

NALINI RAO

Assoc. Professor of World Art
Soka University of America
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Education

- 1991 Ph.D. Art History, University of California, Los Angeles.
 Major: Indian Art
 Minors: Classical, Islamic Art.
 Indian and SE Asian History
- 1981 Ph.D. Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Mysore, Mysore, India.
 Ancient History and Archaeology
- 1973 M.A. University of Marathawada, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India
 History, Art and Architecture, S.E.Asia, Western History.

Positions Held

- 2006-Present Assoc.Prof of World Art
 Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo, CA
- 2000-06 Assistant Professor of World Art
 SUA.
 Asian Art, Indian Art and Civilization, Modern India,
 Modern Art, Architecture.
- 1997-98 Assistant Professor, Dept. of Art, University of Hawaii, Hilo
 Introduction to Art History, Asian Art, East Asian Art,
 Western Art, Modern Art.
- 1997 Curator of Asian Art
 Amarillo Museum of Art, Texas
- 1993- 96 Lecturer, Asian Art, CSULB, UCI, USC, UCLA
 Asian Arts
 (1995-CSUN, 1994-CSULB,1993-UCLA,1992-UCI, 19)

Museum Experience and Training

Architectural Drawing and Analysis. American Academy at Rome.2016. June-July
Museum workshop. Paul Getty Museum. 2003.

Cataloging works. UCLA. 1989.

Art Gallery, Designed and organized world art exhibitions. Marketing, art education
talks, co-ordination of artistic, and cultural activities. Involvement in student art. SUA.
2000-2008

Organizer: Art of the Sindhu- Sarasvati Civilization. Nehru Memorial Museum and
Library, New Delhi, 2014

Curator: Modern Chinese Painting in Los Angeles. SUA. 2006

Designer Curator: Contours of Modernity: An Exhibition of Contemporary Indian Art.
SUA. 2005

Designer: Gallery of Indus Script in Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati. India. 2003

Designer, Curator: Weaving the Earth in Harmony: An Exhibition of Native American
Art from the Collection of the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art and Photographs by
Eugene Lally. SUA. 2003

Organizer: Exhibition Bridges to Freedom: One man show by Gerome Gestaldi. SUA.
2001

Organizer, Curator: Boundaries and Transformations: Exhibition of South and Southeast
Asian Art from the Collection of Dr. Price. Seminar and Events. Amarillo, Texas.1997.

Curator of Asian Art, Amarillo Museum of Art, Amarillo, Texas Cataloging, organizing
exhibitions, educational lectures, interpretation. 1997-98.

Languages

Sanskrit, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Marathi, French.

List of Publications

Guru in Indian Tradition. Institutions, Icons and Relics. New Delhi: Aryan Books. 2025 (Forthcoming)

Ed. Nalini Rao, *Facets of Indian Culture: Papers Read in the International Conference “The Growth and development of Indian Culture.”* Aditya Prakashan. New Delhi: 2022
<https://www.exoticindiaart.com/book/details/facets-of-indian-culture-papers-presented-in-international-conference-growth-and-development-of-indian-culture-uac775/>

The Hindu Monastery in South India: Social, Religious and Artistic Traditions. Lexington Books. Rowman and Littlefield. Maryland. 2020
<https://www.amazon.com/Hindu-Monastery-South-India-Traditions/dp/179362237X>

Lothal: A Glorious Civilization. Navbharat publications. Ahmedabad. 2018 (in Gujarati language). <https://navbharatonline.com/catalogsearch/result/?q=lothal> Reprint 2023

Ed. *Sindhu-Sarasvati Civilization: New Perspectives.* New Delhi. DKPrintworld, 2014 .
<https://www.amazon.in/Sindhu-Sarasvati-Civilization-Perspectives-Shikaripur-Ranganatha/dp/8124607435>
<https://dkprintworld.com/author-book/nalini-rao/>

Royal Imagery and Networks of Power at Vijayanagara: A Study of Kingship in South India. Originals. Delhi. 2010.
<https://www.amazon.com/Royal-Imagery-Networks-Power-Vijayanagara/dp/8184540914>

Ed. *Sangama: A Confluence of Art and Culture During the Vijayanagara Period.* Originals. Delhi. 2005.
<https://readersend.com/product/sangama-a-confluence-of-art-and-culture-during-the-vijayanagara-period/>

Contours of Modernity: An Exhibition of Contemporary Indian Art. (NR and DB) G.K. Pub. Bangalore. 2005.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/335277339_2005_Contours_of_Modernity_An_Exhibition_of_Contemporary_Indian_Art

Boundaries and Transformations: Masterworks of Indian and South East Asian Sculptures from the collection of Dr and Mrs. William Price. Amarillo Museum of Art, Amarillo, Texas. 1997.
<https://www.abebooks.com/book-search/author/nalini-rao/>

Sravanabelagola. Art Publishers of India. Bangalore 1980.

Behr. Art Publishers of India. Bangalore 1979. Second edition, 1990.

Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals

Devotionalism in the Cultural and Social Spheres of India: Popular and Monastic Aspects of Hinduism in History
International Journal of Indic Religions. 2024
(<https://digitalcommons.shawnee.edu/indicreligions>)

Interwoven Concepts of Ascetic, God, and Relic: An Iconographical Innovation
During Pre-Modern Period in South India.
Journal of Dharma Studies. 2024
[//doi.org/10.1007/s42240-024-00166-z1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s42240-024-00166-z1)

https://link.springer.com/epdf/10.1007/s42240-024-00166-z?sharing_token=ArB5Fu2DF3vhHVFZksEstfe4RwlQNchNByi7wbcMAY4iCWaSJ CJEp_172Sz5whvHXi9H3IZYG75WAathxJ3KQZ74eYn5b20KHciZh08ZM4M1lCH TQLkJRCOAQCDrDEKV-2fSj-Z3g-9YC3vRe0dfIHnD9MM4uPrw3YWfA3Gwyso%3D
<https://rdcu.be/dDsh3>

Archaeological Sculptures Unearthed: Role of Ancient Architecture
Purattatva. Journal of Archaeology. 2024
<https://www.indarchaeology.org/about-the-Journal.html>

Identities of Women in Indian Art and History
Monsoon. South Asian Research Journal. 2024
<https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/monsoon-sasa-journal/vol2/iss1/2>

Growth of Hindu Mathas: Historical and Religious Context. *Journal of Historical, Archaeological and Anthropological Studies*. Vol. 1. No.1. 1-17. 2023
[https://www.pbjournals.com/image/catalog/Journal%20Papers/JHAAS/2023/No%201%20\(2023\)/1_Nalini%20Rao.pdf](https://www.pbjournals.com/image/catalog/Journal%20Papers/JHAAS/2023/No%201%20(2023)/1_Nalini%20Rao.pdf)

Archaeological Sculptures Unearthed: Role of Ancient Architecture at Siddhapur
Purattatva: Indian Archaeological Society. <http://indarchaeology.org/index.html>
(Forthcoming)

Identities of Women in Indian Art and History. *Monsoon. South Asian Studies Journal*.
Vol.2.No.1. 6-23. 2023

<https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1024&context=monsoon-sasa-journal>

Interwoven Concepts of Ascetic, God, Relic: An Iconographical Innovation during Pre-Modern Period in South India. *International Journal of Dharma Studies: Asian and Transnational Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics*. (Forthcoming 2024)

Devotionalism in the Cultural and Social Spheres of India: Popular and Monastic Aspects of Hinduism in History. *American Journal of Indic Studies*. Springer (Forthcoming 2024)

Hindu Arts and Aesthetics. *BRINA Project* (Forthcoming 2024)

The Meaning of Ritual and Ceremony in a Political Context: An Analysis of Architectural Reliefs. *South Asian History, Culture and Archaeology*, Vol. 2 No. 1.123-137. Sept. 2022
<http://www.esijournals.com/sahca>

Ganges in Indian Sculpture and Literature: Mythology and Personification
Monsoon: South Asian Studies Association Journal. Vol 1 No.1. 1-23. 2022
<https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/monsoon-sasa-journal/vol1/iss1/1/>

The Meaning of Ritual and Ceremony in a Political Context: An Analysis of Architectural Reliefs. *South Asian History, Culture and Archaeology*. Vol. 2, No. 1. 122-137. 2022
<http://www.esijournals.com/sahca>

New Perspectives on Jain Architecture and Sculpture at Sravana Belagola. *International Journal of Indic Religions*: 2. 3. Vol. 2 : Issue. 3, Article 2. 1-18. 2020.
<https://digitalcommons.shawnee.edu/indicreligions/vol2/iss3/2>

An Analysis of Political Power through Royal Iconography. *Nidan*. Vol 4, No. 1, July 2019. 157-180. Sept. 2019
<https://journals.co.za/doi/abs/10.10520/EJC-172570cc7c>

Indus Valley Civilization. Encyclopedia. Hinduism and Tribal Religions. Edited by Pankaj Jain, Rita Sherma, Madhu Khanna. 2018
https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007%2F978-94-024-1036-5_251-1

Journey to the Beyond: Expressionist Paintings and Poetry of Rabindranath Tagore. *Nidan – international Journal for Indian Studies*. Vol 2. No. 4-24 Dec 2017
<http://nidan.ukzn.ac.za/files/Nidan%20Volume%2002%20No%202%20December%202017.pdf>
<https://journals.co.za/content/journal/10520/EJC-c186d1c5f>

Religious Kingship in Cambodia and India: The Role and Status *Purohita* (King's Priest) in the context of the *Devarāja* (god-king) Tradition. *Nidan: International Journal for Indian Studies*, Vol. 2, No. 1., July 2017. (http://www.journals.co.za/ej/ejour_nidan.html)

Navaratri in South India. Symbolism and Power in Royal Rituals. *Sagar: A South Asia Research Journal*. 2016, XXIV.

