

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Instructor:** Joanna H. Woś

**Humanities Discipline:** Art Appreciation

**Date:** October 7, 2016

World Religion: Hinduism

**Teaching Module Title:** Sculpture of S. Nandagopal

### Teaching Module Goals:

To compare and contrast the work of contemporary Hindu sculptor, S. Nandagopal, with the traditional bronze Hindu sculpture of Shiva Nataraja from the Chola period.

### Assigned Readings and Websites:

1. View the images below: *Reaching for the Moon* by S. Nandagopal and the *Shiva Nataraja* from the Art Institute of Chicago
2. View video on S. Nandagopal. Conversations with Artists. Regarding India.
3. <http://regardingindia.com/portfolio/s-nandagopal/>
4. Read *Chattopadhyay, Pallavi. (April 20, 2016). Mythology Meets Metaphysics*. The Indiana Express: <http://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/art-and-culture/mythology-meets-metaphysics-2761177/>
5. Read *Cholamandal: Artists' Village. Sections: "About Us" and "Nandagopal, S. Sculptor" under "Artists"* [www.cholamandalartistvillage.com](http://www.cholamandalartistvillage.com)
6. Read *Art of Cholas* [http://www.indianartcircle.com/arteducation/page\\_14\\_artofCholas.shtml](http://www.indianartcircle.com/arteducation/page_14_artofCholas.shtml)
7. Read Koeli Mukherjee Ghose. In the Domain of Drama Sculptures of S. Nandagopal. <http://www.artnewsnviews.com/view-article.php?article=-in-domain-of-drama-sculptures-of-s-nandagopal&iid=15&articleid=317>
8. Read S. Nandagopal. "Profile" and "Summary". Saffron Art. <http://www.saffronart.com/artists/s-nandagopal>
9. Read Stutley, Margaret. (1985). Nataraja in *The Illustrated Dictionary of Hindu Iconography*. Routledge & Kegan Paul. London, Boston, Melbourne and Henley. Pp. 100-101.

### Study Questions:

1. Review Hinduism Module 1 (Shiva Nataraja)
2. Compare the size, shape, and materials of the two sculptures.
3. Compare the methods used to create the two sculptures.
4. Describe any iconography that they appear to share.
5. Is there any congruity in the geographic area where the two sculptures were made?
6. Who is S. Nandagopal? What were his artistic influences?
7. What differences do you see between Nandagopal's sculpture and the *Shiva Nataraja*?

### Written Assignment:

Write a one page narrative comparing and contrasting the sculpture *Shiva Nataraja* at the Art Institute of Chicago with S. Nandagopal's sculpture *Reaching for the Moon*.



S. Nandagopal

*Reaching for the Moon*

2011

Silver plated copper, brass & bell metal

24" high



[India](#)

[Tamil Nadu](#)

*Shiva as Lord of the Dance (Nataraja),*

Chola period, c. 10th/11th century

Bronze

69.3 x 61.8 x 24.1 cm (27 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 9 1/2 in.)

Art Institute of Chicago