

A Visual Offering

Treasures of Buddhist Art



Ouigher Offerant, ca. 10th
cent., Bazaklik, Turphan,
Xinjiang Province, China

Indic Region

Buddhist art
of India and
Bangladesh



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

The Relics of
Sakyamuni
Buddha from
Priprawa reburied
in the Ashokan
redistribution of
ca. 250 BCE

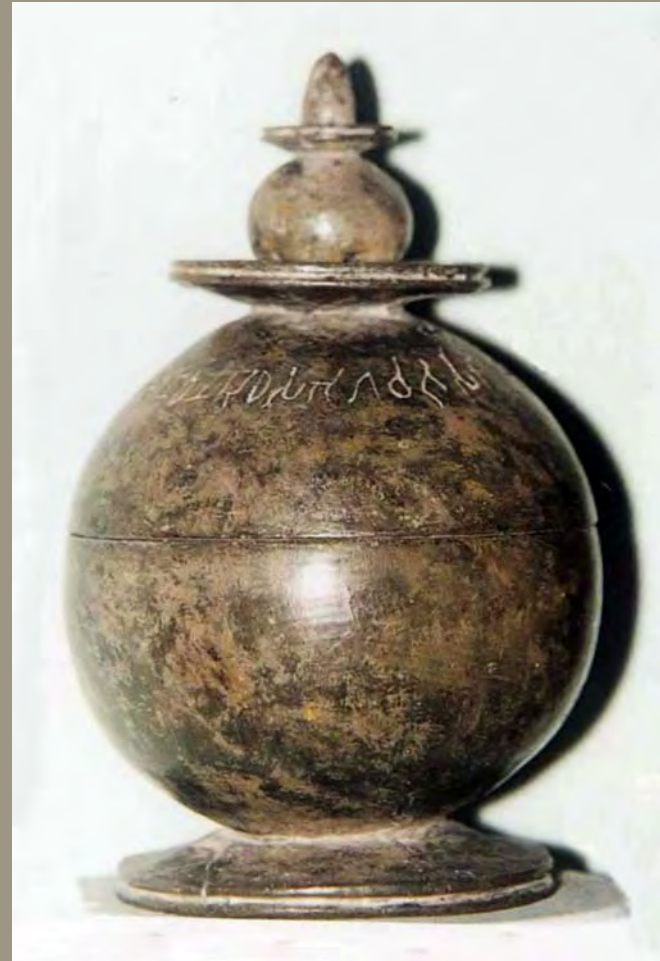


Buddhist Art Masterpieces

The Relics of
Sakyamuni Buddha
from Priprawa
reburied in the
Ashokan
redistribution of ca.
250 BCE

The relic casket with
the inscription

*lya.m sal[r]il[r]a-nidhane Budhasa
Bhagavate Sakiyanam sukitithatinam*



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

The Mahabodhi temple commemorating the place of Sakyamuni Buddha's enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, various dates from ca. 400 BCE to late 19th cent., Bihar State, India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces



The Vajrasana, an Ashokan commemorative offering platform at the exact place where it was (as still is) believed that Siddhartha Gautama became the enlightened one a Buddha, ca. 250 BCE, Bodh Gaya, Bihar, India

Buddhist Art Masterpieces

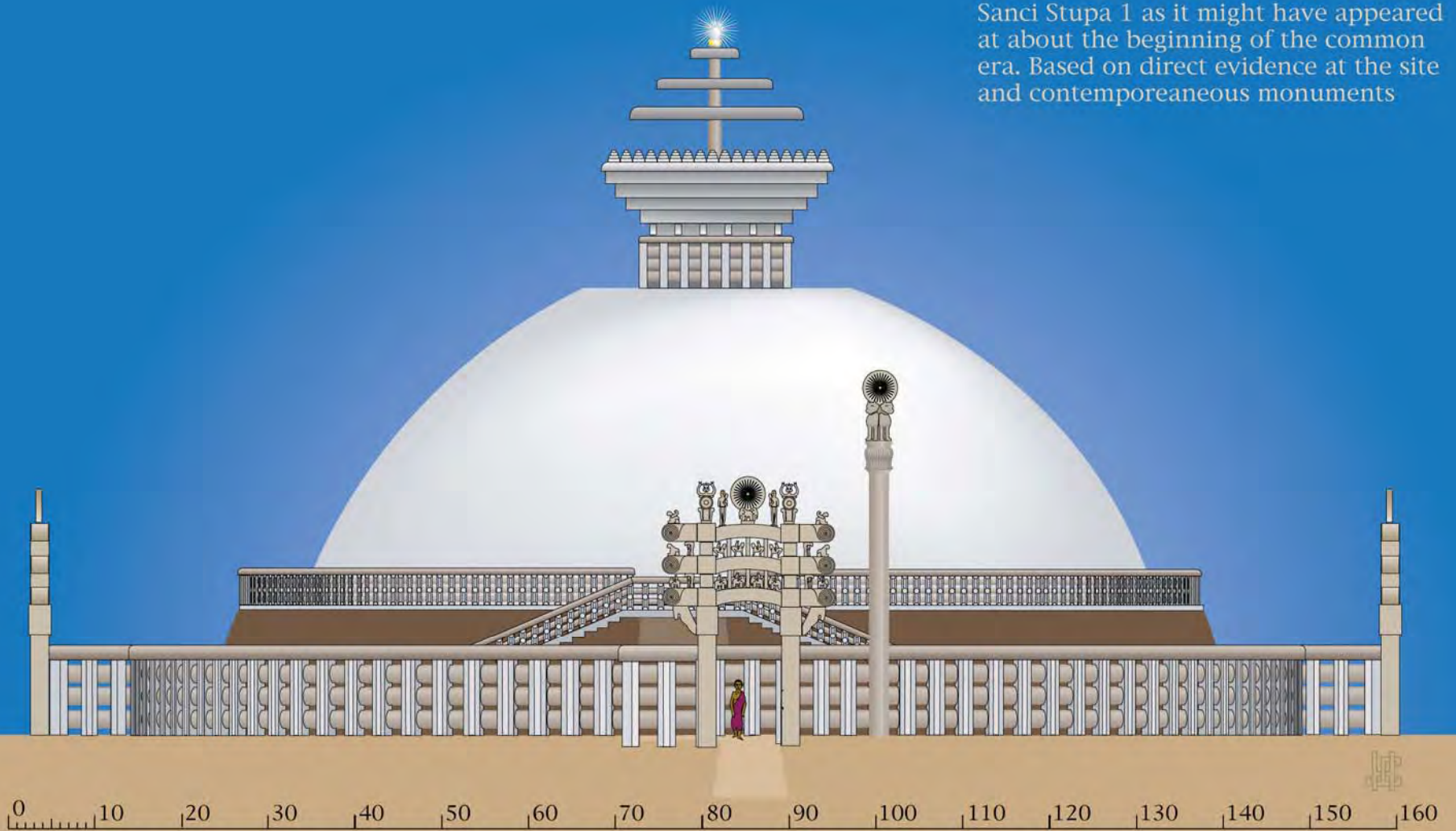
Lion Capital, Sarnath, Mauryan
period, ca. 250 BCE. Sarnath,
Varanasi, India





