



SPONSORED BY THE  
ROBERT H. N. HO FAMILY FOUNDATION

COURTAULD  
INSTITUTE  
RESEARCH FORUM

## *Buddhist Art Forum* Wednesday 11 to Saturday 14 April 2012 Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre, The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN

Lighting butter lamps before the 16<sup>th</sup>-century wall paintings of Tamsching Monastery, Bhutan. Photo: Research Project on the Wall Paintings of Bhutan (Courtauld Institute and the Department of Culture of Bhutan) 2009.



This Forum will be a major event of an exceptional kind, seeking to address the philosophical issues concerning Buddhism and art in a profound and holistic way. Drawing contributors from widely varied backgrounds from Asia and the rest of the world, the Forum will have four overarching themes dealing with Buddhist art: definition; creation and function; conservation; and its role in the contemporary world.

It will be the first time that a representative group of those with a stake in Buddhist art—monks, artists, art historians, archaeologists, conservators, curators, and officials—are gathered to consider such issues, and a unique opportunity for synergistic discussion. Prompted by The Courtauld's engagement with the complex challenges of preserving Buddhist art in China, India and Bhutan and The Ho Family Foundation's aim to promote understanding of Buddhism, it is hoped that the Forum will make a genuine contribution to the awareness and understanding of issues and developments beyond regional and specialist boundaries.

About forty contributors will engage with an audience of scholars, students and the general public who will participate in discussion throughout the event. The Forum will include evening receptions jointly hosted with the Victoria and Albert Museum and the British Museum, and another in The Courtauld Gallery.

**Booking** is for all four days of the Forum. **To book a place:** £100 (£75 Courtauld staff/students and concessions). **BOOK ONLINE:** <http://courtauld-institute.digitalmuseum.co.uk>. For payment by cheque, or for further information, email [ResearchForumEvents@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:ResearchForumEvents@courtauld.ac.uk). Since places are limited, The Courtauld regrets that it cannot guarantee that all booking requests will be accepted.

Organised by David Park and Kuenga Wangmo (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

## PROGRAMME

### DAY 1            DEFINING BUDDHIST ART

- 09.30 – 10.00    Registration
- 10.00 – 10.15    **Introduction** – Deborah Swallow and David Park (The Courtauld Institute of Art)
- Session 1:**      Chair: Deborah Swallow (The Courtauld Institute of Art)
- 10.15 – 10.45    Jigmé Khyentsé Rinpoche (Songsten, France): *Buddhist Art as Support for Mind Training*
- 10.45 – 11.15    Juhyung Rhi (Seoul National University): *Becoming a Buddha: Enlightenment Versus the Buddha's First Sermon in Indian Buddhist Art*
- 11.15 – 11.30    Discussion
- 11.30 – 12.00    COFFEE/TEA BREAK (tea-coffee provided – seminar room 1)
- Session 2:**      Chair: Christian Luczanits (Rubin Museum of Art, New York)
- 12.00 – 12.30    Peter Skilling (École française d'Extrême-Orient, Bangkok): *Rhetoric of Reward, Ideologies of Inducement: Why Produce Buddhist 'Art' ?*
- 12.30 – 13.00    Robert Sharf (University of California, Berkeley): *Ritual Function of the Art of Major Central Asian Cave Sites*
- 13.00 – 13.15    Discussion
- 13.15 – 14.45    BREAK FOR LUNCH (lunch not provided)
- Session 3:**      Chair: David Park (The Courtauld Institute of Art)
- 14.45 – 15.15    Melissa R. Kerin (Washington and Lee University, Lexington): *Not What It Seems: Understanding Collection and Display Practices in a Western Himalayan Buddhist Shrine*
- 15.15 – 15.45    Jigmed W. Namgyal (Namgyal Institute for Research on Ladakhi Art and Culture, Leh): *NIRLAC's Conservation Efforts in Ladakh*
- 15.45 – 16.00    Discussion
- 16.00 – 16.30    TEA/COFFEE (tea-coffee provided – seminar room 1)
- Session 4:**      Chair: Jan Stuart (The British Museum, London)
- 16.30 – 17.00    Kate Crosby and Pyi Phyo Kyaw (School of Oriental and African Studies): *The Mahamuni Image of Mandalay and His Brothers: Understanding Buddha Worship in Southeast Asian Context*
- 17.00 – 17.30    Patricia Berger (University of California, Berkeley): *The Problem of Authenticity: A Historical Geography of Buddhist Art in Eighteenth-Century China*
- 17.30 – 17.45    Discussion
- 18.45 – 20.45    **Evening Reception at the Victoria and Albert Museum, in the Dorothy and Michael Hintze Galleries with a viewing of the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Gallery of Buddhist Sculpture**

