



**Universität
Zürich** ^{UZH}

Section for East Asian Art



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
FOR
ASIAN ART and ARCHAEOLOGY

University of Zurich, Section for East Asian Art History

Keynote lecture

Locating “Asia” in Asian Art History and Archeology

Dr. Christine Guth (Victoria and Albert Museum)



Time: Thursday, 24th August 2017, 18:30 – 19:30
Address: Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich (Room KOL-F-101)

This is a keynote lecture on the occasion of The Second Conference of the European Association for Asian Art and Archaeology. It is open to the public and will be followed by a reception. For the rest of the three-day conference, a registration fee will be required. For questions, please contact the organizing committee (conference@ea-aaa.eu) or go to the conference homepage: <http://www.ea-aaa2017.ch>



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Keynote abstract

We don't often stop to ask ourselves what it means to study Asian art history and archeology, but on the occasion of this second meeting of the EAAA I want to reflect on the elusive and variable boundaries of "Asia" and their implications for our practice.

"Asia" is a conventional framework for historians of art and archeology of widely disparate regions, subjects, and methodologies. What are the consequences of adopting this ready-made organizational unit? How do changing understandings of Asia inform and legitimate our practice? Given the heterogeneity of the cultural formations within Asia, what is the value of emphasizing the unity of our field of study?

Whether we engage with ancient or modern Asia, whether our perspective is the museum or university, we cannot ignore the socio-political and economic changes taking place in the contemporary world and the ways they impinge on our practice. Growing nationalism, migration, new technologies, and economic globalization are all phenomena that play increasingly significant roles in shaping research agendas in the field. As scholars committed to the belief that the habits of mind fostered by a broad liberal arts education are essential to the preparation of critically informed and engaged citizens, how should we respond to the changing "Asian" landscape?

The keynote is supported by:

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