

**American Council for Southern Asian Art Symposium XIV
October 16-18, 2009
Denison University and The Ohio State University**

Call for Papers

The American Council for Southern Asian Art (ACSAA) is pleased to announce that Symposium XIV will be held at Denison University in Granville, Ohio, and The Ohio State University in Columbus, Friday-Sunday, October 16-18, 2009. In a departure from the usual format, ACSAA XIV will be held in conjunction with another closely related conference, entitled “New Darshans: Seeing Southern Asian Religiosity and Visuality Across Disciplines,” which is being hosted jointly by the same two institutions. An exhibition of the extensive Burmese art and artifact collection of the Denison Museum will be on view during the conference. There will be a single registration fee for the complete joint conference weekend. Panels from each of the two conferences will be interspersed throughout the three days.

This format will provide a special opportunity to highlight and further cross-disciplinary investigation of South and Southeast Asian visual cultures. Members of ACSAA are invited to engage the recent work of scholars, many of whom come from outside the disciplines and fields traditionally represented at ACSAA, but who are addressing shared issues. Attendees of “New Darshans” will likewise be invited to consider the issues that scholars in the fields of South and Southeast Asian art history are now addressing, and so come to see the full range of the field. Roughly 50% of the papers and panels will be selected to represent ACSAA membership, while the other 50% will be selected to correspond to the themes put forth by the “New Darshans” conference (See below).

The conference committee encourages the submission of both preformed panels and individual papers from ACSAA members. We welcome submissions on all periods of art historical inquiry, from ancient to contemporary. ACSAA papers and panels should represent the state of the field.

Conference schedule:

Friday, October 16:	Panels at Denison; conference dinner
Saturday, October 17:	Panels at Denison in the AM; additional panels, dinner, and keynote speaker, Philip Lutgendorf (Professor of Hindi and Modern Indian Studies, Co-Chair, South Asian Studies Program, University of Iowa and newly-elected President of the American Institute of Indian Studies) at OSU
Sunday, October 18:	Panels at OSU in the AM, Closing Comments

“New Darshans: Seeing Southern Asian Religiosity and Visuality Across Disciplines”

“New Darshans” is a conference intended to focus on intersections of Southern Asia’s religious traditions and related visual cultures. Increasingly the disciplines of religious studies and art history are challenging their inherited methodologies and seeking

alternative means to understand diverse practices associated with religions. Simultaneously, a wider array of visual forms are being consulted by scholars in these fields, as well as anthropology, ethnography, history, area studies, language and literature programs, among others. Papers for the “New Darshans” conference that employ and interrogate cutting edge trends and theories of visual culture are encouraged.

Proposals for papers and panels considering the following possible topics are welcomed:

- visual technology(s) and religion
- mass media (comic books, photography, VHS/DVD, film, internet/web) and religion
- fresh interpretations of traditional image-making affiliated with religious practices
- new methodological approaches to the study of the religious image
- diasporic and transnational religious practice and visualities
- intersections of text and image
- visualization/meditation practices
- reassessments of post-colonial scholarship and Orientalist critiques involving the visual
- new museological practices and new archives

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Proposals to ACSAA and “New Darshans” should include the following:

- Your name
- Title and institutional affiliation
- Preferred mailing address, phone number(s) and email
- Your ACSAA membership status. (ACSAA participants should be up-to-date members to participate)
- 250 word abstract

Proposals will be reviewed by the following team representing both ACSAA and “New Darshans”:

Susan Bean, Curator of South Asian Art, Peabody-Essex Museum, President, ACSAA
John Cort, Chair, International Studies, and Professor of Religion, Denison University
Natalie Marsh, Director, The Denison Museum, Denison University
Hugh Urban, Professor of Religion, Department of Comparative Studies,
The Ohio State University

Send ACSAA and “New Darshans” proposals to:

Natalie Marsh, M.F.A., Ph.D.

Director

The Denison Museum

Burke Hall, 240 West Broadway

Denison University

Granville, OH 43023

marshn@denison.edu

Postmark and Email Deadline ACSAA and “New Darshans” Proposals: April 15
Notification of Accepted Proposals: May 15

ACSAA’s website can be found at: <http://www.acsaa.us>