Royal Religious Beneficence in Pre-Modern India: Political and Social Implications. *International Journal of Dharma Studies*. 2016. 4:7

<http://www.internationaljournaldharmastudies.com/content/4/1/7>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/305450411_Royal_religious_beneficence_in_pre-modern_India_social_and_political_implications

Rao, Nalini and Banerji, Debashish: Yoga: The Art of Transformation, curated by Debra Diamond. An Exhibition Review. *Exemplar*. 2.2, Fall 2014. 41-49.

The Aesthetics of Visual Perception in relation to Indian Temple Art: The dynamics of architecture and Sculpture. *Kala : the Journal of Indian Art History Congress*. Vol XIX, 2013-2014.

Modern Indian Art: 1947-2009. *Encyclopedia of Modern India*. ABC Clio. Greenwood. 2013-14
<https://products.abc-clio.com/ABC-CLIOCorporate/product.aspx?pc=B4629C>

Chapters in Edited Books

Vijayanagara: A Portrait of the City. Kalyan Mitra Felicitation Vol. 2023

The Hindu Monastery in South India. Facets of Indian Culture. Edited by Nalini Rao. Aditya Prakashan. New Delhi. 2022. 200-2012. <https://www.amazon.com/Facets-Indian-Culture-Nalini-Rao/dp/8195096182/>

Archaeology and Community Identity: The Case of Siddhapur in Western India. *KALYANA MITRA: Glimpses of Indian History, Culture and Archaeology*. Prof. P. Chenna Reddy Felicitation Volume .2021

file:///C:/Users/Nalini%20Rao/Downloads/KALYANA_MITRA_Glimpses_of_Indian_History.pdf

Jain Memorials in South India: Transformations in Form and Imagery *Nagabharana : Recent Trends in Jainism -- Felicitation Volume to Professor. Hampa. Nagarajaiah* (Hampana). 2021
https://www.academia.edu/42451248/Book_hampana_circular

An Analysis of Jain Sculpture and Built Environment: Recent Excavations in Karnataka. *South Asian Studies. Bridging Cultures*. Edited by Deepak Shimkhada.: South Asian Studies Association. Claremont, Ca. 2020. 127- 145.

<https://www.amazon.com/South-Asian-Studies-Bridging-Cultures/dp/B0891L45J4>

Relics, Icons, and Portraits in Hindu Institutions: An Examination of the Worship of the Teacher in *Across the South of Asia. A Volume in Honor of Professor Robert L. Brown*. edited by Robert D. Caroli and Paul A. Lavy. New Delhi: DKPrintworld. 2020. 121-132.

<https://www.amazon.com/Across-South-Asia-Professor-Robert/dp/8124610053>

Contribution of Lothal and Dvaraka to Indian Archaeology in Felicitating a legendary archaeologist Prof. B.B. Lal edited Mani,B.R. and others DKPW, Delhi. 2018. 217-226

<https://soka.app.box.com/file/365339592560>

<https://worldcat.org/ILL/AE/Gj8MfJuo8>

Indus Valley Civilization. Encyclopedia. Hinduism and Tribal Religions. Edited by Pankaj Jain, Rita Sherma, Madhu Khanna. 2018

https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-94-024-1036-5_251-1

Multi-Zonal Integration and Network Relations at Vijayanagra. *Nationalism and Imperialism in South and Southeast Asia: Essays Presented to Damodar R. Sardesai*. Edited by Arnold P. Kaminsky and Roger D. Long. Manohar. New Delhi. 2015.24-64.

<https://www.amazon.com/Nationalism-Imperialism-South-Southeast-Asia/dp/1138234834>

Relation between Art and Archaeology: its possibilities in Maritime Studies in India in *Searches on Indus Civilization and Maritime Archaeology in India* edited by A.S.Gaur and Sundaresh. Agam Kala Prakashan. Delhi. 2015. 111-116.

An Analysis of the Concept of Sacredness in Indus Valley Art: Retracing

The Roots of the Goddess in *Perspectives on the Origin of Indian Civilization* edited by Angela Marcantonio. DKPrintworld. New Delhi. 288-304. 2012.

<https://www.amazon.com/Perspectives-Origin-Indian-Civilization-Marcantonio/dp/8124606404>

Power and Patronage in the Making of Gandhara Art. *The Visual and Performing Arts: An International Anthology: An Introduction* edited by Stephen Andrew Arbury. Greece. 269-280.2012

An Aesthetic Experience of Hoysala Architecture: The Influence of the Patron and Artist in *Hoysala: A World Heritage in Stone*. Kannada Vrinda. Houston. 28-54. 2004.

A Dynamic Religious Leader in Rural India: Dharmadhikari Veerendra Heggade of Dharmasthala. *Charisma and Commitment in South Asian History: Essays Presented to Stanley Wolpert* edited by Roger D. Long, pp.367-378. Orient Longman, New Delhi. 367-378. 2004.

