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Chennai Museum--Siva in many forms



Siva musem01

Umamahesvara

Penukonda, Anantapur District. Andhra Pradesh. About 10th Century AD.

Umamahesvara seated with Uma on his left. Siva has jatamakuta and makarakundala on one ear. As for ornaments, he has Yajnopavita, udarabandha and necklaces. He is holding a sula, naga and in alingana

posture. As for *Uma* she has *dhammilla* fashion hairdo. One of her hands is kept on *Siva*'s thigh and the other is holding a flower. *Nandi* is sculpted on the pedestal.

Lingodhbhava

Mudiyanur, South Arcot District. About 13th Century AD.

Carved in great artistic detail. Here *Siva* is shown as emerging from the *Linga*. His *jatabhara* and feet are not shown. A *hamsa* bird is shown on the left upper side of the *Linga* denoting *Brahma* and a boar is shown on the right bottom of the *Linga* denoting *Vishnu*. Here all the *trimurtis* are shown. *Siva* has all his usual ornaments.

Umamahesvara

Penukonda, Anantapur District. Andhra Pradesh. About 10th Century AD.

Umamahesvara is seated with *Uma* on his left. *Siva* has *jatamakuta* and *makarakundala* on one ear. As for ornaments he has *Yajnopavita*, *udarabandha* and necklaces. He is holding a *sula*, *naga* and in *alingana* posture. As for *Uma* she has *dhammilla* fashion hairdo. One of her hands is kept on *Siva*'s thigh and the other is holding a flower. *Nandi* is sculpted on the pedestal and there is an inscription in letters of 9-10th Centuries.



Dakshinamurti

Mullangudi, Thanjavur District. About 15th Century AD.

*Dakshinamurti seated on a small hillock with four hands in three of which he carries *nagapasa*, *agnijvala* and a book. The fourth hand is held in the fashion of *chinmudra* attitude. His left foot rests on his right knee. The right foot is shown placed on the back of *apasmara purusha*. There is a *patrakundala* on his left ear and *makarakundala* on his right ear. The *jata* is arranged somewhat in the *jatabhara* fashion. On the slope of the hillock there are two sages one on either side of Dakshinamurti.*

Dakshinamurti

Cholamaligai, Thanjavur District. About 12th Century AD.

Seated on or almost over his vehicle Nandi over a seat. His left leg is kept on the seat while his right leg is trampling the *apasmara*. Hands holding - *akshamala*, *naga*, *Vyakhyana mudra* and holding a book. Ornaments - *Jatabhara* showing *Ganga* and crescent moon, necklaces, armlets, wristlets, *Yajnopavita* and *udharabandha* are present. *Bringipadas* and *padasaras* are present on the leg.

Bhairava

Mozhayur, Thanjavur District. About 12th Century AD.

Bhairava standing naked. He is holding *damaru*, broken; broken and *Kapala* in his four hands as attributes. As for ornaments he is having *patra* and *makara kundalas* in his ears; necklets, armlets, wristlets are present. He is also having *udharabandha*, *yajnopavita* and a long garland of bells, *naga katisutra*, anklets and *padasaras*. A hound is shown behind him.



Parvati

Vadamarudur, South Arcot District. About 10th Century AD.

Parvati seated with one foot resting on the seat and the other dangling down. She carries a lily in her right hand.

Bhikshatana

Bhikshandarkoil, Trichy District. About 10th Century AD.

Standing image of *Bhikshatanamurti* with four hands in two of which he holds weapons which cannot be distinguished perhaps *damaru* and *sula*. The hand holding the *kapala* is broken. The hand holding out a bit of grass for the deer is slightly damaged. His *jata* is arranged in a *jatamandala* fashion and *Ganga* is shown on his head. On the waist there is a snake girdle. There is a single *patrakundala* on the left ear. There is a dwarfish *gana* on his left side holding the begging bowl on his head.

Virabhadra

Locality unknown. Height 95 cm. About 15th Century AD.

Virabhadra standing on a *padmasana* over a square *bhadrasana*. He has four hands. The upper hands hold axe and bow, while his lower right holding an arrow and left resting on the shield. He is seen wearing a *Kiritamakuta* instead of the usual *jatamakuta*. There are *patrakundalas* in ears. *Keyuras* and *valayas* are present. A long garland hangs from shoulder to the knees.