## **DAY 2                    CREATION AND FUNCTION OF BUDDHIST ART**

- 09.45 – 10.15    For security purposes, participants are required to sign in at the door each day
- Session 1:**        Chair: Roderick Whitfield (School of Oriental and African Studies, London)
- 10.15 – 10.45    Matthew Kapstein (University of Chicago): *The Oracle and Temple of La mo  
Icog: Aspects of History and Iconography*
- 10.45 – 11.15    Tadeusz Skorupski (School of Oriental and African Studies, London): *Buddha's  
Stupa and Image: In search of the Ultimate Icon*
- 11.15 – 11.30    Discussion
- 11.30 – 12.00    COFFEE/TEA BREAK (tea-coffee provided – seminar room 1)
- Session 2:**        Chair: Beth McKillop (Victoria and Albert Museum, London)
- 12.00 – 12.30    Youngsook Pak (School of Oriental and African Studies, London): *Blazing  
Light. Calamity-Solving Images in Medieval Korea*
- 12.30 – 13.00    Claudine Bautze-Picron (CNRS, Paris, and Free University of Brussels):  
*Painted and Architectural Ornamentation of the Temples of Pagan: More than  
Mere Iconography and Decoration*
- 13.00 – 13.15    Discussion
- 13.15 – 14.45    BREAK FOR LUNCH (lunch not provided)
- Session 3:**        Chair: Sharon Cather (The Courtauld Institute of Art)
- 14.45 – 15.15    Dorjee Tshering (Department of Culture, Thimphu): *Relationship of  
Conservation to the Function of Monuments with Particular Reference to  
Buddhism in Bhutan*
- 15.15 – 15.45    John Clarke and Diana Heath (Victoria and Albert Museum, London): *A New  
Image of the Mahasiddha Virupa, a Major Addition to the Corpus of Yongle  
Bronzes: Conservation and Art Historical Investigations*
- 15.45 – 16.00    Discussion
- 16.00 – 16.30    TEA/COFFEE (tea-coffee provided – seminar room 1)
- Session 4:**        Chair: Deborah Swallow (The Courtauld Institute of Art)
- 16.30 – 17.00    Alice Kandell (New York): *Why Collect Tibetan Art?*
- 17.00 – 17.30    Francesca Herndon-Consagra (Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, St Louis):  
*Opening the Eyes: Experiencing Buddhist Art in a Building by Tadao Ando*
- 17.30 – 17.45    Discussion
- 18.45 – 20.30    ***Evening Reception in the Joseph E Hotung Gallery of Oriental Antiquities  
at the British Museum***

### **DAY 3                    CONSERVATION OF BUDDHIST ART**

09.45 – 10.15    For security purposes, participants are required to sign in at the door each day

**Session 1:**            Chair: Sharon Cather (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

10.15 – 10.45    Christian Luczanits (Rubin Museum of Art, New York): *Conservation and Research in Buddhist Art: Questions of Ethics, Documentation and Reconstruction from a Practical Research Perspective*

10.45 – 11.15    Lisa Shekede and Stephen Rickerby (The Courtauld Institute of Art): *Buddhist Wall Paintings of Bhutan: Material Traditions and Conservation Realities*

11.15 – 11.30    Discussion

11.30 – 12.00    COFFEE/TEA BREAK (tea-coffee provided – seminar room 1)