<https://www.amazon.com/Charisma-Commitment-History-Presented-Stanley/dp/812502641X>

The Heroic Tradition in South Indian Art in *Ananya: A Portrait of India* edited by S.N. Sridhar and Mattoo. The Association of Indians in America. New York. 523-544.1997

Royal Portraits at Vijayanagara: Identification and Meaning in *New Trends in Indian Art and Architecture* edited by B.U. Nayak and Ghosh, Aditya Prakashan. New Delhi 349-366. 1992.

https://primo.getty.edu/primo-explore/fulldisplay/GETTY_ALMA21122145960001551/GRI

The Buddha and Bodhisattva as Rescuers of Seamen. *Recent Advances in Marine Archaeology* edited by S.R.Rao. National Institute of Oceanography. Goa. 185-187.1988.

Marine Art in India. *Marine Archaeology of Indian Ocean Countries* edited by S.R.Rao. National Institute of Oceanography. Goa. 1988. 93-96

Sculpture Under the Chalukyas of Badami. *Rangavalli: Recent Researches in Indology* edited by A.V. Narasimha Murthy and B.K. Gururaja Rao. Sandeep Prakashan. New Delhi. 1983. 215- 224

Organization of Conferences

2023 Organizer of Seminar/ Webinar. (Speaker, Dr. Nambirajan) Bronze Images: Masterpieces of Indian Art Memorial Foundation and Archaeological Survey of India. Bengaluru. April 21, 2023.

https://zoom.us/rec/share/3o1JuDE5aZJ8jA6XP5btI3i_DFnUa1o6tBKvJM7noJK0tRDXvriTqoAVZeUfkzNt.fP4wCqHSbgcv0BC8

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/nBzs4J2a6dAAH5bEjnS0p2DryTwUqpsDI0tOq5drmNT2Fj97SLLbqoPQrxqhLPoE.oaYJmfyOK7pxdX7S>

Organizer of Seminar/ Webinar. Recent Excavations at Sinauli. Memorial Foundation and Archaeological Survey of India. Bengaluru. July 1, 2022.

https://zoom.us/rec/share/ETCGKPOqZ1AYf3XjWBPWdQ1IDZpNnj8H7ZCEwzJyvd20meqO5Fj2ddHipXJbzTc.pkl eu_1JXaZRPc4J

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/fLstaQOzAD-ergzcu16fGhQl3iSPmoL5iPi0gunfzHgo8QeWy-kp1-HirliOWk0.cjIFOS3YbpO4QTDm>

Organizer, Director of International Conferences:

Director, organizer of International Conference on The Growth and Development of Indian Culture: Historical and Literary Perspectives. Prehistoric Period to Twelfth Century CE. Bengaluru. 2018
<http://www.srraofoundation.org/internationalconference.html>

Curator: Art of the Sindhu- Sarasvati Civilization. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, 2014

Director and Organizer: International Conference, Rivers and Environment in Asia. Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast, ASPAC at Soka University of America. 2009.

Director: International Conference, The Sindhu-Sarasvati Valley Civilizations: A Reappraisal, Loyola Marymount University. Los Angeles. 2009

Organizer: International Conference, Sangama: A Confluence of Art and Culture in South India. Loyola Marymount University and Los Angeles County Museum of Art. 2005

As Chair of Conference Panels

2023 Bronze Images: Masterpieces of Indian Art Memorial Foundation and Archaeological Survey of India. Bengaluru. April 21, 2023.

https://zoom.us/rec/share/3o1JuDE5aZJ8jA6XP5btI3i_DFnUa1o6tBKvJM7noJK0tRDXvriTqoAVZeUfkzNt.fP4wCq_HSBgcv0BC8

Panel Chair of Seminar/ Webinar/ Memorial Foundation and Archaeological Survey of India. July 1, 2022. Recent Excavations at Sinauli.

In Plenary Session: SASA. Q/A
Ganges in Indian Sculpture and Literature 2022

International Symposium on History of India: Theory, Methods, Practice. July 15-16 2022
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tn-BxcJ5Mp0&ab_channel=IIASShimla

Panel Moderator: Re-examining the Past in South Asia: Changing Perspectives. Annual Conference, South Asian Studies Association. SASA Feb 6 2021
https://drive.google.com/file/d/17K4YhUerIW_H3QWMIuSGTEp-v59kZwF/view

Panel Moderator: Goddess: Shakti Worship and Tantrism: Art,

Religion and Narrative. SASA Claremont. March 2019

Panel Chair: Indian Art and Visual Culture. *International Conference on The Growth and Development of Indian Culture: Historical and Cultural Perspectives. Prehistoric Period -12th C CE*. Bangalore, India. July 2018

<http://nebula.wsimg.com/cb2b8850abff821f54bdd1c3890cb04f?AccessKeyId=A9ECA2FFC203BDB47DF1&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

Panel Chair -Controversy in California School Textbooks, . SASA ASIA PACIFIC AT SUA April 2020. WCAAS. SUA. 2018

Panel Chair: Continuities and Transformations in the Aniconic Symbols of the Buddha in Kanaganahalli -Recently Discovered Buddhist Site in Karnataka, South India SSEASR, University of Kelaniya. Sri Lanka. June 2015

Chair: Annual South Asia Conference at Center for South Asian Studies, UCB, Berkeley. 1996.