Sanchi, Stupa I, overview from the north,
Various dates 3rd & 1st cent. BCE and 20th cent. (British Restoration)

Sanci Stupa 1 as it might have appeared at about the beginning of the common era. Based on direct evidence at the site and contemporaneous monuments



Sanchi, Stupa I, overview from the south,
Drawn as it might have appeared at the beginning of the common era

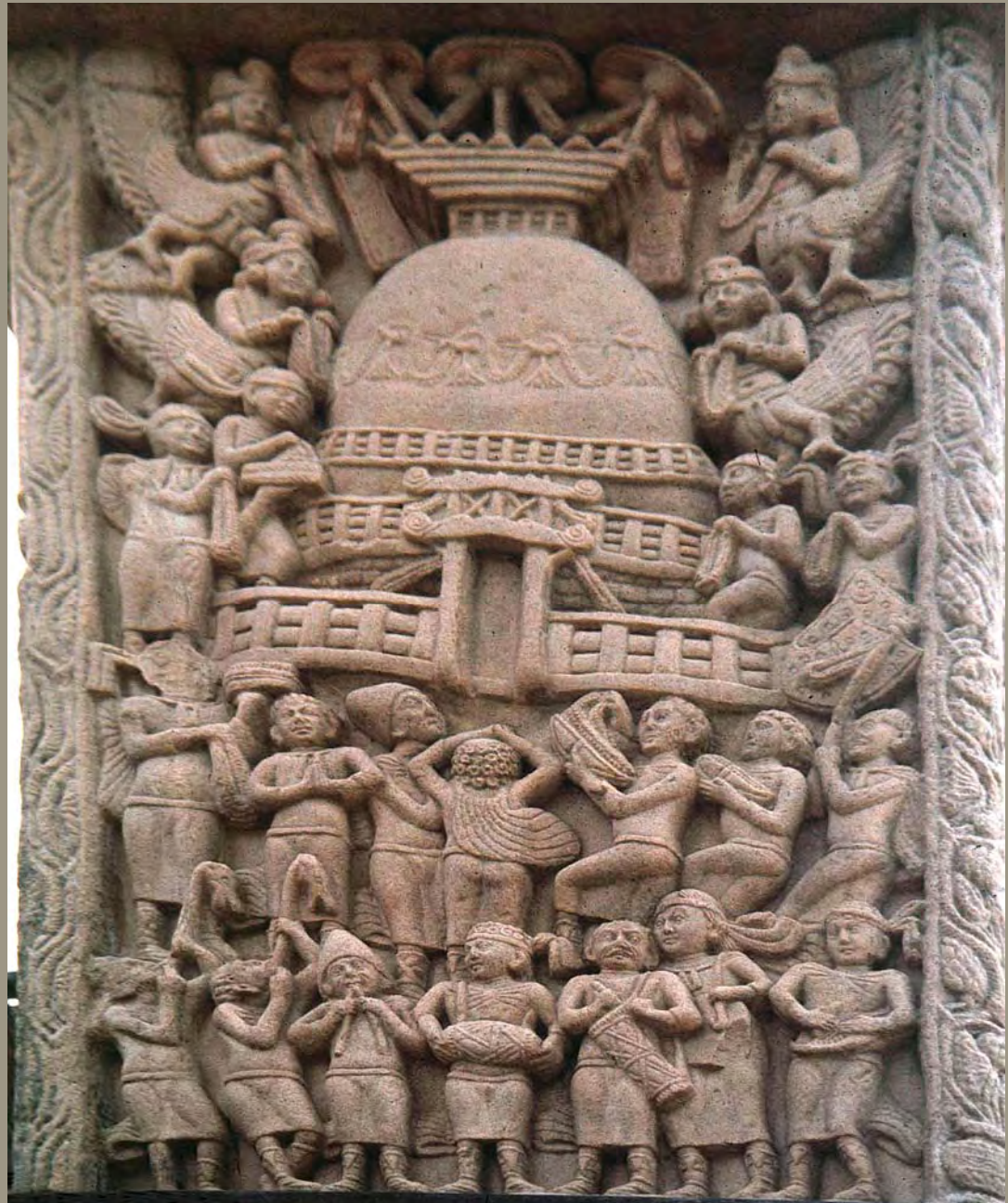
Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Auspicious symbols, early 1st
cent. BCE, Sanchi Stupa II,
India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Worship of a Stupa, 1st cent.
BCE. North Torana, Sanchi,
India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Buddha attended by Padmapani and Vajrapani, dated to the year 3 of the Kanishka era, ca. 130 CE, Ahicchatra, India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Pensive Avalokitesvara, ca 2nd
cent., Greater Mathura region,
India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Worship at the
throne in front of
the pillar of
radiance, ca. 3rd
cent. CE,
Amaravati Stupa,
Amaravati, Andhra
Pradesh India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

The Buddha Sakyamuni
displaying the second
level of Dharma chakra
Mudra, Gupta period 5th
cent., Sarnath, India





Page 16 Ajanta Caves on the Wogihara River, 1st cent BCE and 5th cent. CE, panorama of the site

Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Indo-scythian Nobleman
with attendants, ca. 465
CE, Ajanta, Cave 1,
Maharashtra, India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Padmapani
(Avalokitesvara), ca. 465
CE, Ajanta, Cave 1,
Maharashtra, India



