

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Amy Guess

Humanities Discipline: Art History

Date: November 10, 2016

World Religion: Hinduism

Teaching Module Title: Female Identity in Hindu Devotion

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Be able to discuss the core beliefs of Hinduism and how they relate to female identity.
2. Focus on femininity and gender fluidity in Hindu works of art.
3. Understand how Hindu women express core beliefs through their works of art.
4. Be able to understand how female identity has evolved in Hindu traditions.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. <https://theculturetrip.com/asia/india/articles/the-top-10-female-contemporary-artists-from-india/>
2. <http://www.cnn.com/2013/01/17/world/asia/bharti-kher-indian-artist/>
3. <http://www.exoticindiaart.com/article/goddess/>
4. Dehejia, Vidya (ed.) Representing the Body (Gender Issues in Indian Art): New Delhi, 1999.
5. Leslie, Julia. Roles and Rituals for Hindu Women: Delhi, 1992.
6. Untracht, Oppi. Traditional Jewelry of India: London, 1997.
7. <http://www.hinduismtoday.com/modules/smartsection/item.php?itemid=5566>

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. How does gender fluidity in Hindu art relate to modern day concerns? Do you believe Hindu art helps or impedes the current struggle of gender fluid non-Hindus and why?
2. How do artistic depictions of female deities influence Hindu parishioners both female and male?
3. How do flowers prove to be associated with women in Hindu art?
4. What are traditional views of female identity and how are they expressed through art?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

Consider the roles of women in Hindu tradition. How have/are female Hindu artists following these traditions or for going against them? What are the implications of their works of art in relation to Hindu identity?