Research Papers Read in International Conferences

Archaeology, History and Mahabharata.
SASA Feb. 2025

Narrative and Expeiential Elements in Krishna Lila Scenes
SASA March 2024

Janism, Buddhism, and Hinduism The M.K. Gandhi Center: Inner Peace and Sarvodaya at California State University, Fresno & Jain and Hindu Dharma Initiative
Interaction and Transformations: Jain, Buddhist and Hindu Narrative and Symbolic Paintings
April 2024

Technology and Underwater Archaeology: Discovery of Krishna's Dvaraka
Indian Institute of Industrial Engineering. Bengaluru Chapter
Dec 16, 2023.
https://zoom.us/rec/share/ewtH1OF3sQ2bpXhgFZMRh5avR02fTfFDDiXDflt9wOf_a_6DHGZDciQlmtTEIKO.FmFQCczv5RWP7jik

Anomaly of Relic Veneration in India.
ARSSS International Conference. Dec 10, 2023

Indus Script: New Researches in International Seminar on Harappan Writing and New Researches on the Decipherment of the Indus Script. Institute of Archaeology, Archaeological Survey of India, Feb 3 2023. New Delhi. India.

Role of Trade, Royalty, and Ideology in the Spread of Buddhism in Deccan India
Panel 3. *South Asian Studies Association. SASA 2022*

Identity of Indus Valley Civilization: Correcting Misinterpretations. Re-examining the Past in South Asia: Changing Perspectives. Feb 6, 2021. Annual Conference, *South Asian Studies Association. SASA Feb 6 2021*

https://drive.google.com/file/d/17K4YhUerIW_H3QWMIuSGTEp-v59kZwF/view

Shakta Tantra in Material Visual Culture: in Panel 4C, BC25 Shakti Worship and Tantrism: Art, Religion and Narrative. *South Asia Studies Association. SASA. Claremont, March 2019*

Multi-zonal Integration at Vijayanagar, Hampi: Temple, King and Market
International Conference on Indian Temple Architecture. *Devayatanam* . Ministry of Culture. ASI. Hampi, Karnataka, India. Feb 25-26, 2022.

<https://amritmahotsav.nic.in/temple-architecture-devayatanam.htm>

Guru Bhakti as Understood in the Dvaita Sampradaya. Dharma Academy of North America. DANAM/ AAR. San Diego. CA 2019.

<https://danam-web.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/DANAM-Agenda-2019-Tentative-for-web-5-28-19.pdf>

The Hindu Monastery in South India. *International Conference on The Growth and Development of Indian Culture: Historical and Cultural Perspectives. Prehistoric Period -12th C CE*. Bangalore, India. July 2018

<http://nebula.wsimg.com/cb2b8850abff821f54bdd1c3890cb04f?AccessKeyId=A9ECA2FFC203BDB47DF1&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

Archaeology and Community Identity: The Case of Siddhapur in Western India. *SASA* (South Asian Studies Assoc., Claremont, Ca) March 2018

<https://sasaonline.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/DIGITAL-SASA-CONFERENCE-2018.pdf>

Archaeology and Community Identity: The Case of Siddhapur in Western India. *SASA. March 2018*

Knowledge of the Past Challenges of Justification, Interpretation and Preservation: Case of Dvaraka. *Mahabharata Manthan*. New Delhi. July 2017

Aesthetics of Indian Temple Architecture.

SASA. Claremont, Ca. March 2017

The *Kalacakra Mandala* in Vajrayana Buddhism. International Conference on Tradition and Innovation in Vajrayana Buddhism:
A Mandala of 21st Century Perspectives. Thimphu, Bhutan .July 2016.

Heritage Tourism: Introduction, Meaning and its relation to Historical Preservation Colloquim: Heritage Tourism and Historical Preservation.
Bangalore. Mythic Society. Aug 2015

Continuities and Transformations in the Aniconic Symbols of the Buddha in Kanaganahalli -Recently Discovered Buddhist Site in Karnataka, South India
SSEASR, University of Kelaniya. Sri Lanka. June 2015

Religious Kingship in Angkor and South India: The Importance of the *Purohita* or of the King's Priest.
Religious Studies Experts Conference in Cambodia: Understanding the Old and Tracing the New. Siem Reap. Cambodia. June 2012

Image and Word in South Asian Art: Understanding the paintings of Rabindranath Tagore.
South Asian Studies Association, Claremont. April 2012

Power and Patronage in the Making of Indo-Greek Art in Northwest India.
International Conference on Fine and Performing Arts, Athens, Greece. June 2010

Artistic Interaction between Greece and India in Northwest India: Role of Royal and Religious Establishments.
South Asian Studies Association, Los Angeles. May 2010

Ganges in Indian Sculpture and Literature: Myth and Personification:
Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast. Soka University of American. June 2009

Aniconic Sculpture or Architecture: Interaction between Buddhist and Hindu Images in South India.
Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast. Victoria. Canada. June 2008

Contemporary Interpretation and Traditional Concepts in Modern Indian

Art: 1950-1980.

