

THE AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR SOUTHERN ASIAN ART
(ACSAA) BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM XIV
and the multi-disciplinary conference,
“NEW DARSHANS: SEEING SOUTHERN ASIAN RELIGIOSITY
AND VISUALITY ACROSS DISCIPLINES”

October 16-18, 2009

The Denison Museum at Denison University
Co-Organized and Co-Sponsored by Denison University
and The Ohio State University

FRIDAY

8:00-8:30 WELCOME AND OPENING COMMENTS

Official Welcome, Representation from Denison University and The Ohio State University

Susan Bean, President of the American Council for Southern Asian Art (ACSAA), Curator of South Asia and Korea, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA

Conference Co-Organizers:

Hugh Urban, Professor of Religion, Department of Comparative Studies, The Ohio State University

John Cort, Chair, International Studies, Professor Religion, Denison University

Natalie Marsh, Director, The Denison Museum

A Short Burmese Dance, by **U Win Maung**, Visiting Professor, World Dance Program, Denison University

●●● PANEL 1: 8:30-10:20

“Visualizing Ascetics, Gurus, and Spiritual Teachers in Southern Asia”

Panel Chair: **Tamara I. Sears**, Assistant Professor, Department of the History of Art, Yale University

Robert DeCaroli, Associate Professor, Department of History and Art History, George Mason University

“Image Problems: Buddhist Imagery and Broader Religious Practices in Early India”

Tamara I. Sears, Assistant Professor, Department of the History of Art, Yale University

“Encountering Ascetics On and Beyond the Central Indian Temple Wall”

Pika Ghosh, Associate Professor, Department of Art, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“Yoking the Self to Krishna: Images of Yoga on Bengali Vaishnava Temples”

Melissa Kerin, Visiting Scholar and Assistant Professor of Art and Art History, College of William and Mary

“Forgetting to Remember: The Plight of Tibetan Buddhist Lineage Programs”

Discussion

10:20-10:40 Break

●●● PANEL 2: 10:40-12:15

“Buddhist Sites, Objects, Practices”

Susan L. Huntington, Distinguished University Professor Emeritus, Department of the History of Art,
The Ohio State University

Catherine Becker, Assistant Professor, Department of Art History, University of Illinois,
Chicago

“Through the eyes of others: Regarding darshan in relief sculpture from Amaravati and
Nagarjunakonda”

Elena Pakhoutova, PhD Candidate, McIntire Department of Art, University of Virginia

“Visitation Virtual and Actual: Reconsidering Representations of the Eight Great Events of the
Buddha’s Life”

Julie Gifford, Associate Professor, Department of Religion, Miami University of Ohio

“From India to Indiana: Transnationalism and Image Consecration in the Tibetan Gelugpa
Tradition”

Discussion

12:00-1:30 Move to Slayter Union, Lunch
See map in conference packet.

●●● PANEL 3: 1:30-3:15 IN SLAYTER AUDITORIUM

“South Asian Religious Architectures”

Adam Hardy, Reader, The Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff, UK

“Temples, Templates, Texts: Making Monuments in Medieval India”

Cathleen Cummings, Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in Art History, Wellesley College

“A “Maratha” Aesthetic: 18th Century Architecture Under the Peshwas of Pune”

Michael D. Rabe, Associate Professor, Art & Design Department, St. Xavier University

“Winnowing Digital Wheat from Temporal Chafe: a Quest for Traces of Early Eye-Openings in
Bundelkand”

Lisa N. Owen, Assistant Professor, Department of Art Education and Art History, College of
Visual Art and Design, University of North Texas

“Practice amongst Preservation: A Modern Jain Temple at Ellora”

Discussion

3:05-3:15 Conference Attendees may choose to attend the optional Special Lecture
described immediately below. Herrick Hall located steps away from Slayter
Union. See map in conference packet.

