HARC0227: Indian Painting

Rasa, Ragamala, Romance, and the Ramayana
NATYASHASTRA By Bharatamuni, a Sanskrit (classical language of India) dramaturgical text on the performing arts, ca. 4th-6th c. CE

Rasa” “essence,” “sap,” “juice” i.e, rasa means that which is being tasted or enjoyed.

NINE RASAS

Shringara: eroticism

Hasya: comedy, joy mirth

Karuna: compassion

Raudra: fury

Shanta: peace, serenity

Vira: heroism

Bhaya: fear

Adbhuta: amazement

Bhibatsya: revulsion, disgust
Bhavas — emotional states engendered by aesthetic experience of witnessing performances.

"emoooon," mood, state, feeling

Physical responses — goosebumps, "horripilaooing"

Impossible to understand without the embodied performances: dance, poetry/language, song, painooing. Painooing like a solll from a movie: a mnemonic

Nine rasas in Kathakali (Kerala) theater

Shanta
An Illuminated Folio from the Kitab-i Nauras of Ibrahim Adil Shah, 1617
India, Bijapur, Deccan, 17th century

Ibrahim Adil Shah (r.1580-1626) Holding Castanets, Bijapur, Deccan, ca.1610
Sahibdin, *Gita Govinda: Krishna awaiting Radha*, Mewar, Rajasthan, ca. 1629

**Vasanta raga:** spring melody

**Shringara rasa:** erotic emotion
Relationship of ragamala paintings to the performative tradition?

Deccan Ragaputra

Raga Bhairav
Sahibdin, *Bhairava Raga*, Mewar, Rajasthan, 1628

- unusual form as Krishna; normally Shiva

- Jagat Singh, patron, was a Vaishnava
Kalyana Ragini, Mewar, Rajasthan, 1680

-king as rasika
"Todi, Ragini of Bhairu; to be sung in the day."
"Divided from her darling, most unhappy in love, like a nun renouncing the world, This Todi abides in the grove and charms the hearts of does."
Manohar, Rama breaks Shiva’s bow, Jagat Singh *Ramayana*, Mewar, mid-17th c.
Wedding Ceremony of Rama and Sita: Folio from Ramayana, Early Master at the Mandi Court, Himachal Pradesh, 1635-50
Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana at the Hermitage of Bharadvaja, Ramayana, artist is from first generation after Nainsukh, ca. 1780, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh
The Abduction of Sita, Folio from a Ramayana India, Rajasthan, Mewar, 1675-1700
Ravana with his Ministers; Sita in the Asoka Grove, by Manaku (1700-1760)
Indian, Guler, Pahari, Punjab Hills, ca. 1725
Ravana in Conference with the Rakshasa captain; rakshasa army awaits, by Manaku (1700-1760)
Indian, Guler, Pahari, Punjab Hills, ca. 1725
Sita’s ordeal by fire, sub-imperial Mughal, ca. 1600