

About Susan Huntington

Susan L. Huntington is Distinguished University Professor and Professor of History of Art at The Ohio State University. She received her PhD in South Asian Art at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her main areas of scholarly interest include the art of the Pāla dynasty of eastern India and Bangladesh, ca. 800-1200 CE and the dissemination of the Pāla school to the Himalayas, Southeast Asia, and other Buddhist regions. More recently, she has concentrated on the early Buddhist art of India. Her most important publications include 'The "Pāla-Sena" Schools of Sculpture' (1984), 'The Art of Ancient India' (1985), 'Leaves from the Bodhi Tree' (1990), 'Early Buddhist Art and the Theory of Aniconism' (Art Journal 49, 4, Winter 1990), and 'Aniconism and the Multivalence of Emblems: Another Look' (Ars Orientalis 22, 1992). As a result of her extensive field documentation with her husband and fellow art historian, John C. Huntington, she has compiled an archive of over 300,000 original photographs of Asian art (<http://huntingtonarchive.osu.edu/>).

Previous Gonda Lectures

The text of the Gonda Lecture given by Alexis Sanderson in 2006 entitled *śaivism and Brahmanism in the Early Medieval Period* will be published shortly. Anyone who did not attend this lecture can order the text, as well as the texts of previous Gonda Lectures, from the Editio Department, KNAW, P.O. Box 19121, NL-1000 GC Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The cost of the publications is € 11.00.

J. Gonda Foundation

The fund was established under the auspices of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and its task is to administer the bequest made to the Academy by the Sanskrit expert and indologist Prof. J. Gonda. Gonda made his bequest to the Academy on condition that it would be used to promote indology, especially by subsidising publications. Egbert Forsten Publishing is publishing two series on indological subjects under the auspices of the Foundation, the Groningen Oriental Studies and the Gonda Indological Studies. Both series are subsidised by the Publication Fund of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) and the J. Gonda Foundation.

Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
J. Gonda Foundation
Het Trippenhuis
Kloveniersburgwal 29
NL-1011 JV AMSTERDAM
T + 31-20 551 07 82, F +31-20 620 49 41



Koninklijke
Nederlandse
Akademie van
Wetenschappen

Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences

Fifteenth Gonda Lecture

Art as Text, Art as Document: Understanding Buddhism through Art

Susan Huntington

Invitation

Fifteenth Gonda Lecture

*Art as Text, Art as Document:
Understanding Buddhism Through Art*

Susan Huntington

Friday, 7 December 2007, 4:00 pm
Trippenhuis, Kloveniersburgwal 29, Amsterdam

Admission to the lecture is free, but you should register in advance by sending in the attached registration card or by sending an e-mail to Bernadette.Peeters@bureau.knaw.nl.

Art as Text, Art as Document:
Understanding Buddhism Through Art

In order to understand the beliefs and practices of a religious tradition, it is essential to carefully examine its written texts and literary documents. Susan Huntington will propose in her lecture that works of art can also serve as primary documents by which a religious tradition can be analyzed. By examining some of Buddhism's most foundational practices, such as relic veneration, meditation, and monastic life, Huntington argues that visual materials play a pivotal role in Buddhism and that the study of works of art is essential to an understanding of Buddhist beliefs and practices. Further, rather than simply supplementing information that can be gleaned from written materials, works of art can provide unique documents for the study of Buddhism.