**Manifestations of Shiva:**

**Hinduism’s Great God in Myth, Art and Poetry**

**A symposium sponsored by Samskriti Houston and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Saturday, December 1, 2012, 10 am -6 pm**

Academic convenor: Indira Viswanathan Peterson, David B.Truman Professor of Asian Studies, Mount Holyoke College

http://www.mfah.org/calendar/manifestations-shivahinduisms-great-god-myth-art-p/6920/

Shiva Mahadeva, the ancient “Great god” of Hinduism, is a god of paradox and blessing: healer and destroyer of the cosmos, dancer and yogi, ascetic and householder, god of beauty and god of terror. Shiva’s elemental and iconic manifestations, in sacred places and shrines from the Himalaya mountains to the tip of peninsular India, have captivated his devotees for millennia. In this symposium five eminent scholars illuminate Shiva’ myths and iconography, his presence in major South Indian temples, and the devotees’ response to the god.

**List of Presentations**

1. **Keynote Address**: Dr. Indira Viswanathan Peterson, David B. Truman Professor of Asian Studies, Mount Holyoke College

**“Shiva and the Goddess in Myth and Poetry”**

 2. Dr. Padma Kaimal, Professor, Art and Art History Department, Colgate University

“**Telling Tales: Shiva and his stories at the Kailasanatha temple in Kanchipuram”**

3. Dr. Vidya Dehejia, Barbara Stoler Miller professor of Indian Art, Columbia University,

New York

**"Chola Bronzes: Connoisseurship and Archival Research"**

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4. Dr. Indira Viswanathan Peterson, David B. Truman Professor of Asian Studies, Mount Holyoke College

 **“Singing of Shiva and his sacred places: The poems of the Tamil Saints”**

5. Dr. R. Nagaswamy, Former Director of Archeology, Tamil Nadu State, and Former Vice-Chancellor, Kanchipuram University

“**Tracing the Dance of Shiva in Sculpture”**

6. Dr. Gardner Harris, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Bucknell University

"**Overwhelming the Heart: Experiencing Shiva's Presence in Manikkavachakar's *Tiruvachakam*."**

Evening Performance of Indian dance by Samskriti Dancers,