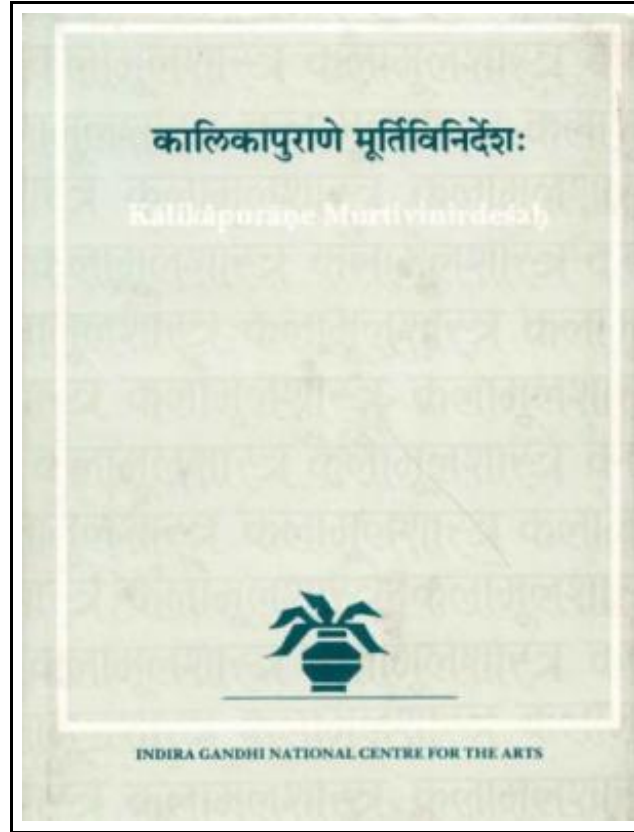# Kalikapurane Murtivinirdesah

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Reviews

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(Dr. Celestino Treutel)

KALIKAPURANE MURTIVINIRDESAH

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts/MLBD, New Delhi, India, 1994. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. Most of the Pura?as contain sections devoted to the arts. In some they provide context while in others, they are akin to the texts of form and technique, specially silpa, citra, na?ya and n?tya. A free narrative style of the Pura?as facilitates an understanding of the silpa (i.e. measurement, proportion and iconography) and the Agama aspect (i.e. ritual and the worship methodologies) together. Also, since the Pura? as are texts which move freely in time and space, social strata, they are able to make connections between different levels of society as also in different periods of history. The present volume Kalikapura?e Murtivinirdesa?, is a selection of 550 verses from the Kalika Pura?a roughly ascribed to the period between tenth and eleventh centuries CE. It is an important landmark for understanding the iconography as also the ritual practices related to Saiva images particularly the Devi in eastern India. The sculptured style of medieval eastern India is distinctive and cannot be mistaken for contemporary sculptural style prevalent in Bengal and Orissa. What is true of the sculptural style is also true of the iconographical details of images from Assam and specially some only recently excavated and housed in the Assam State Museum. For understanding the iconography of these images, the Kalika Pura?a is an indispensable tool. The detailed descriptions enable one to comprehend the particularities of the iconographical details. The Pura?a is specially concerned with Kamakhya, Kali and Kapali-Bhairavi. The fusion of the legend and the iconographical details can, no doubt, help in further interpretative work on eastern India sculpture. Equally significant are the sections relating to the methodogies of worship through rituals. Very fine and sensitive details are enumerated as to how to...

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