c. 10000
Stone Age society
Hunting, gathering, stone tools

History

c. 7000
Neolithic society
Hunting-gathering society with beginnings of settled society, typical settlements, specialized crafts, Mother Goddess cult (?)

c. 2500
Indus Valley civilization
Advanced urban culture: gold- and silver, drainage, bathrooms, social stratification, use of bronze, city-dwelling for ships, trade with Mesopotamia, writing on seals (still undeciphered)

c. 1800
Indo-Aryan speaking people's settlements in northwest Punjab coincide with decline of Indus urban culture

c. 1000 End of tribal clans and chiefdoms and rise of republics and monarchies known as Mauryanapadas

c. 1000 Mixing of iron and spread of Aryan settlements along river Ganges to Punjab; evolution of four great Varna or class; development of caste system, growth of Brahmanical religion; rise of cities, merchant classes, trade and artisans guilds, coinage; philosophical speculations based on concepts of karma and dharma, consensual in Upanishads; beginning of composition of epic Mahabharata

c. 600 Unification of realms in northern India leading to rise of Maurya; the region occupied by Indian emperor Ashoka, 519

c. 222-227
Mahavira, founder of Jain religion

c. 563-483
Gautama the Buddha

486
Buddhism, first great world religion, supported by monastic order, centered in Bihār and Gangetic Valley; first Buddhist council held at Magadha; growth of Dhammapada, Jatakas, and other Buddhist texts

468
Sculpture and rock painting

c. 2500
Proto-Sila; seals depicting bulls and eagles, bronze female figure, and mask figures

Art

Timeline

468 BCE
Jain religion preaches non-killing of all forms of life and a strict moral code of conduct

363-321
Mauryan dynasty of Magadha, during whose reign Alexander of Macedon invaded Indian province of Indus, 327-325 BCE

321
 Chandragupta founds centralized Mauryan empire, which extends to south, where emperor faces to death as a Jain

259
Ashoka sends missions to the south to spread Buddhism

268-231
Ashoka removes war after Kalinga battle and converts to Buddhism, inaugurating unique empire based on pacifism

c. 268
Ashoka seeks to inculcate moral lessons in his subjects through edicts inscribed on rock faces and pillars; calls third Buddhist council and converts Sri Lanka; social reforms include animal hospital

c. 200
Rise of Gaudhara; Bactria as major centre of Buddhism; growth of land trade along Silk Route; connecting China and West via India and Central Asia; sea trade between Hellenistic Asia Minor, India, and China

200
Maurya empire declines

Timeline
180 BCE: Successors of Alexander's generals occupy Bactria-Gandhara; Indo-Greek kings rule Sandhara (north-west India) from capital at Taxila

155-130 BCE: Indo-Greek king Menander

128 BCE: Rise of Satavahana dynasty in South India

C.120 BCE: Inception of rock-cut monasteries, notably Buddhist, which continue until 5th century CE

C.130 BCE: Bhagavata tel Utpalika pillar of Velapur, Berarnger

50 BCE: Kanishka, Kushan emperor, ruling from Mathura in eastern India through Gandhara in north-west up to parts of Central Asia

78 BCE: Kanishka convenes the Fourth Buddhist Council, which establishes supremacy of Mahayana sect. Buddhist philosopher Asagatika's Buddhist cantos written at his court; cultural revolution associated with rise of Buddhism as devotional Hinduism, centring on great deities Vishnu, Siva and the Goddess; compilation of Mahabharata, which now includes key Bhakti texts, Bhagavata Purana, composition of Bhavabhuta's bhavacarita written at his court; a tradition of asceticism, meditation and devotion... etc.

C.78 BCE: First Buddha images in Gandhara and Mathura of Jain and Hindu images

50-70 BCE: Carche I: Stele of Kanishka

150 BCE: Kushan emperor, rules western India

C.150 BCE: Saka king Rudradaman's inscription at Junagarh shows first use of classical Sanskrit

200 CE: Great Stupa at Amronnati completed

319-20 CE: Gupta Empire founded by Chandragupta I

325 CE: Samudragupta brings under his sway the whole of north India and extends hegemony in south

375-415 CE: Chandragupta II completes hegemony by conquering Saka kingdoms on west coast

C.400 CE: Golden Era of ancient India, centring on Gupta Empire; multi-talented Samudragupta combines military prowess with intellectual and cultural accomplishments; Chinese Buddhist pilgrim Fa-hian visits Gupta empire, praises peace and prosperity, great poet and dramatist Kalidasa at Chandragupta II's court; playwright Vashyavattam... etc. writing on religious... etc.

