

## List of Figures

All photographs are taken by the author, unless otherwise indicated.

- Figure 0.1: Festival program, Kāmākṣī temple, 2014.  
Figure 0.2: Festival program, Paṭavēṭṭammaṇ temple, 2015.  
Figure 1.1: Map of Kanchipuram.  
Figure 1.2: Kāmākṣī temple, entrance *gopuram*, 2014.  
Figure 1.3: Navarātri *maṇḍapa*, 2014.  
Figure 1.4: The *Śrīcakra*.  
Figure 1.5: Poster of Kāmākṣī.  
Figure 1.6: Paṭavēṭṭammaṇ temple, 2014.  
Figure 1.7: Paṭavēṭṭammaṇ *mūlamūrti*, 2011.  
Figure 1.8: Poster of Māriyammaṇ.  
Figure 2.1: Mahiṣāsuraṃardinī relief, Mahabalipuram, 2011.  
Figure 2.2: Poster of Bālā Kāmākṣī.  
Figure 3.1: *Kalaśas* and *homa* in the *yāgaśālā*.  
Figure 3.2: *Kanyā pūjā* in the Kāmākṣī temple.  
Figure 3.3: *Durgā alaṃkāra*, 2014.  
Figure 3.4: *Kāmākṣī Puṣpa* (flower) *alaṃkāra*, 2014.  
Figure 3.5: *Rājā Kāmākṣī alaṃkāra*, 2014.  
Figure 3.6: Kāmākṣī in *Durgā alaṃkāra* (right) and Durgā on Durgāṣṭamī, 2014.  
Figure 3.7: *Sarasvatī alaṃkāra*, 2014.  
Figure 3.8: Boys and the demon, 2014.  
Figure 3.9: Boy with the demon's buffalo head, 2014.  
Figure 3.10: Kāmākṣī sending firecrackers towards the demon, 2014.  
Figure 3.11: Women admiring the temple *kolu*, 2014.  
Figure 3.12: *Vaṇṇimarapūjā*, 2014.  
Figure 4.1: Gifts to the goddess, 2015.  
Figure 4.2: Woman carrying the *kalaśa* in which the goddess is invoked, 2015.  
Figure 4.3: Priest tying the *kāppu* to the *triśula*, 2015.  
Figure 4.4: *Muttu* (pearl) *alaṃkāra*, 2014.  
Figure 4.5: *Tiriculanāyaki* (lady of the trident) *alaṃkāra*, 2014.  
Figure 4.6: *Tīppāñciyammaṇ* (goddess jumping into the fire) *alaṃkāra*, 2014.  
Figure 4.7: *Śrī purru* (anthill) *Māriyammaṇ alaṃkāra*, 2014.  
Figure 4.8: *Śrī periyāyi* (bigger) *Paṭavēṭṭammaṇ alaṃkāra*, sanctum, 2014.

- Figure 4.9: *Śrī periyāyi* (bigger) *Paṭavēṭṭammaṇ alaṃkāra*, temple floor, 2014.
- Figure 4.10: *Cānta corūpiṇi* (peaceful embodiment) *alaṃkāra*, 2015.
- Figure 4.11: Worshipping the banana tree, 2009.
- Figure 4.12: Slaying the banana tree, 2009.
- Figure 4.13: *Prathama* (main) *kalaśa*, 2015.
- Figure 4.14: Devotee getting pierced with a *vēl* (spear), 2011.
- Figure 4.15: Devotee getting pierced with limes, 2011.
- Figure 4.16: Devotee getting pierced with 108 *vēl* (spears), 2015.
- Figure 4.17: Milk pot (*pāl kuṭam*) procession, 2011.
- Figure 5.1: *Viśvarūpadarśana* and *Kāmākṣī kolu* setups, 2015.
- Figure 5.2: Mrs. Gowri placing the *kalaśa*, 2015.
- Figure 5.3: Mrs. Gowri leading a Sanskrit recitation in front of the *kolu*, 2015.
- Figure 5.4: Mrs. Gowri worshipping married women and young girls.
- Figure 5.5: The *tāmpūlam*, 2015.
- Figure 5.6: Child dressed up as Vaiṣṇava saint *Āṅṅāl* for *kolu*, 2015.
- Figure 5.7: Eating *cuṅṅal* (pulses) as *prasāda*, 2015.
- Figure 6.1: A *kolu*. 2014.
- Figure 6.2: Lakṣmī, Durgā and Sarasvatī dolls, 2015.
- Figure 6.3: *Viśvarūpadarśana* scene from the *Bhagavadgītā*, 2015.
- Figure 6.4: *Cēṭṭiyār* merchant dolls, 2015.
- Figure 6.5: Village scenes in front of *kolu* steps, 2014.
- Figure 6.6: Marappācci dolls, 2015.
- Figure 6.7: Toys as *kolu*, 2015.
- Figure 6.8: Cotton ball Mt. Kailāsa, 2015.
- Figure 6.9: Doll maker's workshop, 2015.
- Figure 6.10: Doll maker's workshop, 2015.
- Figure 6.11: The goddess in the form of a pot, 2015.
- Figure 6.12: Replica of temple tank with motorized float, 2015.
- Figure 6.13: Replica of a Kanchipuram preschool, 2015.
- Figure 6.14: Mrs. Kamala's *kolu*, steps, 2015.
- Figure 6.15: Mrs. Kamala's *kolu*, floor scene, 2015.
- Figure 6.16: Old *kolu* doll in Mrs. Kamala's collection, 2015.
- Figure 6.17: *Arāṅkēṛṛam* set, 2015.
- Figure 6.18: Mahabalipuram set, 2014.
- Figure 6.19: *Yāli vahana*, 2015.
- Figure 6.20: Gaṇeśa cricket set, 2015.
- Figure 6.21: Christian dolls and nativity set on the *kolu*, 2015.
- Figure 7.1: Mrs. Kavitha in front of her *kolu*, 2015.
- Figure 7.2: Mrs. Kavitha showing dolls to her guests, 2015.

Figure 7.3: Mrs. Ponnamal's *kolu*, 2014.

Figure 7.4: *Kalyāna* (wedding) set, 2015.

Figure 7.5: *Sīmanta* ("baby shower") set, 2015.

Figure 7.6: *Vastugrāhalakṣmī*, 2015.

Figure 7.7: TV forming part of the *kolu*, 2015.

Figure 7.8: Mrs. Madhumita's *kolu* steps, 2015.

Figure 7.9: *Kanyā pūjā* in front of Madhumita's self-manufactured dolls, 2015.

Figure 7.10: The goddess as Madhumita in session with a client, 2015.

Figure 8.1: *Vīṇā* in front of a *kolu* for Sarasvatī Pūjā, 2014.

Figure 8.2: Rickshaw decorated for *āyudha pūjā*, 2014.