Welcome to Expanding Darshan: Manjari Sharma, To See and Be Seen.

We are so glad you are visiting this exhibition!

What is an exhibition?
An exhibition is a public showing of a large selection of art, artifacts, or other items that may be interesting to people. These items are often united by a theme. The theme for this exhibition is art depicting the gods of Hinduism. Hinduism is a major world religion originating in India.

What does the title of this exhibition mean?
Expanding Darshan: Manjari Sharma, To See and Be Seen

What is darshan?
The first word you might notice in the title is the word darshan. In Sanskrit (ancient language of India), darshan means to see and be seen by the gods. Why would someone seek darshan? Because to be seen by the gods makes us feel accepted, understood, healed, peaceful, and loved. This exchange of gazes can be experienced through specially made images of gods, like many of the works of art in this exhibition.

Who is Manjari Sharma?
The next couple of words you might notice is actually the name of an artist! Manjari Sharma is a photographer working today who has lived all over the globe. Her famed series of photographs, called Darshan, consists of nine photographs of individuals who modeled as major Hindu gods and goddesses.

What does this exhibition do?
It pairs the nine photographs by Manjari Sharma with historical works also depicting those same Hindu gods. These works span over a thousand years and are from across South and Southeast Asia. So, with all of these works together in one place, we can see:

· The expansion of Hinduism across South and Southeast Asia
· The expansion and variations of how to depict a Hindu god
· The expansion and continuing need to both see and be seen by the divine

Time to discover!
This family activity guide is designed to help you and your family explore the exhibition, ignite curiosity, and get creative.

Along with the activities provided in this guide, we also have a digital guide called smartguide! To access additional BMA Kids activities and quick guides to the Hindu gods featured in this exhibition, visit www.artsbma.org/guide and type in the four digit code #1200, or scan the QR code below.

Who’s Who?
Matching Game & Coloring Activity
Can you identify the Hindu gods?

There are nine gods featured in this exhibition. Each of these gods have their own section in the exhibition. There are also nine gods illustrated in this activity guide, but we have not labeled which god is which.

Your Challenge: Visit each section of the exhibition and match the drawing to the god it represents. Once you have identified the god, write their name next to the illustration. Complimentary pencils are located at both entrances to the Museum.

Hint: To access quick guides about each of the nine gods featured in this exhibition, can the QR code in this guide or visit www.artsbma.org/guide and type in this four digit code #1200.

Coloring Challenge
Hindu gods are vibrant and colorful. Take this activity guide home to color the illustrations.

We’d love to see your finished product. Take a photo and tag the Museum for a chance for your coloring sheet to be featured by the BMA!

Discover
There are different animals and supernatural creatures depicted in the works of art in this exhibition. Can you find all of the creatures listed below?

Hint: Next to each object in this exhibition is a label. Labels provide information about the specific work of art, like its name, what it is made of, and an interesting fact about the work. Search the titles on labels to find the creatures listed below.

Garuda  Hamsa  Rat  Elephant  Mermaid  Peacock  Zebu  Bull

Which creature was your favorite? What did you learn about each creature from reading the labels? Did you find any animals that were not listed here?