

**SOUMYA JAMES**

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Email: [sj@arthistorian.net](mailto:sj@arthistorian.net)Web: [arthistorian.net](http://arthistorian.net)**EDUCATION**

<b>Ph.D.</b>	<b>History of Art</b>	<b>Cornell University, Ithaca</b>		<b>2011</b>
	<i>Title: The symbiosis of image, monument and landscape: A study of select goddess images at Prasat Kravan, Kbal Spean and Banteay Srei in Cambodia</i>			
<b>M.A.</b>	<b>History of Art</b>	<b>Cornell University, Ithaca</b>		<b>2005</b>
<b>M.Phil</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Central University Hyderabad</b>	<b>I Class</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>M.A.</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Madras Christian College, University of Madras</b>	<b>I Class</b>	<b>1996</b>
<b>B. A.</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Stella Maris College, University of Madras</b>	<b>I Class</b>	<b>1994</b>

**TEACHING AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

- \* **Independent art historian**  
July 2016 - present
- \* **Whitney Fellow, Whitney Humanities Center, New Haven, Yale University**  
January 2016 – June 2016
- \* **Postdoctoral Associate, Franke Program in Science and the Humanities and Whitney Humanities Center Fellow, Yale University**  
November 1, 2014 – December 2015
- \* **Coordinator, Science and Society Programme at the National Centre for Biological Sciences**  
June 1, 2011 – September 2014
- \* **Teaching Assistant at Cornell University**  
**August 2002- May 2004**  
Introduction to Arts of Japan, Meaning and Representation in Chinese art, Introduction to Art History: The Modern Era
- \* **Free lance Writer**  
**July 2000- December 2000**  
Published art reviews for newspapers, magazines and a journal
- \* **Copy Editor at Madras Institute of Development Studies, India**  
**September 1999- June 2000**  
Copy-edited the *Journal of the Madras Institute of Development Studies*
- \* **Middle and High School Teacher at The School, Krishnamurthi Foundation, India**  
**March-August 1999**  
History, Geography and English

## PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER ORIGINAL WORK

### I Academic

‘Embedding meanings in text, image and context: The reclining Visnu and Laksmi carvings at Phnom Kulen’, *Archives of Asian Art* (submitted November 2016).

‘Durga and Siva at Banteay Srei: Blurring boundaries between monument, image and practice’ in *Asian Encounters: Exploring Connected Histories*, edited by Parul Pandya Dhar and Upinder Singh, Oxford University Press, November 2014.

‘The symbiosis of image, monument and landscape: A study of select goddess images at Prasat Kravan, Kbal Spean and Banteay Srei in Cambodia’, PhD dissertation, Cornell University, January 2011.

‘O Goddess Where Art Thou? Reexamining the Female Divine Presence in Khmer Art’, *Southeast Asia Program Bulletin*, Cornell University, Fall 2007.

‘Local history of a temple: A case study of the Darasuram Airavatesvara temple between 1146 A.D. and 1486 A.D.’, M.Phil dissertation, University of Hyderabad, June 1998.

### II Professional

‘Interview with sculptor P.S.Nandhan’, in *Cholamandal – An Artists’ Village*, Oxford University Press, 2004

‘Interview with sculptor Anila Jacob; in *Cholamandal – An Artists’ Village*, Oxford University Press, 2004

‘Dawn of New Age’, review of the small format bronze sculpture exhibition at *Cholamandal Artists’ Village*, published in the features supplement ‘*Express Week*’ of *The New Indian Express*, 2 December 2000

‘Sacred Manifestation’, review of an exhibition of Tibetan Tankha paintings held in Chennai, published in the ‘*Express Week*’ of *The New Indian Express*, 12 August 2000

‘New Dimensions’, review of a one-man show of modern Indian art in ‘*Express Week*’, of *The New Indian Express*, 5 August 2000

‘Interview with V.R. Raviram’, a physically challenged artist in **Ability**, published by Ability Foundation, Chennai, October 2000

Review of the small format bronze exhibition held at Cholamandal Artists’ Village, in *Art Deal*, a journal published by the Art Deal gallery in New Delhi, 2000

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## REVIEW EXPERIENCE

Reviewer for *Culture and Dialogue*, 2016.

Review of ‘The Spirit of Things: Materiality and Religious Diversity in Southeast Asia’, Cornell Southeast Asia Program Publications, December 2010.

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## LECTURES AND COLLOQUIA

‘Embedding meanings in text, image and context: The reclining Vishnu and Lakshmi carvings at Phnom Kulen’, Council on Southeast Asia Studies Brown Bag Series, Yale University, February 15, 2017.

‘Embedding meanings in text, image and context: Examples from Angkor’, Freer and Sackler Galleries, The Smithsonian’s Museums of Asian Art, November 30, 2015.

