



A H I M S A C E N T E R
NONVIOLENCE IN THOUGHT AND ACTION

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona • College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences

Ramila and Jayesh Shah Public Lecture

Nonviolence and the Art of India

by

Sonya Rhie Quintanilla

Saturday, July 19, 2008

Lecture 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. • Reception 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Cal Poly Pomona Bronco Student Center, Ursa Minor Room

India's art shows an abiding concern with nonviolence (*ahimsa*) among many prominent social and religious groups, from the ancient to the modern times. In this richly illustrated lecture, Dr. Sonya Rhie Quintanilla will highlight the depiction of *ahimsa* in a variety of art forms drawn from Indian history. The architecture and sculpture of the Indus Valley civilization, which flourished four thousand years ago, provide evidence for a unique urban society without weapons or warfare. The first monumental stone productions were made during a renewed period of peace following the conversion of emperor Asoka to Buddhism in the third century BCE. Jaina and Buddhist narrative sculptures and paintings through the medieval period also attest to the essential role of *ahimsa* in shaping the nature of public monuments, manuscripts and personal objects of meditation. The lecture will conclude with a discussion of how art was used during the nonviolent movement led by Mahatma Gandhi for India's independence from the British.



Dr. Sonya Rhie Quintanilla is the Curator of Asian Art at the San Diego Museum of Art. She has organized several art exhibitions, including *Domains of Wonder: Selected Masterworks of Indian Painting*, and *Rhythms of India: The Art of Nandalal Bose (1882-1966)*.

Her scholarly publications include a book-length study, *History of Early Stone Sculpture at Mathura, ca. 150BCE to 100C.E. (2007)*, and numerous articles on early Indian sculpture. She is also the author of the exhibition catalogue, *Rhythms of India: The Art of Nandalal Bose (2008)*.

Dr. Quintanilla received her Ph.D. in South Asian art history from Harvard University and a B.A. in South Asian art and religion from Smith College. She has taught as a professor of South Asian art history at the University of California, Irvine and was also a visiting professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Event is free. Pre-registration required by July 14.

To register send email to ahimsacenter@csupomona.edu

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For Directions visit the Center web site www.csupomona.edu/ahimsacenter