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Mathura School

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- Mathura School- The school of art that developed at Mathura (UP) has been called the 'Mathura School'. Its origin has been traced back to the middle of the second century BC., but it was only in the first century AD that its genuine progress began. The artists of Mathura used the spotted red sandstone for making images.

- In its early phase, the Mathura school was probably inspired by Jainism as we find that many figures of cross - legged naked Tirthankaras in meditation were carved by Mathura craftsmen.

- The early Buddhas and Bodhistyvas of the Mathura school are fleshy figures with little spirituality about them, but later they developed in grace and religious feeling. The attempt to display spiritual strength by a circle behind the faces of the images, in fact, began with the Mathura school.

- The Mathura artists also carved out images of Brahmanical divinities. Popular Brahmanical gods, Siva and Vishnu, were represented alone and sometimes with their consorts, Parvati and Lakshmi respectively. Images of many other Brahmanical deities were also faithfully executed in stone.

- The most striking remains are the beautiful females of yaksinis, naginis and apsaras. These richly jewelled ladies, stand in pert attitudes reminiscent of the Indus dancing girl.

- Most of the Kushana royal statues were found at the village of Mat (near Mathura) where the Kushana kings had a winter palace, with a chapel in which the memory of former monarchs and princes was revered.

- Almost all the figures have been broken by the rulers of the succeeding dynasties, and that of the great Kanishka, the most striking of the status, unfortunately lacks its head.