South Asian Studies Association, Los Angeles. May 2008

One and Many in Hinduism: Artistic and Literary References.

Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast, Honolulu. June 2007

Royal Legacy in Mysore: Interaction between Vijayanagara and Mysore.

Seminar on the Wodeyars of Mysore. Museum of Fine Arts. Houston, 2006

Authority and Celebration in South India.

Sangama: A Confluence of Cultures. International Conference. New York,
Houston, Los Angeles. Nov. 2005

Temple Rituals: The Case of Chandralamba.

Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast. June 2005

The Modern and Postmodern in Contemporary Indian Art.

Seminar on Contemporary Art of India. Soka University of America. Feb.2005

Fresh Approach to the Study of Buddhist and Hindu Monasteries.

15th Biennial Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia.
Canberra. June 2004.

The Image of the Goddess in Contemporary India: The Interrelation

between Art, Ritual and Design with a Special Emphasis on the Eye Opening
Ceremony.

Annual Meeting of the Art Historians of Southern California. Los Angeles.
2001.

The Institutionalization of the Guru in Ritual, History and Art of India.

Art Historians of Southern California, Annual Meeting, Los Angeles.1999

Traditions and Anomalies: Problems in Interpretation of South Asian Art.

College Art Association, Los Angeles. CA.1998

Art and Role of Hindu Monasteries in Medieval India.

Twenty sixth Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.1997

The Politics of Gift Giving. Religion, Society and Ideology as recapitulated in
Art.

Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast. Monterey, California .1997

Alternate Histories: Examining the overlooked Perspectives in Indian Art
History – Panel

Chair: Annual South Asia Conference at Center for South Asian Studies, UCB,
Berkeley. 1996.

Kingship, Ritual and Art at Vijayanagara :An Analysis of the reliefs on the
Mahanavami Dibba at Hampi.

South Asia Conference. Center for South Asian Studies, Berkeley.1992

Raghavendra Swamy Center at Mantralaya - Representation of death in
Religious Structures.

Conference, Religion in South India’ at Williamstown, Massachusetts.1991

Depiction of Indian Sea Gods and Goddesses in Literature, Epigraphy and Art.
Second Indian Conference on Marine Archaeology of Indian Ocean Countries,
National Institute of Oceanography, Goa. 1990

The Hindu Moslem Rift -Panel Chair.

Symposium on the Film Gandhi . University of Houston, Texas. 1983

Art and Sanskrit Literature:Text and Imagery in the Paintings in Western
Indian caves.

Sanskrit Conference on poet Kalidasa .University of Bangalore. 1980.

Invited Public Talks

Interaction Between Image and Text: Narrative Modes and Structures in Indian Art

May 6, 2024 SUA

<https://forms.office.com/r/Jpe2WUEhZf>

“Interaction and Transformations: Jain, Buddhist and Hindu Narrative and Symbolic Paintings”

The M.K. Gandhi Center: Inner Peace and Sarvodaya & Jain and Hindu Dharma Initiative, and Department of
Philosophy, California State Fresno Art Forms in Jainism, Buddhism, and Hinduism Tangible

April 18, 2024 . CSUF

Shri Talks. Interpretation of Ancient Indian History and Culture

You tube. June 2022

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=_yx2T11ZbFU&t=2s&pp=2AECkAIB

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=yx2T11ZbFU&t=2s&ab_channel=ShreetaalksEnglish

Multizonal Integration at Vijayanagar, Hampi: Temple, King and Market
International Conference on Indian Temple Architecture

Networks of Power in Medieval India: Art History - an Interdisciplinary Study
International symposium on History of India, Theory, methods practice (Lavanya) July 15 -16
2021

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/tn-BxcJ5Mp0>

Webinar and Guest Talk. Role, Status and Power: The Many Identities of Women in Indian
Visual Culture. March 7, 2021 (on Women's Day)

Kalapriya. Foundation. Center for Indian Performing Arts. Chicago

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvOGjSwXa1o&t=53s&ab_channel=KalapriyaChicagoArts
https://www.google.com/search?q=kalapriya+foundation+rao+women%27s+day+2021&rlz=1C1AWFC_enUS761US761&sxsrf=ALeKk01IXj6QHKfQOnqwrYQJPAzGlzjIBw:1619215495286&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=XaCcuDTlmxpv5M%252Czg20x2yl3RXKeM%252C%253BESbejTXRvENHOM%252CzIHPML5EAG68mM%252C%253BTzXXaGPUEf_rdM%252C4w-WXD9cSLwDsM%252C%253BCdWHqB_V1pNGOM%252Czg20x2yl3RXKeM%252C%253BFsohK16bHKp00M%252CfcETuiIefaMwxM%252C%253BpCRJ3vMG_VTiqM%252CecW7N7aBTOY5IM%252C%253B_x8naxuXeWe7hM%252C_OhEcyDw1itPQM%252C%253BLAnvf9qLvNXQKM%252C_Dq2_xhRUr8BK M%252C%253BI3tYJ8uS53BWvM%252CJQneld_0lZKw-M%252C%253BtYJfHVCa1VJuVM%252C5MFYdORFFYFMcM%252C&vet=1&usg=AI4_-kSaGxL2-A5jCV1EJr04xAtmt32Eww&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjI3KTjr5XwAhXHi54KHWVuBBsQ9QF6BAgdEAE&biw=1097&bih=650#imgsrc=xWWNA_REYdrc-M