**Session 2:**            Chair: David Park (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

12.00 – 12.30    Charlotte Martin de Fonjaudran (The Courtauld Institute of Art), Sreekumar Menon and Maninder Singh Gill (Art Conservation Solutions, Delhi): *Sumda Chun and Other Early Buddhist Wall Painting Sites in Ladakh: Practical and Ethical Conservation Issues from Obscuring Surface Layers to Failing Structures*

12.30 – 13.00    Alexander von Rospatt (University of California, Berkeley): *Buddhist Strategies of Keeping its Sacred Shrines Alive: the Example of the Svayambhū-caitya of Kathmandu*

13.00 – 13.15    Discussion

13.15 – 14.45    BREAK FOR LUNCH (lunch not provided)

**Session 3:**            Chair: Roderick Whitfield (School of Oriental and African Studies, London)

14.45 – 15.15    Wang Xudong (Dunhuang Academy): *The Issues Facing the Dunhuang Caves and Preventative Conservation*

15.15 – 15.45    Lorinda Wong (Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles): *Applying the China Principles: the Getty Conservation Institute's Work at Dunhuang and Chengde in China*

15.45 – 16.00    Discussion

16.00 – 16.30    TEA/COFFEE (tea-coffee provided – seminar room 1)

**Session 4:**            Chair: Sharon Cather (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

16.30 – 17.00    Susan Whitfield (The British Library, London): *The International Dunhuang Project and the Conservation and Digitisation of Buddhist Art*

17.00 – 17.30    Yoko Taniguchi (University of Tsukuba): *Conserving Bamiyan's Wall Paintings: Dilemmas and Practical Issues*

17.30 – 17.45    Discussion

18.30 – 20.30    ***Evening Reception in The Courtauld Gallery***

## **DAY 4                    ROLE OF BUDDHIST ART IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD**

09.45 – 10.15    For security purposes, participants are required to sign in at the door each day

**Session 1:**            Chair: Kuenga Wangmo (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

10.15 – 10.45    Matthieu Ricard (Shechen Monastery): *The Use of Sacred Buddhist Art in the Tibetan Tradition as a Support for Spiritual Transformation: Inner Meaning and Symbolism*

10.45 – 11.15    Richard Blurton (The British Museum, London): *Contemporary Buddhist Pilgrimage and Devotional Practice in the Eastern Himalayas*

11.15 – 11.30    Discussion

11.30 – 12.00    COFFEE/TEA BREAK (tea-coffee provided – seminar room 1)

**Session 2:**            Chair: Kate Crosby (School of Oriental and African Studies, London)

12.00 – 12.30    Caroline Humphrey (University of Cambridge): *The Difficulties of Being a Painter Monk in Contemporary Inner Mongolia (China)*

12.30 – 13.00    Francesca Tarocco (New York University): *The Wailing Arhats: Buddhism, Photography and Resistance in China*

13.00 – 13.15    Discussion

13.15 – 14.45    BREAK FOR LUNCH (lunch not provided)

**Session 3:**            Chair: Deborah Swallow (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

14.45 – 15.15    Antony Gormley (London): *Body Space and Body Time: Living in Sculpture*

15.15 – 15.45    Alexandra Munroe (Guggenheim Museum, New York): *The Third Mind: Buddhist Imaginary in American Art from Fenollosa to Cage*

15.45 – 16.00    Discussion

16.00 – 16.30    TEA/COFFEE (tea-coffee provided – seminar room 1)

**Session 4:**            Chair: David Park (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

16.30 – 17.00    Tenzing Rigdol (New York): *Tibetan-ness, an Aesthetic Quest*

17.00 – 17.30    Marsha Haufler (University of Kansas): *Gifts for Mt. Myohyang: Pohyon Temple and the International Friendship Exhibition*

17.30 – 18.00    Boreth J. Ly (University of California, Santa Cruz): *Politics of Visions: Manifestations of Maitreya in Mainland Southeast Asia Art*

18.00                **Discussion and Concluding Remarks**