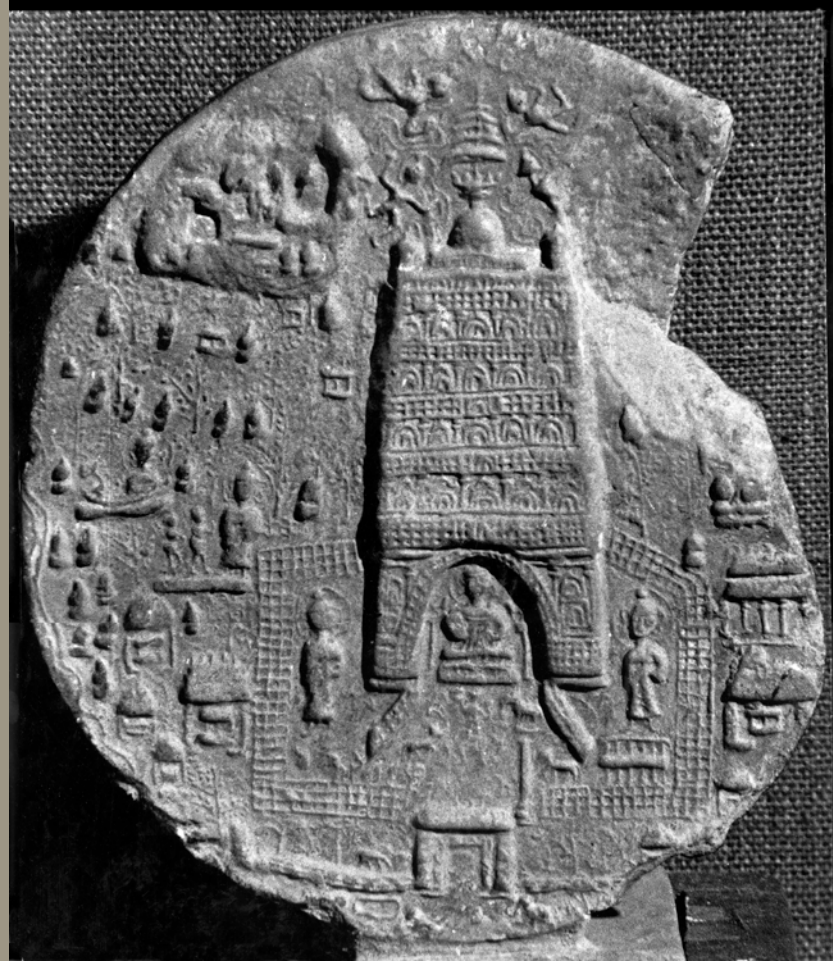
Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Ceiling lotus, ca. 465 CE,
Ajanta, Cave 2,
Maharashtra, India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Saccha (stamped clay
medallion) of the Mahabodhi
temple, ca 5th cent., Bihar,
India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Tara and attendants, 9th cent.,
Sirpur, India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Vajrapani and Anuchara, 9th
cent., Bihar, India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

The Mother of all Buddhas
(sarva-tathagata-matri), Sita
Prajnaparamita and attendants,
9th or 10th cent., Bihar, India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Vajrasana Sakyamuni, ca. 9th
cent., Probably Kurkihar, Bihar,
India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Vajrasana Sakyamuni, ca. 9th
cent., Main Shrine image of the
Mahabodhi Temple, Bihar,
India



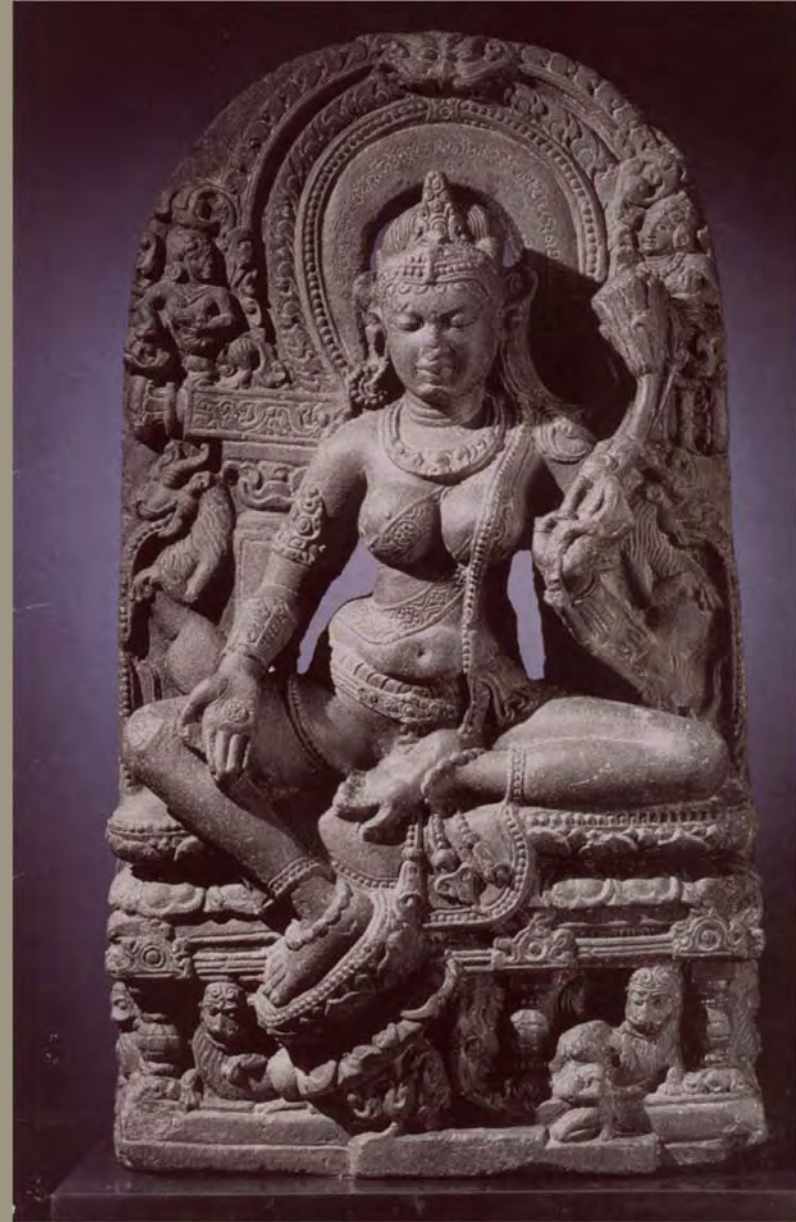
Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Vajrasana Sakyamuni With
Avalokitesvara and Maitreya
Bodhisattvas, ca. 10th cent.,
Bihar, India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Syama Tara ca 10th or 11th
cent., Bihar, India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Arya Avalokiteshvara
(Lokanatha) with Tara and
Hayagriva, 11th cent., Rajsahi
district , Bangladesh