Nataraja

Poruppumettuppatti, Tirumangalam Taluk, Madurai District. About 9th Century AD.

Nataraja in an altogether different posture, usually met with images found in the temples of the Pandya kings. Dancing with right leg lifted up on the demon, who is shown to be under great strain. The demon with curly hair, bracelets and other ornaments and with a serpent in his left hand is carved on the rectangular *pitha*. The *pitha* has a depression in its middle part the figure of lions in great activity in front and at the back and has flower designs at the sides. The *pitha* at its sides has two stumps supported by a mythical animal to receive the *prabhavali*, which is missing. The figure of *Nataraja* is adorned with *jatamakuta*. He wears *simhakundala* and *patrakundalas* in his ears. Three necklaces, the lowest one being the broadest, *keyuras*, bracelets, armllets, wristlets and rings on the fingers are present. *padasaras* are present.



Sukhasana

Tanjore District. Height 39 cm. About 10th Century AD.

Hands: Axe, antelope; *abhaya*, *ahuya-varada*. Pedestal missing.

The snake and crescent are very small and inconspicuous on right and left respectively of the upper part of head-dress. There is a *Makara-kundala* in the right ear, *patra-kundala* in the left. Necklaces and waist-band with large and finely finished ornaments are in front. Thread divided into two below small ornamental knot above left breast. Antelope spotted in its breast and back of head towards *Siva*, its feet resting on the tips of his fingers.

In the absence of the pedestal it is impossible to be sure that this figure did not form part of an *Umasahita* or *Somaskanda* group.

Tripurantaka

Tirukkodikkaval, Kumbakonam Taluk, Thanjavur District. Height 100 cm. About 11th Century AD.

Siva is depicted here as a *samharamurti*, after he destroyed the three *asuras* who dwelt in three forts made of metals. There are two pairs of hands. He is standing on a *padmasana*. He carries his emblem, the axe in the right upper hand while the emblem on the upper left is broken and missing. The lower hands are in the posture of carrying the bow and arrow. The workmanship of the *jatamakuta* and the ornaments are splendid.

Somaskanda

Nidur, Mayavaram Taluk, Tanjore District. Height of *Siva* 50cm. of *Parvati* 44 cm. of *Subrahmanya* 29 cm. About 10th century AD.

Siva : Axe, antelope; *abhaya*, *ahuya-varada*.

Parvati : *Kataka*, *varada*.

Subrahmanya : *kataka*, fruit.

The treatment of this image, especially the necklaces and faces, clearly mark it as of *Chola* type, in spite of the absence of the projecting elbow ornaments. The usual snake and flower are present on right and left respectively of the jewel in *Siva's* head-dress, which lacks the usual crescent. The flower is probably a *Datura*. The face and tail of the antelope are facing towards *Siva*. *Subrahmanya* is shown as standing erect and wears a *karanda-makuta* and *patra-kundalas*.



Natesa

Kuram, Chengalpattu District. Height 53cm. 9th Century AD.

According to *Bharata's Natyasastra* this model is called *Urdhvajanu*. This is the only representation of *Natesa* in this pose in metal. The upper left hand holds a snake, instead of fire, a noteworthy feature. Draperies are beautifully moulded. Though the face is worn out, the modelling of the figure and the treatment of the ornaments and garments are unmistakably in the *Pallava* style.

Ardhanarisvara

Tiruvankadu, Thanjavur District. Height 101 cm. About 11th Century AD.

As the name indicates, *Siva* is represented here as half-male and half-female, typifying the male and female energies. The right half represents *Siva* and the left *Parvati*. *Siva* has a *jatamakuta* with a crescent moon. He has three arms of which the lower arm rests on the back of the bull, his vehicle., and the upper right has an axe. The whole of the right side is adorned with ornaments peculiar to *Siva*. The right leg is bent and rests on the pedestal. The drapery is shown upto the knee. On the left side the image has a *karandamakuta*. The drapery is upto the anklets and her leg is slightly bent, resting on the pedestal. This image is referred to in an inscription in the temple at *Tiruvankadu*.

Natesa

Kankoduttavanitham, Thanjavur District. Height 86cm. 12th Century AD.

This figure of *Natesa* also has four arms carrying *damaru* and *agni* in his upper hands. The lower left is

in *gajahasta* and his lower right is in *abhaya*. This image is noted for its vigour and it is one among the well executed bronzes. The *prabha* has interesting details and has become ornate.