

Spring 2023 Arts of Asia Lecture Series
Global Connections: Asia and the Arts in the Second Millennium of the Common Era
Sponsored by the *Society for Asian Art*

How to See Water in an Age of Unusual Droughts: Ecological Aesthetics in the Little Ice Age, India
Sugata Ray, UC Berkeley
March 3, 2023

Key Artworks:

Great Stupa, Sanchi, 1st century BCE

Vasudeva carrying Krishna across the Yamuna, ca. 1st century CE. Sandstone, 43 cm (height).

Repository: Government Museum, Mathura, 17.1344

Mukteshvara Temple, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, 10th century CE

Krishna lifting Govardhan hill, Folio 58 verso, Bilvamangala, *Bālagopālastuti* [Praise for the Young Lord of the Cowherds], late 15th century. Opaque watercolor on paper, 10.79 × 23.5 cm. Repository: Wellcome Library, London, MS Indic alpha 1226

Man Mandir, Gwalior, ca. 1500.

Krishna's Water Sport [*jal krida*], *Palam Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, ca. 1520–40. Ink and color on paper, 16.50 × 22.20 cm. Repository: The Cleveland Museum of Art, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin N. Haas, 1971.171

Krishna's Water Sport [*jal krida*], *Isarda Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, ca. 1560–70. Opaque watercolor on paper,

18.8 × 25.2 cm. Repository: The San Diego Museum of Art, Edwin Binney 3rd Collection, 1990.586

The Prophet Elias (Elijah) rescuing Hamza's nephew, *Hamzanāma* [History of Hamza], ca. 1562–77.

Gouache on cotton, 68 × 52 cm. Repository: The British Museum, London, 00030552001

“Astrologer's Seat,” Fatehpur Sikri, ca. 1571

Principal Haramsara (*Shabistan-i Iqbal*), Fatehpur Sikri, ca. 1571

Archway (*Tulabhara Torana*), Vishram Ghat, Mathura, 1614

Manohar (attrib.), *Jahangir Weighing Prince Khurram*, ca. 1615. Ink, opaque watercolor, and gold on paper, 44.3 x 29.5 cm. Repository: British Museum, London, 1948,1009,0.69

Suggested Readings:

Religion and Art:

Asher, Catherine B. *The Architecture of Mughal India*. Vol 1.4 of *The New Cambridge History of India*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Busch, Allison. *Poetry of Kings: Classical Hindi Literature of Mughal India*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Ehnbom, Daniel J. “An Analysis and Reconstruction of the Dispersed *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* from the *Caurapañcāsikā* Group.” PhD diss., University of Chicago, 1984.

Entwistle, Alan W. *Braj: Centre of Krishna Pilgrimage*. Groningen: Egbert Forsten, 1987.

Dhar, Parul P. *The Torana in Indian and Southeast Asian Architecture*. New Delhi: D. K. Printworld, 2010.

Gupta, Ravi M., and Kenneth R. Valpey, eds. *The Bhāgavata Purāṇa: Sacred Text and Living Tradition*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2013.

Jain-Neubauer, Jutta. *The Stepwells of Gujarat in Art Historical Perspective*. New Delhi: Abhinav Publications, 1981.

Khandalavala, Karl, and Jagdish Mittal. “The Bhagavata MSS from Palam and Isarda: A Consideration in Style.” *Lalit Kala* 16 (1974): 28–32.

Haberman, David L. *River of Love in an Age of Pollution: The Yamuna River in Northern India*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006.

Hawley, John S., *At Play with Krishna: Pilgrimage Dramas from Brindavan*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1981.

- Hegewald, Julia A. B. *Water Architecture in South Asia: A Study of Types, Developments and Meanings*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2002.
- Holdrege, Barbara A. *Bhakti and Embodiment: Fashioning Divine Bodies and Devotional Bodies in Kṛṣṇa Bhakti*. New York: Routledge, 2015.
- Ray, Sugata. "Water is a Limited Commodity: Ecological Aesthetics in the Little Ice Age, Mathura, ca. 1614," in *Water Histories of South Asia: The Materiality of Liquescence*, edited by Sugata Ray and Venugopal Maddipati, 37–59. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2020.
- _____. *Climate Change and the Art of Devotion: Geoaesthetics in the Land of Krishna, 1550–1850* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2019).
- _____. "Hydroaesthetics in the Little Ice Age: Theology, Artistic Cultures, and Environmental Transformation in Early Modern Braj, ca. 1560–70," *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 40, no. 1 (March 2017): 1–23.
- _____. "Ecomoral Aesthetics at the Vishram Ghat, Mathura: Three Ways of Seeing a River," in *Water Design: Environment and Histories*, edited by Jutta Jain-Neubauer, 58–69. Mumbai: Marg Publications, 2016.
- Rothfarb, Edward L. *Orchha and Beyond: Design at the Court of Raja Bir Singh Dev Bundela*. Mumbai: Marg Publications, 2012.
- Seyller, John. *The Adventures of Hamza: Painting and Storytelling in Mughal India*. Washington, DC: Freer Gallery of Art, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, 2002.

Climate Histories:

- Bradley, R. S., and P. D. Jones. "'Little Ice Age' Summer Temperature Variations: Their Nature and Relevance to Recent Global Warming Trends." *Holocene* 3, no. 3 (1993): 67–376.
- Degroot, Dagomar. *The Frigid Golden Age: Climate Change, the Little Ice Age, and the Dutch Republic, 1560–1720*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- Diaz, Henry F., and Vera Markgraf, eds. *El Niño: Historical and Paleoclimatic Aspects of the Southern Oscillation*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1992.
- Fagan, Brian. *The Little Ice Age: How Climate Made History, 1300–1850*. New York: Basic Books, 2000.
- Grove, Jean M. *Little Ice Ages: Ancient and Modern*. 2 vols. London: Routledge, 2004.
- Grove, Richard H., and George Adamson. "El Niño Chronology and the Little Ice Age." In *El Niño in World History*, edited by Richard H. Grove and George Adamson, 49–79. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.
- Grove, Richard H., and John Chappell. "El Niño Chronology and the History of Global Crises during the Little Ice Age." In *El Niño—History and Crisis: Studies from the Asia-Pacific Region*, edited by Richard H. Grove and John Chappell, 5–34. Cambridge: White Horse Press, 2000.
- Habib, Irfan. *The Agrarian System of Mughal India 1556–1707*. 3rd ed. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2014 [1963].
- Lamb, Hubert H. *Climate, History and the Modern World*. London: Methuen, 1982.
- _____. *Climate: Present, Past and Future*. Vol. 2 of *Climatic History and the Future*. London: Methuen and Company, 1977.
- Mann, Michael E. "Little Ice Age." In *Encyclopedia of Global Environmental Change*, edited by Michael C. MacCracken and John S. Perry, 504–09. Chichester: John Wiley, 2002.
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- Parker, Geoffrey. *Global Crisis: War, Climate Change and Catastrophe in the Seventeenth Century*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013.
- White, Sam. "Climate Change in Global Environmental History." In *A Companion to Global Environmental History*, edited by John McNeill and Erin Maulden, 394–410. London: Blackwell, 2012.