Webinar and Guest Talk

The City of Krishna's Dvaraka: From Mythology to History . Sangam Talks

<https://sangamtalks.org/category/nalini-rao/>

<https://sangamtalks.org/the-city-of-krishnas-dvaraka-from-mythology-to-history-sangamtalk-by-dr-nalini-rao/>

On you tube: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=nWKLL05N9PQ>

Buddhist Sangha and Royal Patronage at Kanaganahalli: Recent Excavations in South India. Fo
Guang Shan Hsi Lai Temple & University of the West. CA April 6, 2019

Expressions of the Dharma: Buddhist Art and Culture in Everyday Life
<https://www.ishb-uwest.org/2019-conference>

Sakta Tantra. International Conference. Sanchi. India. 2018

Social Role of Jain Architecture: The Case of Sravanabelagola in Karnataka . *Jainism and Environment*. Dept. of Philosophy and Religion. University of North Texas. Denton, Tx. April 14, 2018
(attachment)

Contribution of Lothal and Dvaraka: Jain University. Bangalore. July 2015

Lothal and Sindhu-Sarasvati Civilization
Dept. of Archaeology, Indian Institute of Technology, Ahmedabad. July 2015

Indian Art and Architecture: Lectures, 2014
Jain University, Bangalore, 2014

Writing about Indian Art. Six Workshops in architecture, painting, sculpture
National Museum, New Delhi, Aug 2014.

Sri Chakra: Tantra, Yantra and Mandala: Exploring Abstraction in Indian Art
Cultural Integration Fellowship. San Francisco. Jan 2014

Networks of Power in Pre-Modern South India.
Saddleback Distinguished Lecture Series. Los Angeles. May 2013

Uniqueness of Hindu Temples: Understanding its Architecture and Sculpture
Bharatiya Vichar Manch. Los Angeles. Feb. 2012

Historicity of Lord Krishna: Underwater Excavations.
Vedanta Center, Hollywood, CA. Feb. 2011

Yoga and Meditation
Bowers Museum of Art. Santa Ana. CA. Feb, 2011

Indus and Vedic Civilizations: A Reappraisal.
Museum of Asian Art. San Francisco, CA. May 2010.

Ganges in Indian Art: Myth and Historicity.

California Institute of Integral Studies.San Francisco. April 2010

Mandala in Indian and Tibetan Art and Architecture.
City of Irvine. CA.2008

Integration of Visual and Performing Arts in India: *Kala Sangama*
Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Nov. 2005

Traditions and Transformations in Hoysala Art: Kings, Artisans and
Communities.
International Seminar on Hoysala Art, Museum of Fine Arts. Houston .2004

A Glimpse into India's Spirituality through Art.
Asha for Education. Phoenix, AZ. Aug 2004

Tradition and Modernity in Indian Art.
Indira Gandhi Center for Indian Art. Bangalore .2004.

Theory of Rasa in Miniature Indian Painting.
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and the Chitrakala Parishat. Bangalore. 2003

A Majestic Journey of Gandhara and Islamic Art.
Pakistani Embassy, American Forum . LA 2003

Art of India and S. E. Asia: Problems of Research.
Dept.of History, University of California Los Angeles. 2001

Art and Kingship in Ancient Vietnam.
University of California Los Angeles.Dept. of History. 2000

Erotic Art of India.
University of California Los Angeles Extension.1997

Boundaries and Transformations: Transforming Dichotomies in
Indian and Southeast Asian Art.
Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena.1997

Colonial Architecture - Drawing Socio- spatial Boundaries.
Chitrakala Parishat. Bangalore. 1995

Temple Urbanism and Religious Gifting in Pre Modern India.
All India Radio.Bangalore. 1993

Guest Lecture, Series on Indian Religion,Philosophy and Art.
California State University Northridge.1991

Krishna and Krishnaism in Indian Art.
Department of Anthropology, University of Houston, Houston .1982

Guest Lecture, Series on Buddhism, Hinduism and Indian History.
Department of History, University of Houston, Houston .1982

Other Activities

Mandala Therapy: Psychospiritual Model of Integration Through Arts
Ph.D. Committee Member
California Institute of Integral Studies 2024

Co- editor Peer Reviewed Journal: *Monsoon. South Asian Studies Association*, Ca 2021-
Present
<https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/monsoon-sasa-journal/editorialboard.html>

Orange County Art Contest. K-12. Dept. of Education. Judge for Art students 9th Graders. 2022

Public Art and Historical Truth. Oct 14, 2021. SUA Talk

Director of Academic Affairs– for International Commission for Human Rights and Religious
Freedom ICHRRF 2020- Present
<https://www.ichrrf.org/home/about-ichrrf#h.65yxfuxau9a2>
Organizer of Virtual Global summer internship program for College Students at ICHRRF -