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Mandala of Chakrasamvara and
the deities of the mandala and
aspects of the charnel fields, ca.
12th cent., Bangladesh



Nepal

Buddhist art of the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Svayambhu
Mahacaitya, 5th
cent. BCE to
Present,
Kathmandu
Valley, Nepal



Buddhist Art Masterpieces



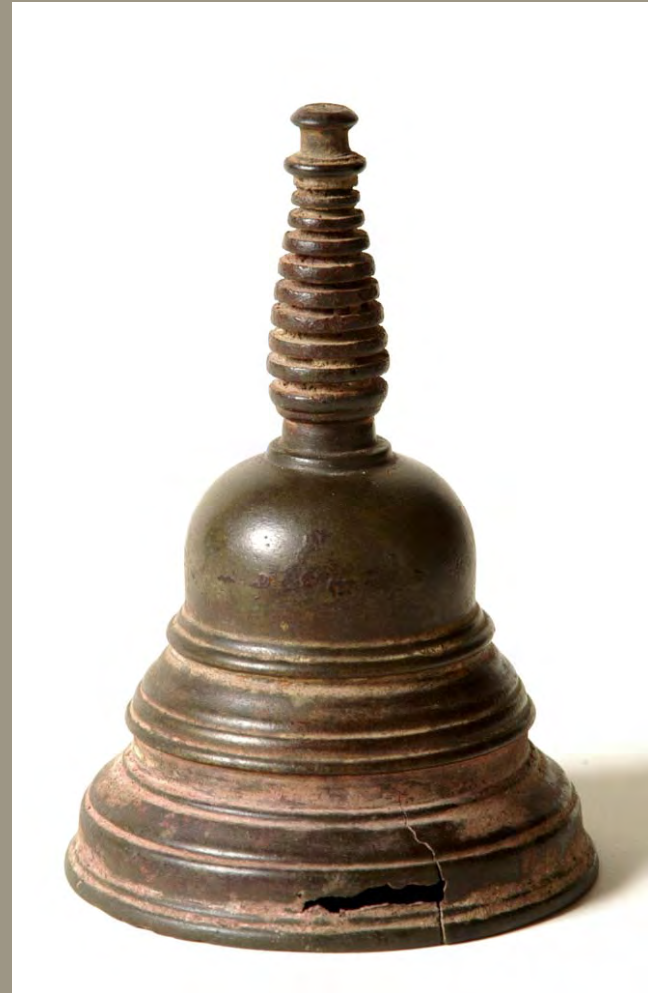
Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Svayambhu Mahacaitya, Licchavi
period, ca. 5th 6th cent. CE
(restored), OM Bahal, Patan,
Kathmandu Valley, Nepal



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Miniature Stupa, Licchavi Period
ca. 7th cent., Cha Bahi, Deo Patan,
Kathmandu Valley, Nepal



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Svayambhu Mahacaitya,
15th cent., Kathmandu
Valley Nepal



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Tara, ca. 12th cent., Nepal



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Arya Avalokitesvara, ca. 12th
cent., Nepal



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Amoghapasha
Avalokitesvara with Tara,
Brikuti and Hayagriva, ca.
mid 15th cent., Nepal



Buddhist Art Masterpieces



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Main Shrine Torana, 1834, Kwa Bahal, Patan Nepal

Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Nateshvara Avalokitesvara, ca.
1935, Shantipur, Svayambhu
Mahachaitya, Kathmandu
Nepal



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Worship of the Manjusri pada,
date unknown, Shantipur,
Svayambhu Mahachaitya,
Kathmandu Nepal



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Vajrasattva, ca. 12th through
20th cent. Kwa Bahal, Patan,
Nepal



“Greater” Gandhara

Buddhist art
of Pakistan,
Afghanistan
and Kashmir



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Sakyamuni meditating under a tree
with Shakra and Brahma requesting
that he teach the dharma to others.
Ca 2nd cent. BCE Bajur District,
Gandhara, Peshawar Valley,
Pakistan.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces



Gold Stater of Kanishka, ca. 127-145 CE. Obv. Kaniska at fire-altar; Rev. Buddha, Ahin Posh,
Kapisha, Afghanistan

Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Takht-I-Bahi monastery plan
 Ca. late 2nd early 3rd cent.,
 Gandhara, Pakistan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Fasting ascetic Prince Siddhartha
Ca. late 2nd early 3rd cent.,
Gandhara, Pakistan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Tushita Maitreya Bodhisattva, ca.
2nd or early 3rd cent. CE,
Gandhara, Pakistan.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Sukhavati Amitabha with
Avalokitesvara and Maitreya(?)
attended by Shakra and
Brahma. Dated year 5, I.e., ca
132 CE



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Reliquary in the form of a stupa, ca
3rd or 4th cent., Gandhara
(Peshawar Valley, Pakistan)

Probably a fairly accurate model of
the stupa of Kanishka.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Reliquary in the form of a stupa
with a schist casket, ca 3rd or 4th
cent., Gandhara (Peshawar valley,
Pakistan,



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Head of *Avalokitesvara*, ca 4th or
5th cent., unknown provenance,
Presumably Afghanistan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

The 55 meter Brihad Buddha at
Bamiyan, ca 6th cent., Bamiyan
valley, Afghanistan
(Now destroyed)



CNN



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

A Buddha predicting the viewer's
enlightenment, ca 627 or later,
Niche C, Fondukistan, Afghanistan.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Arya Avalokitesvara, ca.
6th or 7th cent., Kashmir,
India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Sakyamuni/Vairocana in
Akanistha Paradise, 714
CE, Kashmir, India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Vajrapani Bodhisattva in
his angry form, ca 9th
cent., Kashmir, India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Avalokitesvara, Manjusri
and Vajrapani, ca 11th
cent., Kashmir, India



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Amitabha Buddha in
Sukhavati Paradise, ca.
11th cent. (Kashmir
school of painting), Alchi
monastery, Ladakh, India



