



Amarāvati

Art and Buddhism in Ancient India

By Jaś Elsner

ABOUT THE BOOK

- Explores the extraordinary Buddhist stupa (reliquary mound) at Amarāvati, showcasing its significance in Indian culture.
- Offers a fresh understanding of ancient South Asian visual culture and its connection to Buddhism.
- Features excellent new photographs, including objects from the British Museum, providing valuable insights for students and scholars.

This exploration of the exceptional Buddhist stupa (reliquary mound) at Amarāvati, one of ancient India's most extraordinary monuments, presents a fresh perspective on the rich visual culture of ancient South Asia viewed through the lens of art history, connecting the stupa's artistic innovations with advancements in Buddhist philosophy and rituals. Jaś Elsner offers new insights into early Buddhist art in South India, as well as a new understanding of the relationship between early Buddhism and its material culture. The excellent newly taken photographs, particularly those featuring objects from the British Museum in London, show in detail how the stupa communicated Buddhist teachings and practices to its followers, making this book an invaluable resource for students and scholars alike.

ISBN 9781789148695 • Hardback

Pages: 296pp • July 2024

Illustrations: 155 illustrations, 129 in colour

Size: 250 mm x 190 mm

Original Price: £45.00 • Indian Price: Rs.3695.00

Publisher: Reakion

Topic: Art

CONTENTS

Introduction

Part I: The Great Stūpa at Amarāvati

- 1: Approach and Circumambulation
- 2: The Inscriptions and Their Messages

Part II: Narrative Sculpture

- 3: Visual Storytelling and the Vision of Karma

Part III: The Wider Indian Context

- 4: Theatricality
- 5: Cosmography

Part IV: Icon and Replication

- 6: Buddhapāda: Symbolism, Visual Epitome and the Creation of Icons
- 7: Systems of Representation

Conclusion

References

Bibliography

Acknowledgements

Photo Acknowledgements

Index

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jaś Elsner is Professor of Late Antique Art at the University of Oxford and a specialist in comparative art & archaeology. He is the author or editor of many books including *Roman Eyes: Visuality and Subjectivity in Art and Text* (2007).

Feel Books Pvt. Ltd.

4381/4 Ansari Road Daryaganj, New Delhi 110002, Tel: +91 11 47472600, Email: marketing@feelbooks.in

www.feelbooks.in

REVIEWS

'Jaś Elsner's *Amarāvati: Art and Buddhism in Late Ancient India* marks a revolutionary approach to "visual Buddhology" that triangulates a hermeneutics of iconic objects with texts and practice traditions. In doing so, it breaks down disciplinary barriers, restores the Indian cultural element in Indian Buddhist studies and revises arguments about the rise of Mahayana in early India.'

— **Deven M. Patel, Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania,**
and author of *Text to Tradition: The Naiṣadhīyacarita and Literary Community in South Asia*

'This precious book looks at the great stupa of Amarāvati – one of the most important monuments in the ancient world – from seemingly inexhaustible perspectives. It leads the reader to see its monumental form and amazing reliefs, to read its intriguing inscriptions, and to think about its visual, cultural, and ideological connections with the long history of stupa construction, Buddhist mythology and ancient Indian narrative traditions, ritual function and cosmological vision, theatricality and the agency of dance, and philosophical questions evoked by the Buddha's multiple bodies and foot-prints, all embedded in the building's architectural and sculptural programs.'

— **Wu Hung, Harrie A. Vanderstappen Distinguished Service Professor of Art History,**
University of Chicago

For orders and enquiries, please contact us:

FEEL
Books

FEELBOOKS PVT. LTD.

www.feelbooks.in

DELHI	4381/4 Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi 110002 Pushpendra Kumar	Tel: +91-11-47472630 Mobile: +91 9015043442	Email: orders@feelbooks.in
BENGALURU	C-22, Brigade MM, KR Road, Jayanagar 7th Block, Bengaluru 560070 Shekar Reddy	Tel: +91-80-26762129 Mobile: +91 9945234476	Email: bangalore@feelbooks.in
MUMBAI	Alok Dube	Mobile: +91 9833435804	Email: adube@feelbooks.in
CHENNAI	G Srinivasan	Mobile: +91 9003047502	Email: gsrinivasan@feelbooks.in
KOLKATA	Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee	Mobile: +91 9836160013	Email: dbhattacharjee@feelbooks.in
HYDERABAD	K.S.Vishwanath	Mobile: +91 9871745850	Email: kvishwanath@feelbooks.in



For any queries, please email us at marketing@feelbooks.in



www.feelbooks.in