

Special Lecture on

**The Excellence of Thanjavur Chola Period Mural Paintings**

Date : 21.02.2019

Venue: Seminar Hall, Bharathiar Palkalaikoodam, Puducherry

Presenter: Prof. Manickavachagam (Retd), NIT, Dept. of Architecture, Trichy

**Concept:**

Chola Dynasty (850CE – 1250 CE) was considered to be the Age of the development of Dravidian Arts and Architecture. Their knowledge of the Architect Constructional method of Temples and the style of Mural paintings make esteemed. The prestigious UNESCO too has ascribed on world Heritage site known as the ‘Great Living of Chola Temples’.

The murals in Brihadeeswarar temple depict the stories from *puranas* and also the lifestyle of the Cholas through their jewellery, attire, postures and emotional qualities. The panels portray the stories from puranas like Shiva in action destroying demonic forts, Saint.Sundarar & Chera king going to heaven on the white elephant and the battle scene of Tripurantaka (Shiva) with Asuras are the standing examples of the exemplary talents of the Chola artists. The great monarch Raja Raja and his Guru Karuvur Thevar shown here give us the idea of the Guru Shishya cult and the reverence shown to the Guru by the Great Raja Raja Chola with an utmost dignity.

The workmanship in creating the true fresco on the temple walls when no proper lighting condition and sophisticated tools were existing was the summit in the work of graphic art. The finest line quality and coloring skills through vegetable dyes are the highlight of their contribution. When the whole panels which reveal as many as hundreds of stories of that period came to be known, the entire art world saw with wonder the pride of the tradition and culture of the Tamils.

*This Special Lecture may enhance the aesthetic and cultural knowledge among the research scholars in both Fine and Performing Arts.*