

The M.K. Gandhi Center: Inner Peace and Sarvodaya
& Jain and Hindu Dharma Initiative, and Department of Philosophy, California State Fresno

Tangible Truths

Art Forms in Jainism, Buddhism, and Hinduism



This symposium aims to explore the complex roles of artworks in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism across Asia and throughout the world. Activated in transformative rituals and saturated with tactility and visuality, these art forms are created to capture the sublime. They serve as significant non-verbal communications and they assert their agency, and continue to shape human perception.

Thursday April 18, 2024

9:00 AM-5:30 PM

Peters Ellipse Gallery

Fresno State Library, 2nd Floor

Open and Free to Public

Registration recommended: <https://bit.ly/tangibletruths>

Zoom option available for lectures only

Thank you to our generous supporters

The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies
The JP and Renu Sethi Foundation
ASI.

Organizers: Dr. W. Saam Noonsuk, Department of Art Design and Art History (noonsuk@csufresno.edu)
and Dr. Veena R. Howard, Department of Philosophy (vehoward@mail.fresnostate.edu)



"M.K. Gandhi Center and Jain & Hindu Dharma Endowed Chair Initiative at Fresno State foster the values of nonviolence, inner peace, and wellbeing. The Spring 2024 symposium focuses on the various expressions of art that enhance spiritual, religious, and social experiences of humanity." -Dr. Veena R. Howard, Professor of Philosophy



Tangible Truths Timeline

8:45-9:15AM

Registration and Opening Ceremony

9:15-10:15 AM

Morning Keynote

Dr. Kaja McGowan, Cornell University

"Elemental Flight: Reassessing a Kinnara/Kinnari in Jain, Buddhist, and Hindu Art"

10:15-10:30 AM

Coffee Break

10:30-11:30 AM

Session 1

Tangible Journeys to the Sacred Realms

Moderated by Dr. Henry Climbing to t Delcore, CSU Fresno

- **Dr. An-Yi Pan, Cornell University**
"To Behold, Visualize, and Grasp:
Paths to Pure Land"

- **Dr. Wannasarn (Saam) Noonsuk, CSU Fresno**
"Beyond the Chronicles: The Burying of
the Relics, the Building of the Great Stupā,
and the Climbing to the Sacred Realm"

11:30-12:00 PM

Discussion Session 1

Moderated by Drs. Henry Delcore

Panelists include: Drs. Kaja McGowan, An-Yi Pan, and W. (Saam) Noonsuk

12:00-2:00 PM

Lunch

2:00-3:30 AM

Session 2

Transformative and Liberating Power of Art in Hindu,
Jain, Buddhist, and Gandhi traditions

Moderated by Dr. Veena Howard, CSU Fresno

- **Dr. Nalini Rao, Soka University of America**
"Interaction and Transformations:
Jain, Buddhist and Hindu Narrative
and Symbolic Paintings"

- **Dr. Nachiket Chanchani, University of Michigan,**
"Touch Me (Not)"

- **Dr. Debashis Banerji, California Institute of Integral Studies**
"Ritual Prescription and Creative
Freedom: The Case of Durga"

3:30-3:45 AM

Coffee Break

3:45-4:45 PM

Afternoon Keynote

Dr. Lisa Owen, University of North Texas

"Tangible Traces: Artistic Process as Multireligious Experience"

4:45-5:15 PM

Discussion Session 2

Moderated by Drs. Veena Howard and W. (Saam) Noonsuk

Panelists include: Drs. Lisa Owen, Nalini Rao,
Debashis Banerji, and Nachiket Chanchani

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