Silk Road



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Dharmakaya Vairocana ca 7th
cent., Balawaste, Khotan region,
Xingjiang Province, China



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Iranian style “god of sericulture,”
ca. 6th cent., Dandan Oiliq,
Khotan region, Xingjiang
Province, China



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Avalokitesvara with
Sita and Syama Tara
receiving the offerings
of a donor. Ca. 5th or
6th cent., Tumshuq,
Xingjiang Province,
China



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Dakini image, Bazalik, temple 9,
ca 9th cent., Xingjian Province,
China



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Tushita Maitreya Bodhisattva,
west wall cave 275, 5th cent.
Dunhuang, Gansu Province,
China



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Crowned White-robed Buddha
(Vairocana) west wall cave 465,
5th cent. Dunhuang, Gansu
Province, China



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Water-Moon Avalokiteshvara, ca.
11th cent., Cave 17 hoard,
Dunhuang, Gansu Province,
China



Tibet

Buddhist art of Tibet



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Vajrasattva and Sattvavajri,
Gaur school in Tibet, ca. Late
11th cent. Tibet



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Guhyasamaja Manjuvajra, ca.
12th cent. Tibet



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Vajravarahi Mandala, Sakya
school, ca 15th cent., Tsang
district, Tibet.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Shakyamuni at the
moment of
enlightenment), 12th
cent. Southern Tibet,
(gTsang district)



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Gur gyi mGonpo
(Panjara Mahakala)
13th cent. Southern
Tibet, (gTsang
district)



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Ratnasambhava, ca.
14th cent. Southern
Tibet, (gTsang
district)



Buddhist Art Masterpieces



Eric R. Huntington

Anonymous: (Newar Artists in Tibet), Pancajina Buddhas, 14th cent., Zhalu Monastery Tibet

Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Anonymous: (Newar
Artists in Tibet),
Akshobhya Buddha, 14th
cent., Zhalu Monastery
Tibet



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Vajrapani Bodhisattva, ca 14th
cent., southern Tibet,



Buddhist Art Masterpieces



Eric R. Huntington

Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Ratnasambhava, ca 18th cent,
southern Tibet

(Clay over wire armature)



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Pehar, the Nechung Oracle,
date(s) unknown, Lhasa, Tibet



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Mahotama Heruka form of
Samantabhadra, Nyingma
tradition ca 18th century, Tibet



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Tomb (stupa) of the 5th Dalai
Lama (1617-1682)

Potala, Lhasa, Tibet (Xizang
province of China)

Note: His death was secret for
15 years. Thus the stupa was
presumably built around 1697
or 1698.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Tsongkhapa and
disciples, 20th cent.,
1969

(Ephemera: butter
Sculpture)



Sri Lanka

Buddhist Art of Lanka



Buddhist Art Masterpieces



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Parinirvana, Gal Vihara, Polonuwara, Polonuwara district, Sri Lanka

Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Brihad Buddha at
Avukana,
Polonuwara district,
Sri Lanka



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Tara, ca. 9th cent.,
Polonuwara district,
Sri Lanka



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Stupa, Kandian
Period, ca. 18th cent.,
Kandy, Sri Lanka



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Miniature stupa with
the four Buddhas of the
past, ca 13th cent.
Polonuwara district, Sri
Lanka



Indonesia



Buddhist Art of Indonesia

All islands named have some Buddhist art

Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Borobudur, ca 800,
Central Java,
Indonesia



China

Buddhist art of China



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Seated Buddha, 16 States period,
dated to 338 CE, Northern China.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Shakyamuni in Akanishta radiating
Buddhas, Bei Wei dated to 477 CE,
Northern China.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Ketumati Maitreya Buddha, Bei
Wei dated to 477 CE, Northern
China.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Central core as Mt. Meru tower,
Cave 51, Yungang, Bei Wei late
5th cent., Northern China.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Vairochana in Akanishta, Early
Tang, 674, Longmen Northern
China.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

“King Udayana’s image of
Shakyamuni,” Commissioned
by Chonen in Song dynasty 985
CE, China. Now in the Seiryōji,
Japan.

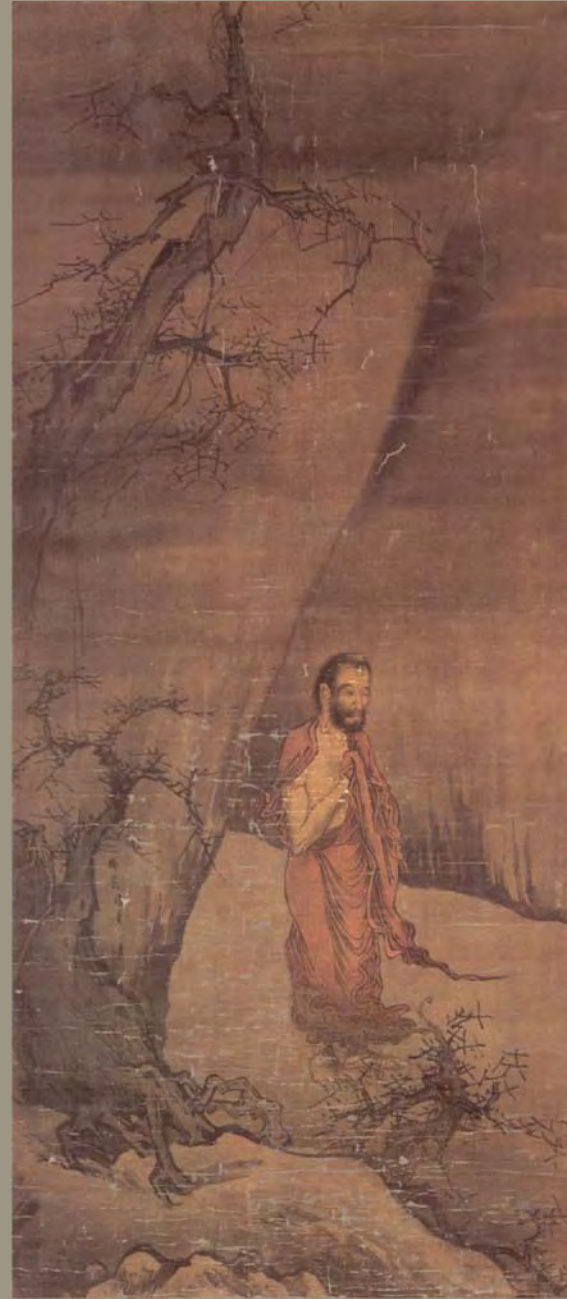


Shakado at the Seiryōji



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Liang Kai, active, mid
13th cent. Shakyamuni
(the ascetic prince
Siddhartha) descending
from the Mountains prior
to his enlightenment.