●●● **3:15-4:15 SPECIAL LECTURE: SIR KEN ROBINSON (OPTIONAL),**
Herrick Hall, Upper Campus

In celebration of the reopening of the newly remodeled and expanded Cleveland Hall, home of the Art and Art History Department, and its renaming as the Bryant Arts Center, in honor of donor Donald L. Bryant Jr. '64, Sir Ken Robinson will address the Denison Board of Trustees, the university community, and conference guests on the importance of rethinking arts education and creativity in the university. Sir Ken Robinson, PhD is an internationally recognized leader in the development of creativity, innovation and human resources. He works with governments in Europe, Asia and the United States, with international agencies, Fortune 500 companies, and some of the world's leading cultural organizations. For twelve years, he was professor of education at the University of Warwick in the UK and is now professor emeritus.

Bryant is chairman and CEO of Bryant Group International L.L.C. (an executive fringe benefit planning firm for public and privately held businesses) and the Bryant Family Vineyards, a premium winery in Napa Valley. An avid patron of the arts in his home city of St. Louis, he also serves as a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York and serves on the International Advisory Board of the Tate Gallery in London. Brief Q&A with Sir Robinson immediately following talk.

4:30-4:45: All conference attendees transit “downhill” to Burke Hall/Fine Arts Quad (Lower Campus) for the return to conference programming. Car service will be provided for those needing assistance.
Note 4:45 start time for Panel 4.

●●● **PANEL 4: 4:45-6:30**

“Southeast Asian Visuality and Religiosity”

Panel Chair: Mary Louise-Totten, Assistant Professor of Art History, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

Melody Rod-ari, PhD Candidate, Department of Art History, UCLA

“Curating the Chakri Dynasty: An Examination of the Art and Architectural History of Wat Phra Kaeow”

Rebecca Hall, Research Fellow, Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore

“Visions of Heaven: Handwoven Banner in Northern Thailand and Laos”

Soumya James, PhD Candidate, Department of History of Art, Archaeology and Visual Studies, Cornell University

“Are the reclining Vishnu and Lakshmi at Kbal Spean in Cambodia a localized Tantric expression?”

Alexandra Green, Research Assistant Professor, University of Hong Kong

“Emerging Vernacular Narratives in 17th-18th century Burmese Murals”

Discussion

6:30-7:30 Break and Reception: “Baptists in Burma” exhibition
The Denison Museum, Burke Hall

7:30-9:00 Dinner

9:00-9:30 A Selection of Short Burmese Dances, by **U Win Maung**, Visiting Professor, World Dance Program, Denison University

●●● PANEL 5: 9:00-10:50

“Towards a new drishtikon: “Seeing; observing; inspecting” sites/sights in 19th and 20th century India”

Panel Chair: Rebecca Brown, Visiting Associate Professor, Department of the History of Art, Johns Hopkins University

Venugopal Maddipati, PhD Candidate, Department of Art History, University of Minnesota
“Familiarity: Loss; The Architectural Transformation of Colonial Bulandshahr (1878-1886)”

Sugata Ray, PhD Candidate, Department of Art History, University of Minnesota
“Of Divine Kings, Colonial Museums, and the Indo-Saracenic Style: The Making of the Jaipur Museum”

Aditi Chandra, PhD Candidate, Department of Art History, University of Minnesota
“Qutb as Monument: Landscaping, Archaeology, Views (1828-1922)”

Atreyee Gupta, PhD Candidate, Department of Art History, University of Minnesota
“A New Messiah in a New *Vihara*: Neo-Buddhist Appropriations of Sanchi”

Discussion

10:50-11:15 Break

●●● PANEL 6: 11:15-12:45

“Darshan and its Influence”

Alka Hingorani, Independent Scholar
“Of Image and Self-Image: Gods and god-makers in the Kullu Valley”

Alison Mackenzie Shah, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Colorado, Denver
“Darshan Without Idols: “Image-making” and the Power of Saintly Visualization in Hyderabad’s Late-Nineteenth-Century Sufi Shrines”