'Ancestral maps and economic networks in Phnom Kulen, Cambodia', Whitney Humanities Fellows Talk, November 18, 2015.

'Quintessence of a kingdom carved in stone: Phnom Kulen of Cambodia', Inter Asia Initiative, Yale University, March 26, 2015.

'Travel, Mobility and Transmission of Visual Knowledge in ancient Cambodia: The issue of localization', invited lecture for the graduate Art History course 'Travel, Mobility and Transmission' (HSAR 799B), Department of the History of Art, Yale University, March 4, 2015.

'Quintessence of a kingdom carved in stone: Phnom Kulen of Cambodia', *College Art Association*, New York, February 12, 2015.

'Enacting ritual practices in liminal spaces: The Durga Mahishasuramardini image at Banteay Srei', *The Ronald and Janette Gatty Lecture Series*, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University, January 22, 2015.

'Enacting ritual practices in liminal spaces: The Durga image at Banteay Srei', *Don't abandon the indirect road: Divergent approaches to Cambodian Visual Cultures*, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Special Topics in Khmer Studies, Siem Reap, Cambodia, December, 2013.

'Enacting ritual practices in liminal spaces: The Durga image at Banteay Srei', invited speaker at seminar *Thai Architecture and Architecture of Neighbouring Countries in Southeast Asia*, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, December 2013

'Kbal Spean: An example of the synthesis of art and landscape in ancient Cambodia', invited speaker at Jnanapavaha, Mumbai, November 2013

'Synthesis of art and landscape in ancient Cambodia', presentation in lecture series *Topics in art history from South and Southeast Asia*, National Centre for Biological Sciences, August 2013

'Landscape and its manipulation in ancient Cambodian art', public lecture at Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, January 2013

'The role of goddesses in ancient Khmer religion: an art historical and anthropological study', invited lecture at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, November 2010

'Are the reclining Vishnu and Lakshmi at Kbal Spean in Cambodia a localized Tantric expression?', the American Council for South Asian Art bi-annual symposium, Denison University, Ohio, October 16, 2009

'Understanding the process of localization through a comparison of Chola and Khmer goddess images', invited lecture at Colgate University, New York, October 2008

'Re-examining the role of goddesses in ancient Khmer culture', *Visual Culture Colloquium* sponsored by the Department of History of Art and Visual Studies, Cornell University, February, 2008

'Searching for the goddess in ancient Khmer art: re-examining temple art and inscriptions', *Brown Bag lecture* sponsored by the Cornell Southeast Asia Program, November, 2007

Guest lecture for intermediate and advanced Khmer language class, Cornell University, Fall 2007

'Setting Khmer architecture in motion', Guest lecture for the course, *Dancing the Stone: Body, Memory and Architecture* (ARTH 580), Cornell University, April 2007

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## DANCE PERFORMANCES

*Panyembrama*, Indonesian Cultural Night, Cornell University, May 2007

*Gabor*, Cornell Southeast Asia Program Spring Banquet, Women's Community Center, Ithaca, May 2006

*Rejang Dewa*, Cornell Southeast Asia Program Spring Banquet, Cornell University, May 2005

*Gambyong*, Indonesian Cultural Night, Cornell University, May 2004

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#### **ACADEMIC HONORS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- \* 2014 - Whitney Fellow (Yale University) until June 2016
- \* 2014 - Franke fellowship (Yale University) until December 2015
- \* 2006 - Honorable mention in the Fall 2006 Photo Contest organized by *Mario Einaudi* Center
- \* 2005 - Honorable mention in the Spring 2006 Photo Contest organized by *Mario Einaudi* Center
- \* 2004 - *Mario Einaudi* International Travel Research Grant
- \* 2004 - *Asian Cultural Council*, Southeast Asia fieldwork fellowship
- \* 2004 - *Department of History of Art and Archaeology* graduate research grant
- \* 2001 - Sage Graduate Fellowship Award, *Cornell University*
- \* 2000 - Qualified at the State Level Educational Testing for Lectureship, *Bharathidasan University*, India
- \* 1996 - Prof. P Corley Prize for proficiency in MA History, *Madras Christian College*, India
- \* 1996 - Clarence David Prize for college first rank in MA History, *Madras Christian College*, India
- \* 1994 - The SMC Gold Medal for first rank in BA History, *Stella Maris College*, India
- \* 1994 - Pennathur Gnanambal Silver Medal for college first rank in BA History, *Stella Maris College*, India
- \* 1993 - Academic Proficiency Award for the year 1992-1993, *Stella Maris College*, India

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#### **LANGUAGES**

- \* Fluent in English and Tamil
  - \* Intermediate knowledge of Sanskrit
  - \* Intermediate knowledge of Khmer
  - \* Intermediate knowledge of French
  - \* Speaking fluency of Malayalam, beginner level in reading and writing
  - \* Beginner level in Hindi
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