

### 69. DANCER

Tra Kieu, Quang Nam Province, 11th century  
Sandstone, H: 74 cm × W: 28 cm × D: 40 cm  
Hue Royal Antiquities Museum, DKC 44

Throughout the long history of the dance, artists looked to dancers as a favorite subject. This love for the active pose of dance was expressed in minor figures as well as in numerous depictions of Shiva in his form of Nataraja, King of the Dance. While the Shiva images were generally carved in the tympanum over the entrance door to a temple, minor dancing figures were placed around its exterior base (see fig. 8 in preceding essay, p. 184). The temple site at Tra Kieu, generally identified as the capital Simhapura of Champa when the Quang Nam Province polity was dominant (at various times from the fifth to the eleventh centuries), included a number of these dancing figures.

This male is particularly lively, as he raises one leg and swirls a scarf around his body, with one raised hand grasping an end above his head and the other next to his leg. The three-pointed crown, with its two additional points in an upper level and the large earrings that appear to consist of a series of rings, are very similar to those worn by the images from Phu Hung, an eleventh-century site, and may indicate a comparable date.