

throne, the My Son E1 sacred dais... as no larger relevant space could they find. For this reason Champa artisans had to ponder over the essence of those figures and themes to translate them into carving blocks making them such imbued with impressionist tendency. Champa sculpture was not to depict details, rather it focused on the soul, the essential of the figures and anecdotes. The aesthetic of Champa sculpture is thus the beauty of the carved blocks and their impressionist expression.

Champa sculpture was constituted of separate works which were not carved directly on the surface of the construction, and as being not so voluminous as in Angkor and Java they had more often gone astray or were hidden in the ground. Moreover the history of Champa had to suffer many changes. That is why researcher for the sake of protection and research (from the end of 19th century) had no other way than collecting and gathering any Champa sculptural work into various museums. As a result almost Champa stone carvings have been kept and displayed in various museums inside and outside Vietnam. There prevail now in Vietnam four centers in charge of conserving and displaying those works of art, namely the Cham Museum in Da Nang, the Museum of Vietnamese History in Ho Chi Minh City, the Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Hue and in the National Museum of Vietnamese History. Recently, as the discover of Champa stone carvings are growing more and more, various local museums in Central provinces are also assuming the task of conservation and display those newly found works of art.



Duong Long Temple, Binh Dinh Province, 12th-13th century

Due to the dispersal of those carving works, the study of ancient Champa sculpture was deemed to be not so easy. It is but until 1963 that those pearls of Champa sculptural works had been threaded into a string of soul entrancing beauty by J. Boisselier in his famous work entitled. **“La statuaire du Champa”**: He has defined and classified the Champa sculptural works into styles relating to historical periods as follows:

Sculptural works being more influenced by Indian art, prior to the 8th century, typical among others is the bronze Buddha statue in Dong Duong;

Style of My Son E1 (7th- mid 8th century). Typical among others is the My Son E1 magnificent and conceit stone dais.

Style of Hoa Lai or art in Huan Wang period (8th - mid 9th century). Typical among others is the bronze Buddhist icon, akin to Java art - style.

Buddhist style of Dong Duong (Second half of 9th century) characterized by the vigorous racial features of Cham people.

Style of My Son A1 (10th century) deeply imbued with classical aspect through two sub-style, Khuong My and Tra Kieu.

Style of Chanh Lo (11th century).

Style of Thap Mam or Binh Dinh (12th — 13th century).

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