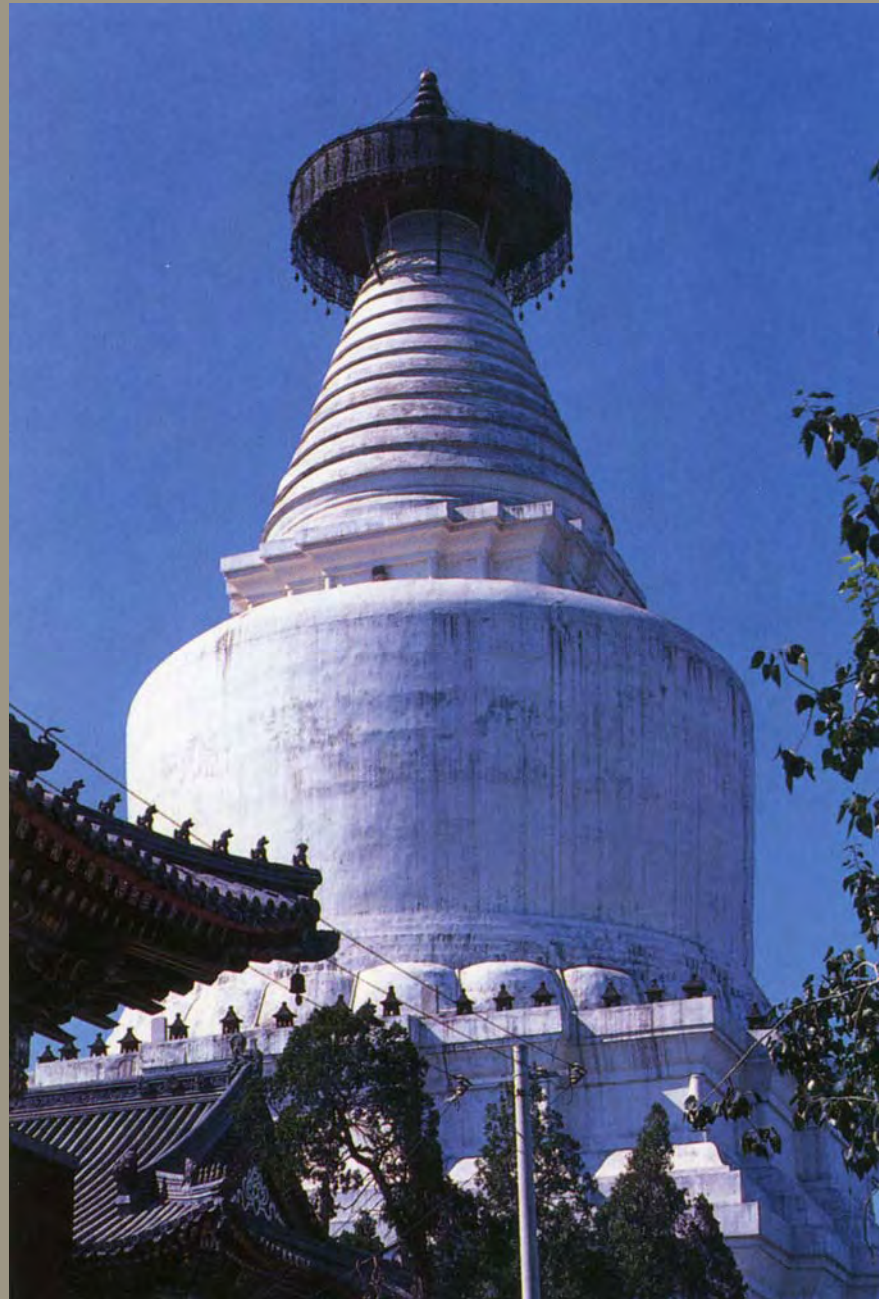
Buddhist Art Masterpieces

“True Image of Avalokiteshvara”
ca. 12th cent., Dali Kingdom
937-1253, Yunnan, China



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Aniko, Bai Ta si 13th
cent, Beijing, China.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

School of Aniko, Sada-aksari
Avalokiteshvara, ca late 13th
or early 14 cent., Yuan
Dynasty China,



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

School of Aniko, unidentified
bodhisattva, ca late 13th or
early 14 cent., Yuan Dynasty
China,



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Fasting Prince Siddhartha, ca.
late 13th or early 14 cent.,
Yuan Dynasty China,



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Vairochana in Akanishta on
the Thousand Petaled Lotus.
16th cent., Ming period
China



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Anonymous (illegible
seal): Amitabha Buddha.
17th cent.

Tehua porcelain, Fujian,
China



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Emperor Qianlong as
Manjushri in a refuge
field.

Mid 18th cent.
Beijing, China



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Stupa of the Queen
Mother's Hair.
Mid 18th cent.
Beijing, China



Mongolia



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

dPal lDan Lha Mo (Shri),
Ca 18th cent., School of
Zanabazar
Mongolia



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Vairochana from the
*Sarva-tathagata-tattva-
samgraha Tantra*
Ca 18th century, School
of Zanabazar.
Mongolia.

