

THE CLEVELAND KRISHNA HOLOLENS EXPERIENCE

Cleveland Museum of Art + Interactive Commons, 2021

1

STORY OF THE CLEVELAND
KRISHNA

MAKE SURE YOU CAN SEE ALL
FOUR CORNERS OF THE BOX

The Boy God, Krishna

After a short introduction to the HoloLens by museum staff, visitors put on headsets and the journey begins. Krishna beckons visitors to follow a floating trail of tiny blue orbs and the sound of his voice to each station as he tells the story.

2

Phnom Da

He begins on Phnom Da, the sacred mountain, where eight sculptures depicting Hindu deities once stood.

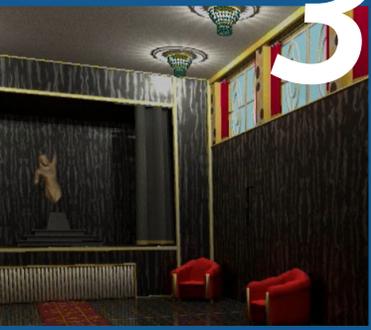
Over time, their temples were abandoned and some sculptures were destroyed or taken.



3

The Dancing Prince

The torso of *Krishna Raising Mount Govardhan* was shipped to Europe and sold in auction to private collectors in Belgium who liked the sculpture's form. They didn't know it represented Krishna; they called it, "The Dancing Prince." Additional fragments believed to be the missing limbs arrived from Cambodia in shipping containers.



4

The Garden

After many attempts to reconstruct the sculpture with the shipped fragments, they gave up: the pieces just didn't fit. The fragments were buried in the garden. Decades later, CMA acquired the torso and went to Belgium to dig up the rest of the fragments.



5

Restoration

There were actually two sculptures of Krishna on Phnom Da, and after the Khmer Rouge regime ended a partnership began between the National Museum at Phnom Penh and CMA to collaborate and share fragments to accurately reconstruct both Krishnas.



6

The Cave Temple

Krishna's voice leads visitors into the original temple with a vision of the sculpture fully restored. Visitors can walk around the cave to appreciate the sculpture in situ as candlelight flickers across the walls. Then, Krishna and the cave disappear and visitors return their HoloLens headsets.

