



**Universität
Zürich** ^{UZH}

Section for East Asian Art



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
FOR
ASIAN ART and ARCHAEOLOGY

**University of Zurich, Section for East Asian Art History
European Association for Asian Art and Archaeology**

Keynote lecture

Ashura's Face

Prof. Dr. Yukio Lippit (Harvard University)



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

No work of Japanese sculpture has been the subject of as much attention and rapturous commentary from writers, philosophers, and critics than Kofukuji's *Ashura* (dated 734), now perhaps the most famous piece of sculpture in Japan after the Great Buddha at Todaiji itself. This lecture offers a new interpretation of the sculpture's enigmatic expression by examining the ways in which *Ashura* catalyzed the religious imagination in relation to its ritual context, architectural setting, and the materiality of dry lacquer technique. *Ashura* allows us to better understand a new paradigm of temple hall in the ancient imperial capital of Nara, one that emerged in the wake of new forms of Buddhist knowledge and practice spreading throughout East Asia.

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