

Cornelia Mallebrein, Heinrich von Stietencron

The Divine Play on Earth

Religious Aesthetics and Ritual in Orissa

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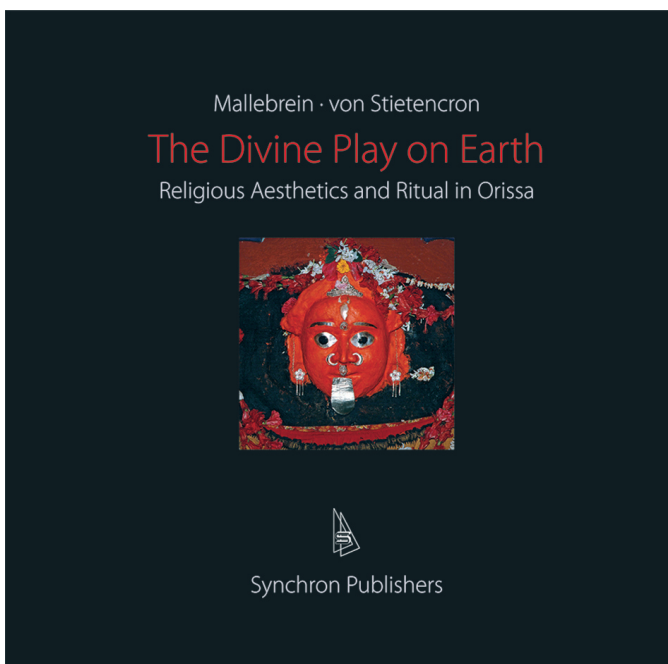
This publication is a survey of religion and ritual in Orissa, one of the major states of the Republic of India. It encompasses the literary Sanskritic tradition as well as folk and tribal religious beliefs. Beginning with a brief historical introduction, it deals with important deities of Orissa, their healing powers, festivals and the ways of ascertaining their divine presence by means of *darśana*, visual communication. In addition, it analyses the sacred geography of the countryside and the symbols and meanings found in tribal art forms. The book is the result of the most current and up-to-date field research and is lavishly illustrated with new and previously unpublished photos.

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