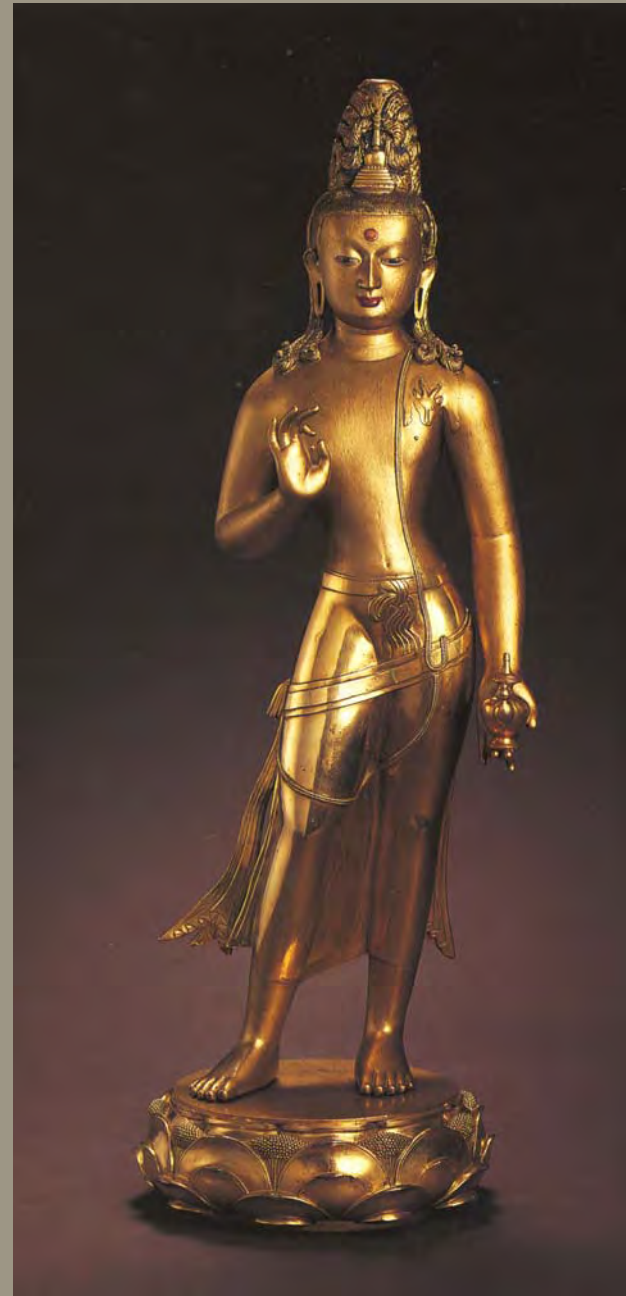


Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Maitreya

Ca. 18th century, School
of Zanabazar.

Mongolia.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Chakrasamvara
ca 18th century, School of
Zanabazar
Mongolia.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Vajravarahi,
Ca. 18th century, School
of Zanabazar.
Mongolia.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Dance mask.
Date uncertain, Mongolia.



Korea

Buddhist art of Korea



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Pensive Miruk
(Maitreya)
Ca. late 6th century.
Korea



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Sokko Tap
(Shakyamuni Pagoda)
Ca. late 6th century.
Korea



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Taho Tap (Prabutaratna
Pagoda)
Ca. late 6th century.
Korea



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Portable Shrine with
Shakyamuni /
Vairochana,
Manjushri and
Samantabhadra,
Unified Silla period
(668-935 CE)
Korea



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Relic container and
casket.

Unified Silla period
(668-935 CE)

Korea



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Amitabha Sutra.
Dated 1341
Korea



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Avalokitesvara of
the Rocks.

14th century.
Korea



Japan

Buddhist art of Japan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Torii, Shaka
Sanson. Asuka
period (623 CE).
Horyu-ji, Nara,
Japan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Yume Domo
Kannon.
Asuka period.
Horyuji, Nara,
Japan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Tachibana
Shrine, Amida
triad.

late 7th or early
8th century.
Nara, Japan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Prince Shotoku and two attendants.
Asuka period, 7th cent., Japan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces



Page 130 Daibutsuden, Todaiji, mid 8th century. Restored in the 18th century. Nara, Japan

Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Daibutsu, Daibutsu-
den, Todai-ji, mid 8th
century. Restored in
the 18th century.
Nara, Japan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Anonymous: Daruma
(Bodhi-dharma)
Kamakura period, Japan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Miroku (Maitreya) Bodhisattva.
Late 7th cent., Chukuji Nunnery,
near the Horyuji, Nara, Japan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Atelier of Jocho (Amitabha)
displaying “first rank, first birth”
mudra. Mid 11th cent., Byodo-in,
Uji, Kyoto area, Japan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces



Amida raigo, ca 11th cent., Japan

Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Taagensui Myou-ou, ca. 12th cent., Japan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Aoi Fudou Myou-ou (Nila
Achala), ca. 13th cent., Japan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces



Senjukanon, The 1000 Little Kannon, and the 28 Helpers. 13th & 14th cent.
Sanjusangendo, Kyoto, Japan

Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Kao (act. 1320-30) Priest Prawn,
Japan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Detail:

Kao (act. 1320-30) Priest Prawn,
Japan



Buddhist Art Masterpieces



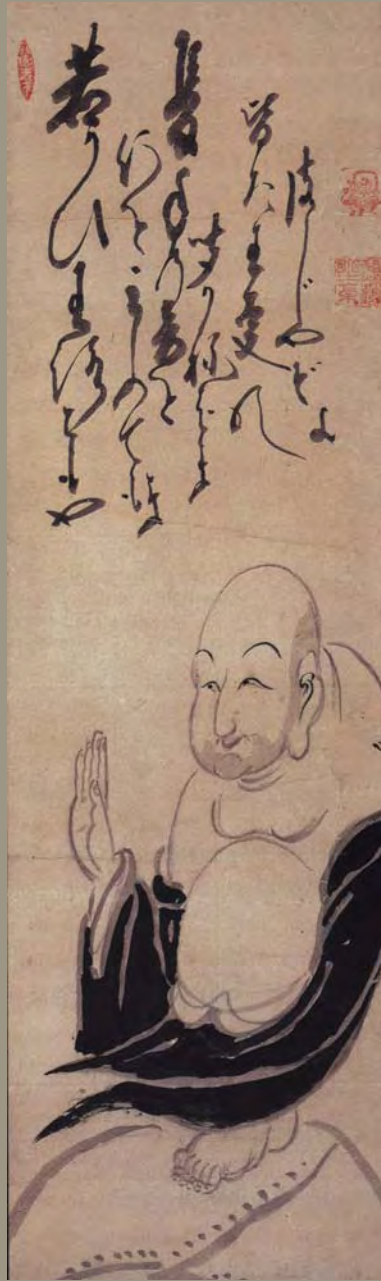
Ashikaga Yoshimasa, the Ginkakuji (Jishou-ji), built 1471 Kyoto, Japan

