

## 56. Trà Kiệu *apsaras*

Trà Kiệu, Quảng Nam

11<sup>th</sup> century.

Sandstone: H. 110 cm;

W. 270 cm (or 360 cm?)

each side.

BTC 118/1-22.5

- 1 In Cham art *bali-pitha*, have been identified at the sites of Vân Trạch Hòa (Baptiste 2003: 168-76), Khương Mỹ, Chiền Đàn, Mỹ Sơn D1, Mỹ Sơn G1, Chiêm Sơn Tây, Xuân Dương (Trần Kỳ Phương 2005: 797-9). During the excavation at Trà Kiệu, Claeys discovered the foundation of a large temple that he named Point A, with a height of about 1.10 meters and 14 meters long (Claeys 1927: 468-83, pl. XXXIX, A; 1928: 579-84, pl. XX, A and B; 1931: pl. XXVII, B). The author considers it likely that Trà Kiệu *apsaras* embellished an offering altar placed in front of the large temple of Point A Trà Kiệu because this altar has a height and width (1.10 x 2.70 or 3.60 meters), which seems to be a fit for the temple.
- 2 After verifying the broken pieces of heads (over 30 pieces) and the trunks of the dancers and musicians from this altar found during the Claeys excavation at Trà Kiệu in 1927-28, Baptiste suggested that each side of the altar has the length of at least 3.60 meters and was carved with 4 dancers and 3 musicians (Baptiste 2008: 49-52, fig. 4.3, fig. 4.5, fig. 4.6).

