

ART 400C: The Life & Body of the Buddha in the Art of South/Southeast Asia



Fall 2022, MWF 10:30-11:20 am
Professor Paul Lavy (paul.lavy@hawaii.edu)

This course examines the various biographical traditions of the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, in an art historical context with primary focus on the portrayal of the Buddha's life-story in art. Art traditions that have emphasized the life-story of the Buddha will be stressed: early "aniconic" traditions of India; Kushan sculpture from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and northern India; the Gupta and Pala periods of Indian art history; the Mahayana Buddhist monument of Borobudur in Indonesia; and the Theravada Buddhist painting traditions of Southeast Asia (Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos). Students will also be introduced to the historical development and iconography of Buddha images, narrative and pictorial conventions in Buddhist sculpture and painting, and the role of relics and images in Buddhist devotional practices and in Buddhist societies in general.

This is an Oral Communication course ("OC" Focus)

Prerequisite: ART 175 or instructor consent