Texts: Available from Penn Book Center, 34th street.
Roy Craven, *A Concise History of Indian Art*, 1976 or
Vidya Dehejia, *Indian Art*. Phaidon Press, 1997.

Recommended:

Romila Thapar, *Early India*, 2002.

General Reference: Other significant texts that can provide other perspectives:

Coomaraswamy, Ananda K. *History of Indian and Indonesian Art*. 1927.

Dehejia, Vidya. *Indian Art*. Phaidon Press. 1997.

Ghosh, Pika and M. W. Meister. *Cooking for the Gods*. 1995.

Harle, James C. *The Art and Architecture of the Indian Subcontinent*. 1986.

Huntington, Susan. *The Art of Ancient India*. 1985.

Rowland, Benjamin. *The Art and Architecture of India: Buddhist, Hindu, Jain*. 1953.

Zimmer, Heinrich. *The Art of Indian Asia*. 1955.

Additional readings: will be assigned during the semester. These will be on reserve in the Fischer Fine Arts Library or available on Blackboard.

Course requirements: Participation in sections; short written exercises for sections; one hour exam; one short research paper (8-10 pp.) and a final exam

Outline of Lecture Topics, 2008: (subject to change)

Introduction, Thursday, September 4

Multiple Modernities, Tuesday September 9

Section 1: Thursday, September 11

Philadelphia Museum of Art, William Wood Gallery

Indus Valley Civilization and Its Art, Tuesday, September 16

Imperial Art Under the Mauryas, Thursday September 18

Shunga Art and Buddhist Populism, Tuesday September 23

Section 2: Thursday, September 25

Hybridity/Identity; Historical/Conceptual Outlines

Buddhist Caves and Urbanism, Tuesday September 30

Buddhist Caves and Narrative Art, Thursday October 2

Sanchi and the Stupa, Tuesday October 7

Section 3: Thursday October 9

University Museum, Buddhist Gallery

Tuesday October 14: Fall break

Kushan Art: Mathura & Gandhara, Thursday October 16

Gupta Art: Sacred and Secular, Tuesday October 21

Beginnings of Temple Hinduism, Thursday, October 23

Section 4: Midterm Revision, Tuesday October 28

MIDTERM EXAM: Thursday October 28

Temple Architecture: North and South, Tuesday November 4

Hybridity & Temple Architecture in the Deccan, Thursday November 6

Islam as a Cultural Interface: Architecture in the Sultanate Period, Tues. Nov. 11

Section 5: Thursday November 13:

Membrane of Tolerance: Middle and Modern India

Sultanate & 'Jainesque' Indian Painting, Tuesday November 18

Mughal Art & Architecture under Babur, Humayun & Akbar, Thursday Nov. 20

Mughal Art under Jahangir, Shah Jahan & Aurangzeb, Tuesday November 25

Thursday, November 27: Thanksgiving

Miniature Paintings in the Hindu Courts, 17th-18th Centuries, Tuesday Nov. 2

Pahari Painting, Thursday, November 4

FINAL EXAM: Date TBA