C.400 CE: Creation of Gupta icons of Buddha; completion of Buddhist narrative paintings at Ajanta and Ellora; first Hindu temples, structural and excavated, emerge

C.500 CE: Huna (Huns) conquest of north-west India and decline of Gupta Empire

C.600 CE: Tantric cults infiltrate major religions

600-70 CE: Mahendravarman I, Pallava ruler of South India

606-47 CE: Harsha, king of Kanauj, last imperial power
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<td>Sayyid and Lodi sultans of Delhi</td>
<td>c.1565-1605 Akbar's court, Abul Fazl and Babur</td>
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<td>c.1556-1617 Keshav Das's Kasapriya</td>
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| 1410-1518| Kabir preaches anti-caste synthesis of Bhakti and Sufi ideas |</table>
1627 CE

History: 1628-58 Shah Jahan

Culture: c.1637 Ahsak-Karim, Mohrafl Khan, Hamid-i-Moazzam, leading architect of Shah Jahan; Mirt Manjat, Agra, and addition to Forts

Art: c.1631 Taj Mahal built as memorial to Shah Jahan's wife
1648 Shahjahanabad (Red Fort, Delhi), completed, Friday Mosque, Delhi
1650 Rangamasa Temple, Srirangam; corridor of temple, Rameswaram
1650 Sarkhej of Minar

1658-1707 Aurangzeb
1678-05 Kirpal Pali of Bassehi Hill State

c.1700 Sawat Jaisingh II of Jajpur

1718-75 Rampuward, mystic poet of Bengal

1748-57 Sawant Singh of Kishangarh, Rajashehr

1755 Battle of Plassey and founding of British East India Company in Bengal

c.1760-1847 Tagoreja, composer of Bengal, first Orientalist, thinker, inspired by Latin American nationalisms and becomes friend of Jeremy Bentham

1775-1823 Sursur Chand of Kangra Hill State

1784 As fuck Society of Bengal, first Orientalist institution, founded in Calcutta
1799-1803 Ahsak Tabe leaves India, Ahsak Tabe leaves account of visit to West

1809 CE

History: 1809-51 H. L. V. Deme, university teacher, pioneer of radical Young Bengal movement
1825-91 Nesar Chandra Bidyasagar, great educator and social reformer of Bengal

Culture: 1825-1907 Pioneer nationalist, Dipadahgi Gangopadhyay

Art: c.1851 Foundation of art schools in Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta

1857 Uprising led by Sepoys brings down East India Company

1857 Novelist Bankim Chatterjee (1838-1890) writes song on Motherland, Bande Mataram, which becomes national anthem

1859 Michael Mathiasson Datta (1844-73) writes Bengali epic poems, Mughal Badshah Kanya

1860 Dinabandhu Mitra (1835-73) writes controversial play As Duran, highlighting white indentured laborers' oppressions of Bengal peasants

1870-1938 Muhammad Iqbal, India's greatest Muslim poet philosopher and inspirer of idea of Pakistan
**1875 CE**

- **History**: Leading Muslim nationalist Syed Ahmad Khan (1817–90) founds Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College, which combines western knowledge with Islamic education; Hindu nationalist Dayananda Saraswati (1824–1883) founds Arya Samaj

- **Timeline**: Queen Victoria declared Empress of India

- **1878-87**: Victoria Terminus railway station, Bombay

**1885**

- **Indian National Congress founded**

**1885–1905**

- **Early Congress dominated by moderate G. K. Gokhale (1866–1915)**
  - **1893**: Indian film industry founded
  - **1900**: Jagadish Chandra Bose (1859–1937), scientist, Fellow of Royal Society, and member of Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, presents paper at International Congress of Physicists, Paris

