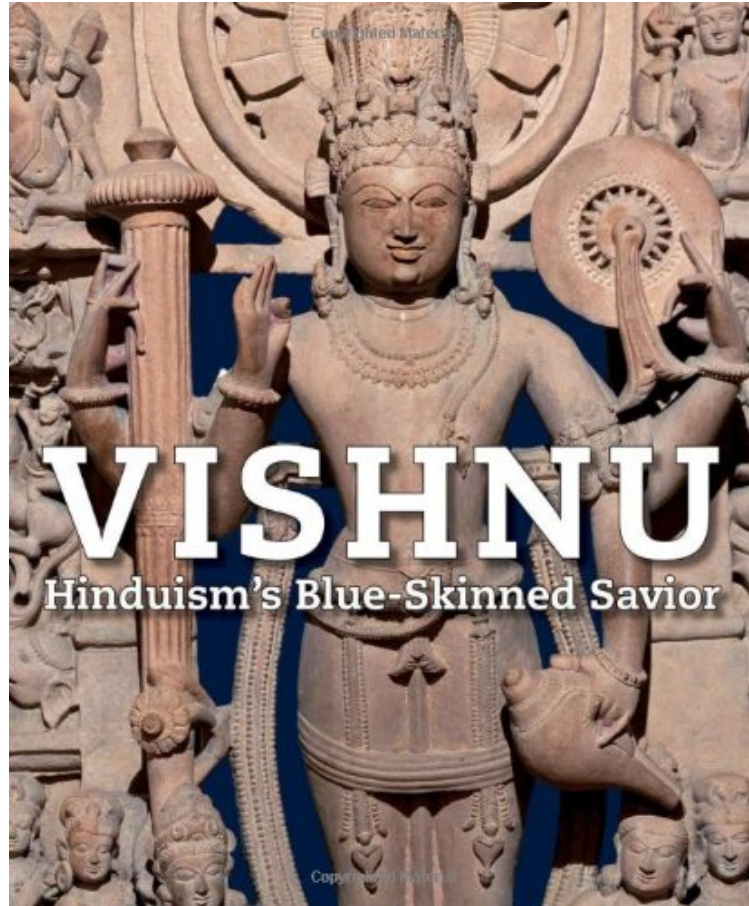


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## Vishnu Hinduism's Blue-Skinned Savior

*Joan Cummins*

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**Joan Cummins : Vishnu Hinduism's Blue-Skinned Savior** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vishnu Hinduism's Blue-Skinned Savior:

Vishnu - Hinduism's most important and powerful deity - is the great Preserver, vanquishing those who seek to destroy the balance of the universe. For his followers he is also the Creator and the Destroyer, the cause of all existence. His many traits are embodied in his impressive physical form, the weapons he carries, the goddesses who are his consorts, and the eagle Garuda, on whom he flies down from heaven. In Hindu legend, Vishnu descends to earth in many manifestations, known as avatars, to fight powerful demons and to save his devotees. The avatars range in form from Varaha the boar to Parashurama the Brahmin warrior, and in character from Narasimha the ferocious half-man half-lion, to Krishna the charismatic prince-cowherd. The legends of Vishnu have inspired some of the greatest art, literature, and ritual traditions in India. This catalogue examines the many faces of Vishnu and the ways that the god has been represented, from antiquity to the present. Essays by noted historians of South Asian art delve deeply into the

regional and sectarian traditions of Vishnu worship in India. Illustrations and discussions of almost 200 works of art, in a wide range of media and borrowed from collections around the world, reveal the rich diversity of India's art and religious culture.

About the AuthorJoan Cummins is the Lisa and Bernard Selz Curator of Asian Art at the Brooklyn Museum. She has lectured and published widely on the fields of Indian painting and Hindu temple art.