

Press Release

Stone Sculpture from the Brooklyn Museum's Collection Returning to Nepal

A sixteenth-century stone sculpture of the Hindu gods Shiva and Parvati in the Brooklyn Museum's collection has been returned to the government of Nepal pursuant to an investigation by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, with which the Museum cooperated fully. This object is being returned after new evidence emerged on social media concerning the object's provenance.

The object was loaned to the Brooklyn Museum in 1987 by Ben and Roslyn Shepps, and gifted to the Museum by the Shepps in 1991. The object has been included in exhibitions at the Museum, and its provenance was recently reviewed and updated in the lead-up to the reopening of the Museum's Arts of Asia galleries in 2022.

When contacted by the Antiquities Trafficking Unit at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office with new information related to the object's provenance this past spring, the Museum immediately began cooperating to provide information requested to aid in the District Attorney's investigation. Ultimately, it was determined, based on this and other evidence, that the sculpture had been illegally removed from a building in the Kathmandu Valley in the 1980s. Based on this documentation, and in cooperation with the appropriate authorities, it was determined that the object should be returned to Nepal.

"Provenance research is an ongoing and important aspect of the Brooklyn Museum's work. We are fully dedicated to transparency regarding the stewardship and complex histories of artworks in our care, in addition to ethical returns," says Anne Pasternak, the Museum's director. "We welcome collaboration with all parties who have access to new information about our collection, and we are pleased to coordinate in good faith with authorities to see the rightful return of this object."

Learn more about the [Brooklyn Museum's collecting practices](#).

Brooklyn Museum