**1905**

- **Partition of Bengal and Swadeshi agitation; first nationalist movement**

**1906**

- **Muslim League founded**

- **1908**: Aurobindo Ghose (1872–1950), influential Hindu nationalist, edits revolutionary periodical Bardo Matram from Calcutta

**1909**

- **Muslims granted separate electorate by Raj**

**1911**

- **Transfer of capital from Calcutta to Delhi**

- **c.1910**: Subhas Chandra Bose (1887–1945), Indian politician and freedom fighter

- **c.1915**: Nationalist Bengal School of painting, led by Abanindranath Tagore (1871–1951)

**1912**

- **Swar Chandra Chatterjee (1876–1938), Bengali novelist and social critic, publishes first novel**

**1913**

- **Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941)**
  - **India's greatest poet**, awarded Nobel prize for book of poems *Gitanjali*, first non-European to receive it
  - **1914–18**: World War I; use of Indian troops in Middle East
  - **1918**: Menerez of unarmed gathering at Amritsar by government troops

**1920-4**

- **Khilafat movement seeks to unite Indian Muslims in Pan-Islamic agitation**
  - **1921**: Mahatma Gandhi's nationwide Non-Cooperation movement

- **1922**: Kazi Nazrul Islam (1896–1976), great Bengali revolutionary poet and composer, publishes journal *Shramkruthika* (blunt Rifle)


- **1931**: Victoria Memorial, Calcutta, completed

- **1932**: Exhibition of Baulhaus artists in Calcutta. Cubist experiments of Saganerndra Nath Tagore (1896–1970)

- **1934**: T.S. Pillai (1914–), Malayalam novelist and short-story writer

- **1935**: R.K. Narayan (1906–) publishes first novel in English

- **1936**: Prems Chandra (1880–1936), Hindi novelist and short-story writer, sees publication of best-known novel, *Goden*, shortly before his death

- **1939**: World War II; Raj enters India in conflict without consulting Congress, whose leaders resign en masse
1940
Mohamed Ali Jinnah demands sovereign state of Pakistan.

1941
Subhas Chandra Bose (1897-1945), nationalist revolutionary, joins Japan with his Indian National Army, attempting to liberate India from outside.

1942
Quit India movement launched by Gandhi.

1943
Great 'Beeraha' famine of Bengal.

1945-7
Progressive breakdown of law and order, and mutiny of armed services, as Labour government prepares to grant India independence; communal riots, partition of India, and creation of modern states of India and Pakistan.

1947
Jawaharlal Nehru first prime minister of India; Liaquat Ali Khan first prime minister of Pakistan.

1948
Mohammed Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan, dies.

1950
India becomes republic within Commonwealth.

1951
Congress wins elections; Nehru inaugurates Five-Year Plan.

1953
Dr. Bhaga Zamin by Ritwik Ghatak (1912–66) honoured at Cannes Film Festival.

1955
Father Pancali, by great film director Satyajit Ray (1921–92), released.

1956
Pakistan becomes Islamic republic.

1962
India's disastrous war with China.

1966-77
Indira Gandhi's first period as prime minister.

1982
Meerut Naujita movement emerges in eastern India.

1970

1972
East Pakistan declares independence and renames itself Bangladesh.

1980
End of Congress dominance in India.

1980
Misra Mukherjee (1923–90) increasingly recognized as major sculptor, giving a boost to women's contribution to modern art.
Further Reading

General works

This critical bibliography supplements the endnotes with a survey of major publications. There is no general work that covers all of the periods studied satisfactorily. The best surveys, mainly of the Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain periods, are J. C. Harle's elegant The Art and Architecture of the Indian Subcontinent (New Haven, 1994) and S. I. Huntington's classic synthesis, The Art of Ancient India: Buddhist, Hindu, Jain (New York, 1995). See also K. Fischer, M. Jansen, and J. Pfeifer, Architektur des Indianischen Subkontinents (Dusseldorf, 1989). With the exception of B. Gascogne's vivid portrait of Mughal culture, The Great Mughals (London, 1971), Indo-Islamic art scholarship tends to be specialist works on connoisseurship. (This is now being redressed by The New Cambridge History of Indiastudies.) However, for this period the most important publications are exhibition catalogues.