Tanisha Ramachandran, Assistant Professor, South Asian Religions, Wake Forest University
“Can You Receive Darshan from a Shoe?: Signifying the Hindu Image through the Discourse of Protest”

Discussion

12:45-2:00 Lunch

●●● **PANEL 7: 2:00-3:50**

“New Media I”

Richard Davis, Professor, Religion and Asian Studies Program, Bard College
“Minakshi’s Photo-Op”

Ronie Parciack, Lecturer, Faculty of the Humanities, Department of East Asian Studies,
Department of Film and Television, Tel Aviv University
“Darshan as Pramana? Popular Hindi Cinema and the Gaze of the Sacred”

M. Whitney Kelting, Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Northeastern University
“Jain VCDs: Building on Traditional Uses of Visual Texts with New Technology”

Nicole Karapanagiotis, PhD Candidate, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University
“Virtual Vishnu: Vaishnava Conceptions of Embodied Divinity in Cyberspace”

Discussion

3:50-4:15 Break

●●● **PANEL 8: 4:15-6:00**

“New Media II”

Kristen Rudisill, Assistant Professor, Department of Popular Culture, Bowling Green University
“Popular Theater Sets as Markers of Religious Identity”

Karline McLain, Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Bucknell University
“Be United, Be Virtuous: The Composite Vision of Shirdi Sai Baba Devotion”

Julie Romain, PhD Candidate, UCLA, Curatorial Assistant, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
“Superheroes for a new millennium: the battle for good in contemporary Indian comic books”

Ritu Gairola Khanduri, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas
at Arlington
“This is not Ram: News, Darshan and Caricaturing the Gods in India”

Discussion

6:00-7:00 Free Time

7:00-9:00 Conference Dinner and Keynote Talk: “Old Darshans Renewed: Remixing the
Ramayana in Hindi Filmsong”

Phil 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

SUNDAY

●●● PANEL 9: 9:00-10:50

“Modern and Contemporary South Asian Art”

Kimberly Masteller, Jeanne McCray Beals Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City

Niharika Dinkar, Assistant Professor, Department of Art History, Boise State University
“Portrait of an Artist: Art and Labor in the Colonial Economy”

Subhashini Kaligotla, PhD Candidate, Department of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University
“Aestheticizing the Commonplace: Mundane Objects from India and their New Lives in the Visual Arts”

Beth Citron, PhD Candidate, History of Art, University of Pennsylvania
“Seeing Layered Identities in Bhupen Khakhar’s “Truth is Beauty and Beauty is God” (1971)”

Michael Meister, W. Norman Brown Professor, South Asia Studies, History of Art Department, University of Pennsylvania
“Abstracting Figuration: Akbar Padamsee’s Body in India”

Discussion

10:50-11:15 Break

●●● PANEL 10: 11:15-12:45

“Agency and Performativity”

Panel Chair: Cynthia Packert, Chair of the Department of the History of Art and Architecture and Professor of Art History, Middlebury College

Katherine Hacker, Assistant Professor, Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, CA
“ ‘Sticky’ Objects, ‘Possessed’ Bodies, and Agency”

Marsha Olson, Faculty, Minneapolis College of Art and Design
“Contemplative Immersion: Experiencing Goan Ivories through Darshan and Rasa”

Katherine Zubko, Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, University of North Carolina, Asheville
“Beyond Visvarupas: The Performance of the *Bhagavad Gita* in Indian Classical Dance”

Discussion

12:45 Closing Talk: *“Closing Thoughts on New Darshans and our Disciplines”*
Rachel McDermott, Associate Professor and Chair of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College

Discussion

Farewells and Thank yous

Pre-Ordered Box Lunches To-Go: Available in Lobby on your way out.
Note Van Pool Schedule for Hotel Delivery and/or Airport Drop-Off.

●●● SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MANY GENEROUS SPONSORS:

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