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

\[ \text{lya.m sal[r]il[r]a-nidhane Budhasa Bhagavate Sakiyanam sukitithatinam} \]
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
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
By John C. Huntington
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
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., Bihār, India
Buddhist Art
Masterpieces

Vajrasana Sakyamuni, ca. 9th cent., Probably Kurkihar, Bihar, India
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
Bouda, Stupa of the peasant woman and her three sons, ? to Present, Kathmandu Valley, Nepal
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
Avalokitesvāra with Tara, Brikuti and Hayagriva, ca. mid 15th cent., Nepal
Buddhist Art
Masterpieces

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.
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)
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 of the city states of the Tarim Basin
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

Pranidhana image, Bazalik, temple 9, ca., 9th cent., Turphan Oasis, Xingjian 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)
Anonymous: (Newar Artists in Tibet), Pancajina Buddhas, 14th cent., Zhalu Monastery Tibet
Anonymous: (Newar Artists in Tibet), Akshobhya Buddha, 14th cent., Zhalu Monastery, Tibet
Buddhist Art
Masterpieces

Vajrapani Bodhisattva, ca 14th cent., southern Tibet,
Stupa at Gyantse, 15th cent. Gyantse, Tibet

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)
Potola, 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
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.,
Polonuwarā 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.
Polonuwaradistrict, 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.
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.
“King Udayana’s image of Shakyamuni,” Commissioned by Chonen in Song dynasty 985 CE, China. Now in the Seiryoji, Japan.

Shakado at the Seiryoji
Liang Kai, active, mid 13th cent. Shakyamuni (the ascetic prince Siddartha) descending from the Mountains prior to his enlightenment.
Buddhist Art
Masterpieces

“True Image of Avalokiteshvara”
c. 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
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 of 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.
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
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

Torri, Shaka Sanson. Asuka period (623 CE). Horyuji, Nara, Japan
Buddhist Art
Masterpieces

Yume Domo
Kannon.
Asuka period.
Horyuji, Nara, Japan
Tachibana Shrine, Amida triad.
8th century.
Nara, Japan
Buddhist Art
Masterpieces

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

Daibutsuden, Todaiji, mid 8th century. Restored in the 18th century. Nara, Japan
Buddhist Art
Masterpieces

Daibutsu, Daibutsuden, Todai-ji, mid 8th century. Restored in the 18th century. Nara, Japan
Anonymous: Daruma
(Bodhi-dharma)
Kamakura period, Japan
Buddhist Art
Masterpieces

Miroku (Maitreya) Bodhisattva.
Late 7th cent., Chukuji Nunnery, near the Horyuji, Nara, Japan
Atelier of Jocho (Amitabha) displaying “first rank, first birth” mudra. Mid 11th cent., Byodo-in, Uji, Kyoto area, Japan
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 Kannons, 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
Ashikaga Yoshimasa, the Ginkakuji (Jishou-ji), built 1471 Kyoto, Japan
Buddhist Art
Masterpieces

Rock garden at the Ryoan-ji. Built ca 1500-1505 (?) Kyoto, Japan
Buddhist Art Masterpieces

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!
Weary old sage (wino) taking a nap on his empty wine gourd.
19th cent., Shiwan ware, Guangdong, China