Chair, Taksha Center of History and Archaeology (TICHA) 2019 – present
<https://www.taksha.org/divisions/TICHA>

Member of Board of Trustees, University of the Arts, Silicon Andhra. CA
2019-2021 (Visual Art Historian/WASC Accreditation)
<https://www.universityofsiliconandhra.org/our-people/board-of-trustees/>

Chairman of ‘Dr. S.R.Rao Memorial Foundation for Indian Archaeology,
Art and Culture.’ Bangalore, India. 2013- present.
<http://www.srraofoundation.org/founding-trustees-and-office-bearers.html>

Designer Curator: Contours of Modernity: An Exhibition of Contemporary Indian Art. SUA.
2005

Academic Consultant/ for Ancient History and Archaeology of India. Ca TextBooks for Social Science for 6th and 8th graders (2006- present). Member of ESHI, Text book committee revisions for Ca text books on India. Participant in Ca Board of Education, Sacramento.

Knowledge partner with Ancient Indian History and Heritage Center in Govardhan Eco-Village, Bombay

<https://ecovillage.org.in/assets/pdf/sos-report.pdf>

Working with Museum in National Maritime Heritage Complex, Gujarat, on display and historical correctness about Roots of Indian Civilization

<https://www.drishtiiias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/national-maritime-heritage-complex-lothal>

Working with Fridays Storytellers and Movies- on production of Documentary Video on archaeological excavations, Western India.

<https://www.fridaystorytellers.com/>

Obtained for SUA library, donation from UCLA, CSULB (historian) and CSULB (art historian), books on history, art, anthropology, political science, religious studies and philosophy of South Asia (2018 – 2020).

Advisory Board on Indian Temples

<https://indian-temples.in/advisory-board/>

Member of Yaduanand Center of Indian Studies, CSULB

Study Circle on Indian Art, San Diego Museum of Art, Ca

Experts Committee, Bharatiya Vichar Manch. Indian Studies Program. LA

Advisor, Academic Consultant, Uberoi Foundation Institute for Curriculum Advancement, Ca, U.S.A. 204-15

Board Member, South Asian Studies Association. Ca.2013-2017

Member of ESHI, Text book committee revisions for Ca text books on India.

Presented historical evidences from Indian Archaeology and Ancient History
Sacramento, Dept. of Education, 2006-

Hindu American Foundation.

Director of International Conference on The Growth and Development of
Indian Culture: Historical and Literary Perspectives. Prehistoric Period -12th
C. CE. Bangalore, India. 2018.

<http://www.srraofoundation.org/internationalconference.html>

Initiator of Study Circle on Indian Art, San Diego Museum of Art, Ca. 2017-
Present.

Experts Committee, DCF (Dharma Civilization Foundation) Indian Studies Program.
Florida .

Academic Consultant/ for Ancient History and Archaeology of India. Ca Text

Advisor, Academic Consultant, Uberoi Foundation Institute for Curriculum
Advancement, Ca, U.S.A. 204-15

Board Member, South Asian Studies Association. Ca.2013-2017
Manuscript review of Aesthetics, Art and Beauty by Higgins.

Experts Committee, Bharatiya Vichar Manch. Indian Studies Program. LA

Advisor for Committee for Contemporary Art of India, San Jose, CA.

Member of ESHI, Dept. of Education, 2006-2017
Hindu American Foundation.

Member of Academic Advising Committee, Yadunanda India Studies Center,
CSULB. 2005 to Present

Advisor to Chitrakala Parishat (an Academy promoting Art education),
Bangalore, India - (1993 ff).

Advisor to International Center for the Arts, Bangalore, India - (1993- 2007)

Participation in Inter-faith community organizations, volunteer to teach
Sanskrit in East West Cultural Center, Vedanta Society, Kannada Vrinda etc.

Assistant to Director of Tourism, KSTDC, Bangalore. Training docents,
guides. 1975-80

Manuscript review of Aesthetics, Art and Beauty by Higgins.

Unpublished Research Work

Working on a digital museum on Krishna's Dvaraka and an edited book

Dance and Temple Architectural Space

Neo-Tantra: Tradition and Modernity

Sakta Tantra in Visual Culture with reference to South Indian Temple Architecture

Narrative Art of India

Awards and Grants

Merit Award for excellence in Research and Scholarship.
Soka University of America. 2019, 2022.

ICHR Grants for International Conference, India, 2018

National Museum, New Delhi. Grant for Conference, 2018.

IGNCA Award for Narrative Art in South India, 2014- 15.

ICAC, Bowers Museum. Award for Presentation on lectures on Yoga. 2011.

Kannada Sangha of Arizona. Award of Excellence. 2010

PBRC Award for Research in Indian Art. 2004, 2010.

Research Award. University of Hawaii. 1998

Ph.D. Research Award, Dept. of Art History, UCLA. 1988-89

Ph.D Fellowship, University of Mysore, Mysore, 1978

Merit Scholarship, Marathawada University. Aurangabad. 1973