PART I. BUDDHIST AND HINDU ART AND ARCHITECTURE (c. 300 BCE-1700 CE)

Chapter 1. Introduction


Chapter 2. Buddhist Art and Architecture


Chapter 3. Hindu Art and Architecture


An indispensable source for Hindu architecture is the multi-volume Encyclopaedia of Indian Temples Architecture, edited by M. W.


Chapter 7. Rajasthani and Pahari Kingdoms (c. 1700–1900)


Chapter 8. The Non-Canaanitic Arts of Tribal Peoples, Women, and Artisans

V. Elwin’s pioneering works on tribal arts are...
Chapter 12. The Contemporary Scene

Museums and Websites

India: Metropolitan Cities

Calcutta
Indian Museum
Founded by the Rani, this is one of the greatest museums in India. Its most famous object is the Bharhat statue.

Aostkhi Museum
Mainly ancient art and folk art.

Rabindra Bharati Society
The finest examples of the Bengal School.

Academy of Fine Arts
Major collections of nationalistic and modern art.

Gurusaday Museum
Unique folk art collection.

Marble Palace
Fascinating collection of mostly Victorian paintings, sculptures, and art objects.

Victoria Memorial Hall
Mughal painting and works of British artists in India, especially the Dasciis.

Chennai (formerly Madras)
Government Museum
Remarkable Amarjati sculptures that complement the British Museum collection, South Indian bronzes, and Calukya stone sculptures.

Delhi
National Museum
Fine and comprehensive collection of Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain sculptures and Mughal, Rajput, Pahari, and Deccani miniature paintings, textiles, and decorative art.

National Gallery of Modern Art
The most important collection of contemporary art.

National Handicrafts and Handlooms Museum
Resource centre for the applied arts to aid their revival and development.

Mumbai (formerly Bombay)
Prince of Wales Museum of Western India
Represents all periods and includes a fine collection of Mughal and Rajput miniatures, Hindu sculptures, and decorative art.

Jagran Art Gallery
Major venue for temporary modern art exhibitions and a popular cultural centre.

National Gallery of Modern Art,
Sir Cowasji Jaghajhi Hall
Set up in 1996 as a showcase for contemporary art.

Bhave Daji Lal Museum
Important collection of applied arts, including those produced by the Bombay School.

India: Provincial Centres

Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
Calico Museum
Unique collection of textiles.

I. R. Institute and Museum
Miniatures, especially Jain works.

Aurdi (Maharashtra)
Sri Babuani Museum
Designed by an Italian architect in 1938 as a light and spacious villa with a glass ceiling; European art objects and contemporary art and Karg painting.

Bangalore (Karnataka)
Vrikshagala Museum
Well-displayed and documented works of a major nationalist painter of the Bengal School.

Baroda (Gujarat)
City Museum
Organized by the German scholar Hermann Goetz as a major art historical museum; contains some European masterpieces in addition to Hindu and Buddhist sculptures and miniatures.

Fatehsingh Museum
Includes some of the finest oils of Ravi Verma.

Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
State Museum
Wide and varied, including folk art.

Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh)
Central Archæological Museum
Some fine specimens of ancient sculpture.

Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)
State Museum
Includes some fine specimens of Gola and other South Indian sculptures and Mughal miniatures.

Jaipur (Rajasthan)
Mahantra Sawai Man Singh II City Palace Museum
Mughal and Rajput miniatures and carpets.

Mathura (Uttar Pradesh)
Government Museum
Early Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain art.

Mysore (Karnataka)
Sri Jayachamaraja Art Gallery
Historically important collection of early colonial and nationalist art, especially oils by Indians, notably Ravi Varma.

Patna (Bihar)
Patna Museum
Sculture collection includes the Mauryan yaksi from Tipu's."

Varanasi (Benares)
Bharat Kala Bhavan
Major collections of Indian miniatures and sculptures.

Pakistan

Islamabad
Fok Heritage Museum
Folk arts and crafts.

Karachi
National Museum of Pakistan
Archaeology, History, and Ethnology.

