

Abstract

The topic of this thesis is visual art produced during the reign of Pala dynasty, which ruled in the region of Eastern India from 8th to 12th century. The Palas are well known for supporting Tantric Buddhism, Vajrayana. It also was the most powerful source of artistic inspiration in those days. Artists developed and followed many kinds of new techniques, from sculpture to painting. The aim of this thesis is to describe the period during which the Pala buddhist art was formed, to outline possible influences of other Indian artistic schools on it, to characterise it by the most commonly used techniques, topics and symbolism and to give a description of several art pieces that belong to this artistic tradition.