

Explore, through science, the mysteries of ancient Angkor, long obscured by the encroaching forests of Southeast Asia.

The vast metropolis of Angkor, now shrouded by jungle in present-day Cambodia, was once the center of one of the greatest empires the world has ever seen. Enormous monuments to the gods such as Angkor Wat are among the most remarkable achievements in all of human history, and towered over sprawling cities made of wood which, over the centuries, have vanished almost without a trace.

The reasons for the precipitous decline of Angkor, and the cultural resilience of the Khmer people who built it, have fascinated scientists for one and a half centuries. Thanks to new advances in science and technology including ground excavations, aerial mapping, and modern remote sensing, we are finally coming to terms with the vast scope and accomplishments of this empire. In this exhibition, explore the art and artifacts of ancient Angkor through the lens of science. Experience how each period of exploration and discovery – equipped with the cutting-edge tools of the day – has expanded our knowledge about this civilization. Through the lens of Khmer culture, discover the meaning and significance of what science has revealed, and the foundation of Angkor’s enduring resilience.

In this unique collaboration between scientists, anthropologists and art historians, we present more than a hundred of the most outstanding works produced by the Angkorian civilization, many of which have never before travelled outside of Cambodia. We reunite masterpieces that have now been recovered after decades of war and looting, and present arrangements of statues in an immersive scenography revealing the size, the majesty and the significance of the monuments configuration, as they have not been seen for a thousand years.



## BUDDHA SHELTERED BY NAGA

**Plantation of Pemcheang, Kmpong Cham, 11th century CE**

During the Angkor period representations of the Buddha seated on the coils of the naga (serpent) become very common in Khmer statuary, especially from the 11th c. onward. The serpent was said to raise his hood to protect the meditating Buddha during a rainstorm that lasted seven days.

## ANTEFIX IN PRASAT FORM

**Banteay Srei, Siem Reap, 10th century CE**

Antefixes, miniature forms of the temple tower itself, were often placed at the corners of the receding storeys of the tower surmounting the inner sanctuary of Khmer temples. Their scale diminished in proportion to the scale of the ascending levels of the tower. This example, with its highly detailed arcatures and colonettes and its own diminishing antefixes, echoes the style of the temple itself and illustrates the perfection of its carving.



## GARUDA GUARDIAN

**Banteay Srei, Siem Reap, 10th century CE**

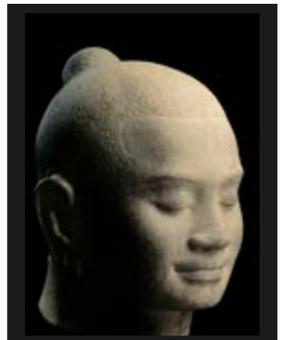
This divinity is one of the doorkeepers of Banteay Srei temple, famous for its elegant carvings and statuary. Alongside other mythical beings, his mission was to protect the central shrine of the temple.



## JAYAVARMAN VII HEAD

**Preah khan, Kompong Svay, Preah Vihear, 12th - 13th century CE**

The realism and naturalistic features of this statue make it among the rarest and finest examples of Angkorian sculpture. It has been identified as a portrait of king Jayavarman VII, who adopted Buddhism as state religion for the first time, and under whose reign the Angkorian empire reached its greatest extent.



## SHRINE WITH HEVAJRA

Royal Palace-Prei Monti, Roluos, Siemreap, late 12th - early 13th century CE

This scene shows Hevajra, the Tantric god, dancing in a shrine surrounded by dancing yogini attendants. This bronze is of Bayon style, a period when Mahayana Buddhism is spread in Cambodia by the famous king Jayavarman VII. Despite this major religious change, the attitude of this dancing Hevajra recall the iconography of Shiva Nataraja, the dancing Shiva revered in Angkor for centuries.



## EXHIBITION DETAILS

### ARCHITECTURE & CONTENT

- **Size** 7,500–14,000 sq. ft. (700 - 13,000 sq. meters)
- **Number of objects** Approx. 120 original objects. Venue to provide facility reports. Final loans dependent on approved facility reports.
- **Exhibition furniture** All exhibition furniture including display cases, scenery, projections.
- **Display cases** Display cases have their own lighting. Standard museum gallery environmental conditions required at venue.
- **Graphics** Photos, textiles, and graphic panels including all texts, which can be adapted for two languages.
- **Interactives** All furniture, displays and control systems included.
- **Films** All Projectors, video displays, speaker systems, media players and control systems included.
- **All audio/visual material** is available in two languages.
- **Lighting** All showcases are equipped with light.
- **Catalogue/Book** Yes.

### LOGISTICS

- **Insurance and shipping.**
- **Installation and dismantling crew** from *MuseumsPartner* plus couriers from the lending museum, including travel and accommodation.

### TOUR

- The exhibition is available for tour starting **September 2022**.

### PUBLICATION

- A **catalogue** is available on consignment.

### MARKETING MATERIAL

- **High resolution images** of the key images, objects and the exhibition are available to the venue at no cost. All final graphic representations by venue are to be approved by *MuseumsPartner* to ensure adherence to proper citing of partners and lenders.

### ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR HOST VENUE

- Marketing and promotion
- Merchandise
- Maintenance during display period
- Gallery lighting, walls, wall painting
- Operational costs—ticketing, security, programming, etc.

## ABOUT THE TEAM



Located in the heart of Los Angeles, the California Science Center is a world-class educational resource and family destination for visitors of all ages to explore the wonders of science. The Science Center fulfills

its mission to stimulate curiosity and inspire science learning in everyone by creating fun, memorable experiences through hands-on exhibits, live demonstrations, innovative programs and awe-inspiring films in state-of-the-art IMAX with Laser. General admission is FREE to extraordinary exhibits ranging from Endeavour – one of only three remaining flown space shuttles, to Ecosystems – with live animals in living habitats including a 188,000-gallon kelp forest tank.



In cooperation with international museums, *MuseumsPartner* has conceived a range of travelling exhibitions that are informative and engaging for a multitude of audiences and easy to adapt to different spaces. We offer these exhibitions under a turnkey contract which ensures that our clients are guaranteed a secure investment customized for their own institution without any surprises. Drawing on our extensive experience in fine art transport, we provide full services to our partners and offer project management, logistics and financial management.

**For bookings and further information contact:**

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