Archaeological Museum, Karachi University
Archaeology.

Bangladesh

Dhaka (Dacca)
National Museum
Contains Buddhist and Hindu art of the Pala and Sena periods and contemporary art, especially the Faizul Anebi Gallery on that artist's work.

There are also 17 active galleries of modern art in Dhaka.

Shynagama
Zainul Anebi Galra /h話し
Started by the artist.
United Kingdom

London
The seat of the former empire holds some of the finest collections of Indian art outside India.

British Museum
www.britishmuseum.ac.uk
Buddhist and Hindu art, including the Amarnath sculptures, the Stuart-Bridge collection of Pāṇḍa sculptures and Mughal, Rajput, and Pahari miniatures.

Victoria and Albert Museum
www.vam.ac.uk/
Mughal, Rajput, and Pahari paintings and sculptures, Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain sculptures. Originally set up to train artisans, it is also an important source for the Indian decorative arts.

India Office Library section of the British Library
www.bl.uk/collections/india/india/ Mughal, Rajput, Pahari, and East India Company art.

Royal Asiatic Society Library
www.royalasiaticsociety.co.uk
Small collection of Indian miniatures.

Cardiff
Ashmolean Museum
www.ashmolean.org
Some fine specimens of ancient stone and bronze sculptures, Mughal, Deccan, Rajput, and Company paintings and decorative arts, especially cotton textiles exported from India.

Bedford Library
www.bedford.ac.uk
Major miniature collection, including the earliest examples to arrive in the West.

United States

Private collections in the US created formidable collections in the twentieth century within a short space of time. Among these, John D. Rockefeller’s and Samuel Eilenberg’s ancient art collections, Paul F. Walter’s miniatures and Company paintings, and Chester and David Horne’s modern Indian art (including the largest collection of works of M. F. Husain) are remarkable.

Baltimore
Walters Art Gallery
www.walters.org
Fine Mughal miniatures.

Boston
Museum of Fine Arts
www.mfa.org
Collection formed by the great critic Ainsley Coomaraswamy. Boston’s well-known masterpieces include a yale from Sanchi ($), 29 Kangra drawings on the theme of Nata and Damascani, and Rajasthani paintings from Rajastahan.

Cambridge, MA (Harvard University)
Fogg Art Museum
www.fogg.fas.harvard.edu/fogg
Major Mughal paintings.

Chicago
Art Institute
www.artinstitute.org
Collection includes Mughal and Rajasthani miniatures.

Cleveland
Cleveland Museum of Art
www.clevelandart.org
Includes Asian collection of sculptures and the Mogul Tuhf-Name manuscript.

Los Angeles
Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)
www.lacma.org
Nasli Heeramanck collection of Mughal miniatures is among its treasures.

Montreal Museum of Fine Art
www.montmuseum.com/
Comprehensive collection comprising all periods, particularly rich in Mughal art.

Philadelphia
Philadelphia Art Museum
www.philamuseum.org/
Fine selection, especially ancient sculptures.

San Francisco
Asian Art Museum
www.asianart.org/

San Diego
San Diego Museum of Art
www.sdmuseum.org/

Washington, DC
Freer Gallery of Art
www.asia.si.edu
Indian sculpture and Mughal painting.

A. M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institute
www.asia.si.edu
Of recent origin, it contains a wealth of sculptures and paintings.

Other European sites

Amsterdam
Rijksmuseum
www rijksmuseum.nl/en/travel.asp?language=uk
Scuplture collection includes the Cole Rijkmuseum 181 and Nicolas Witsen’s (1641– 1717) album of Golconda miniatures.

Berlin
Museum für Indische Kunst
Major comprehensive collection of stone, terracotta, and bronze sculptures, Rajput miniatures and decorative arts.

Copenhagen
National Museum, Ethnographical Department
Millennium artifacts.kunstmuseum.dk/fogp/
collections_foder/interneuros_mus.htm
South Indian bronzes from colonial Tranquebar and sculptures collected by the missionary E. L. T. Engholm, and decorative art.

Dublin
Chester Beatty Library
www.chesterbeatty.ie/
Major holdings of Mughal and Rajput miniatures.