Buddhist Art Masterpieces



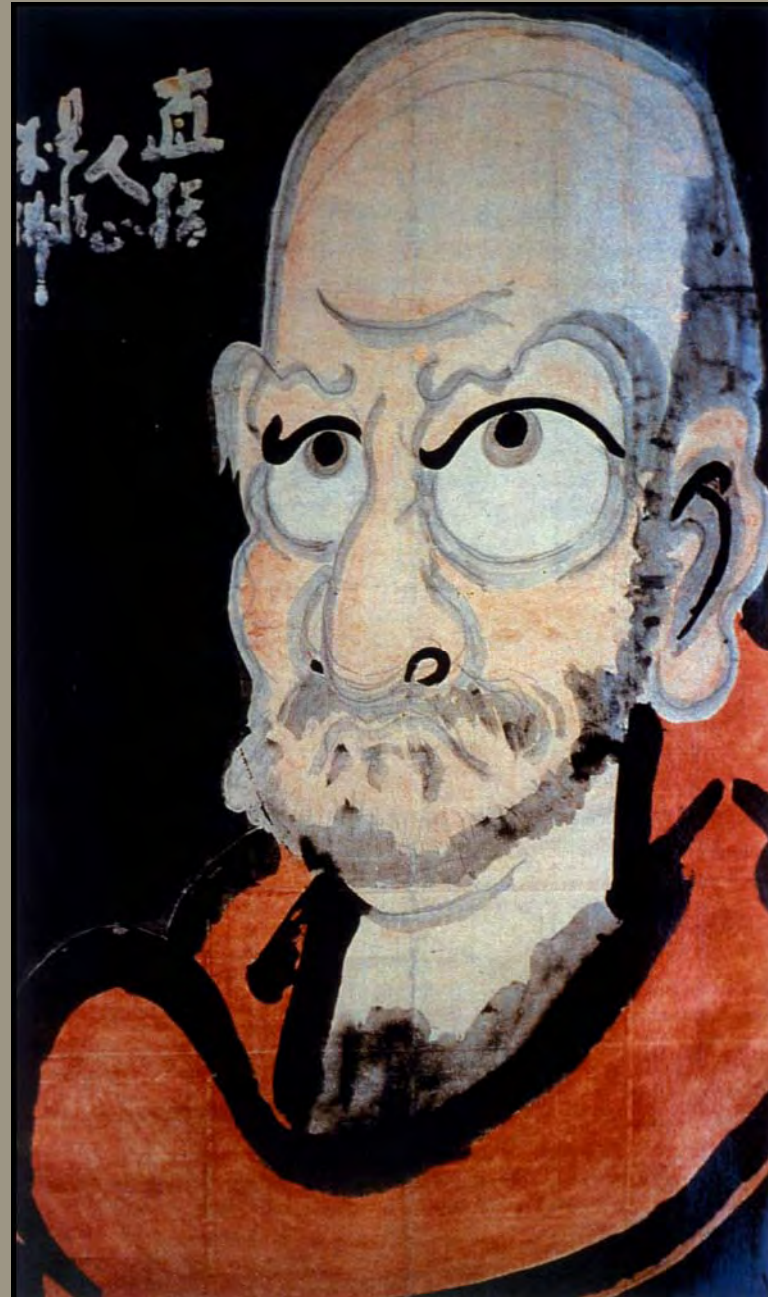
Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Hakuin Ekaku (1685-1768),
“Hotai: The Sound of One
Hand Clapping,” Japan.



Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Hakuin Ekaku (1685-1768),
Daruma, Japan



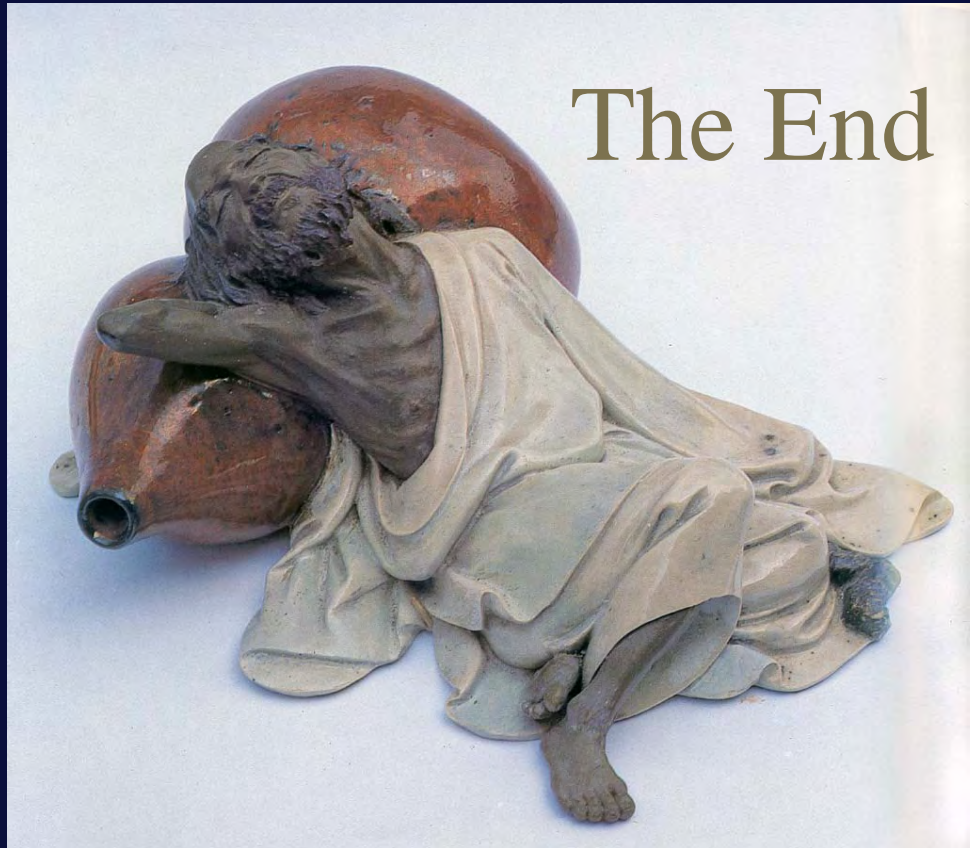
Buddhist Art Masterpieces

Buddha in dhyana posture.
ca. 19th cent., Thailand



What about me?
I must be somebody's
Masterpiece!

The End



Weary old sage (wino) taking a nap on his empty wine gourd.

19th cent., Shiwang ware, Guangdong, China