



Institutskolloquium HS 2020:

«Celebrating Fifty Years of East Asian Art History at the University of Zurich»

«Bodhidharma in East Asian Art and Popular Culture»

Prof. Dr. Beatrix Mecsí

Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest

Wednesday, 02 December 2020, 18:15–19:45

Zoom online video conference



According to tradition the founder of Chan or meditational Buddhism, Bodhidharma, originated from India, yet his legend and first representations are more typically associated with China and his legendary figure is frequently seen in the visual art and popular culture of the East Asian countries. In my talk I focus on the visual representations of Bodhidharma as they became popular in Korea and Japan, attempting to show the basic differences in the popularization of the visual images of Bodhidharma in these countries, focusing mainly on the visual appearance and iconography. The power of the image is seen in the commercialization of representations of Bodhidharma, particularly in Japan, where this practice occurred much earlier than in Korea and developed different traditions compared to those in China, where the legend came from.

The public lecture series is organized by the department for East Asian Art (Institute of Art History, University of Zurich), and is supported by the Swiss-Japanese Chamber of Commerce (SJCC) and the Swiss-Japanese Society (SJG). For further information on the anniversary lecture series, please contact Sabine Bradel (Sabine.Bradel@khist.uzh.ch) or visit us at: www.khist.uzh.ch/KGOA50