Paris
Musée Guimet
ambassade.org/MUSEES/anglais/fr.htm
Important collections of Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain sculptures and miniature paintings of all styles.

Vienna
Österreichische Museen für angewandte Kunst
Includes Himalaya paintings in its rich collection.

Schloss Schlossbrunn
So-called millionerzimmer wallpaper consists of Indian miniatures, many from Rembrandt’s collection.

Zurich
Kunsthaus Museum
Eduard von der Heydt collection of Indian sculptures and collections of Mughal, Rajput, and Pahari miniatures.

Himeji-City
Art Museum of the Glover-House food processing factory
Over 2,000 contemporary Indian paintings have been collected from 1991 onwards under the guidance of its curator, Masanori Fukuyeni, intended as a showcase of Indian culture.
List of Illustrations

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25. Deoga temple, Allahabad, eighth century CE. Photo: Douglas Dickens, FRPS.
28. Kaḷāśanatha (Siva) temple, Ellora, eighth century CE. Photo: Douglas Dickens, FRPS.
30. The Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram, c. 700 CE. Courtesy of Ann and Aby Peersless Picture Library.
31. Siva, slayer of the demon Andhaka, Ellora, sixth century CE. © Copyright The British Museum.
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52. Siva Archanaśivara, Vārānasi, twelfth century CE. Courtesy of Anath Museum, Calcutta.
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59. Jamī, maqṣūl, plan and axonometric view, Goburg, 1367. Reproduced from A. Voloshin, Islamic India.
61. Mañ Śingh's palace forecourt, Gwalior, sixteenth century. Courtesy of Ann and Aby
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64. Detail from palm leaf ms, Puranavanada, Bengal, c.1619. University Library, Cambridge. (Add. 6188 2437a.)
68. Carla in a garden by the river, Candapan, opaque paint on paper, probably Jaipur, sixteenth century. Courtesy of Prince of Wales Museum, Mumbai.
70. Haripur's mausoleum, Delhi, 1673. Photo: Asian Art and Architecture Picture Library.
71. Plan of Humayun's mausoleum, Delhi, 1556. Reproduced from A. Vogesen, Islamic Art.
76. President and Fellows of Harvard College, Harvard University. (066469)
78. Baseawun and Charat, Akbar brings the elephant Hauka under control as courtiers anxiously watch him, Akbar Nama, Moghul, c.1590. Opaque paint on paper. The Board of the Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. (279207)
80. Akbar his retinue, detail from Surat in a Chunar Tree, Moghul, c.1600. Opaque paint on paper. The Board of the Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.
82. Akbar-Rahim, Khan-i-Khanan, detail from Jahanighi Receiving Prince Parwaiz, Moghul, c.1610. Opaque paint on paper. The Board of the Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. (32276)
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89. Throne/throne in the dievani-amer-bhau, Red Fort, Delhi, completed 1648. Photo: Dr Ebbie Koch.
91. The capture of Port Hooghly, Padshah Nama, Moghul, c.1645. Opaque paint on paper. Courtesy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Not to be reproduced without permission of Royal Collection Enterprises Ltd.
94. Samrat Yatra, Jajpur, Rajasthan, eighteenth century. Reproduced from A. Vogesen, Islamic India.
96. Mohana, Jousse Singh of Meepur, opaque paint on paper, Udapur, c.1655. The Board of the Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. (1915)
100. "Dissipating her real esteem, the gopi parvati heroine", Ramnepuri, c.1665-70, Boochli. Opaque paint on paper. The Board of the Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. (IS 172-1951)
103. Woota image, goddess on winged bull, Karnataka, nineteenth century. Folklore Museum, Institute of Kannada Studies, Mysore University.
104. A barkhara painted on the front wall of a hut, Mathura, nineteenth century. Courtesy of Mr. V. Veerappa, The Art of Mithila. Ceremonial Paintings from an Ancient Kingdom.
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111. Courtois Playing a Flute, colour lithograph based on Kalligat painting, nineteenth century. The Board of the Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. (02.456)
112. J. P. Comigodo, Evening, exhibited at the Bombay Art Society, 1900. Courtesy of the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Maharashtra State and Bombay Art Society.
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