

Recent Books on Art and Art History – May 2010

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Surviving Nirvana: Death of the Buddha in Chinese Visual Culture /
Sonya S. Lee
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
xv. 355p. ; 29cm.
ISBN-13: 9789622091252 (HB)
\$ 50.00

The Buddha's nirvana marks the end of the life of a great spiritual figure and the beginning of Buddhism as a world religion. *Surviving Nirvana* is the first book in the English language to examine how this historic moment was represented and received in the visual culture of China. It is also a study about a pictorial image that has been in use for over 1,500 years.

Mining a selection of well-documented and well-preserved examples from the sixth to twelfth centuries, Sonya Lee offers a reassessment of medieval Chinese Buddhism by focusing on practices of devotion and image-making that were inspired by the Buddha's complete extinction.² The nirvana image, comprised of a reclining Buddha and a mourning audience, was central to defining the local meanings of the nirvana moment in different times and places. The motif's many guises, whether on a stone stele, inside a pagoda crypt, or as a painted mural in a cave temple, were the product of social interactions, religious institutions, and artistic practices prevalent in a given historical context. They were also cogent responses to the fundamental anxiety about the absence of the Buddha and the prospect of one's salvation. By reinventing the nirvana image to address its own needs, each community of patrons, makers, and viewers sought to recast the Buddha's death² into an allegory of survival that was charged with local pride and contemporary relevance.

Exhaustively researched, this study engages methods and debates from the fields of art history, religion, archaeology, architecture, and East Asian history that are relevant to both scholars and students alike. The Many examples analyzed in the book offer well-defined local contexts to Discuss broader historical and theoretical issues concerning representation, patronage, religion and politics, family values, and vision.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=119806>

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Gods of Angkor: Bronzes from the National Museum of Cambodia / Louise Allison Cort & Paul Jett (Editors)
Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2010
158p. ; 31cm.
Includes bibliographical references
ISBN-13: 9789749511930
1. Bronzes, Khmer - Exhibitions
2. Buddhist bronzes - Exhibitions
3. Bronzes - Cambodia - Phnom Penh - Exhibitions
4. Saramandir Jati Kambuja - Exhibitions
5. Buddhist bronzes - Conservation and restoration - Cambodia - Phnom Penh
Published on the occasion of an exhibition held at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, May 2010-January 2011
\$ 45.00
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=119881>

The Women in Vietnamese Revolutionary Posters / Ivo Fornesa
Thailand: Fundacion Fornesa, 2009
250p. ; 30cm.
ISBN-13: 9786169002703
\$ 55.00
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=118862>

Essays on Modern and Contemporary Vietnamese Art / Sarah Lee (Editors)
Singapore: Singapore Art Museum, 2009
xiv. 398p. ; 24cm.
ISBN-13: 9789810831592
\$ 30.00
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120022>

Tranh Tho Viet Nam = Vietnamese Ceremonial Paintings: Pham Duc Si's Collection 2001-2009 / Pham Duc Si (Editor)
Hanoi: Phan Duc Si, 2009
Bilingual English & Vietnamese Language
\$ 100.00
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120023>

My Thuat Viet Nam Duong Dai Tac Pham Trong Bo Suu Tap Cua Hoi My Thuat Viet Nam = Vietnamese Contemporary Art: Works in the Vietnamese Fine Arts Association Collection
Hanoi: Fine Arts Publishing House, 2009
115p. ; 31cm.
Bilingual English & Vietnamese Language
\$ 65.00
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120024>

Cuoc Thi Va Trien Lam Anh Nghe Thuat Quoc Te LAN Thu 5 Tai Viet Nam =
The 5th International Contest and Exhibition on artistic Photos in Vietnam
Hanoi: (S : N), 2009
198p. ; 25cm.
Bilingual English & Vietnamese Language
\$ 65.00
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120025>

Tranh Tuong Khoa Than: Tac Gia Tac Pham = Nude Paintings & Sculptors:
Author and Works
Hanoi: Culture-Information Publishing House, 2009
173p. ; 36cm.
Bilingual English & Vietnamese Language
\$ 50.00
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120026>

Suc Song Vietnam 2 2009 = Vietnam Vitality 2009
Hanoi: Thuong Tan, 2009
97p. ; 28cm.
Bilingual English & Vietnam Language
\$ 65.00
Photographs by Leading Photographers of Vietnam
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120027>

Nhung Manh Vun Cua Chiec Cau Vong = Crumbles of a Rainbow = Les
Miettes de
L'arc en ciel / Doan Khoa
Ho Chi Minh: Van Nghe, 2009
189p. ; 30cm.
English, French & Vietnamese Language
\$ 33.00
Photography Book
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120028>

Ten Thousand Years of Iranian Civilization, Ten Thousand Years of
Common Heritage
Turkey: Ministry of Culture and Tourism & The National Museum of
Iran, 2010
335p. ; 29cm.
ISBN-13: 9789751734679
\$ 160.00
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=119857>

Arts and Crafts in the Muslim World / Nazeih Taleb Maarouf & Semiramis
Cavusoglu (Edited)

Istanbul: Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, 2008
[11], xxxvi. 580p. : col. Ill.; 30cm.
Includes bibliographical references
ISBN-13: 9789290631705
1. Arts, Islamic - Congresses
2. Handicrafts - Islamic countries - Congresses
Islamic Craft Series No. 8
\$ 100.00
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=119859>

ArtSingapore 2008: The Contemporary Asian Art Fair / Sharon Ng
(Edited)
Singapore: ARTREACH Pte. Ltd., 2008
393p. ; 23cm.
ISSN: 1793-8279
\$ 40.00
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=119836>

Asian Aesthetics / Ken-ichi Sasaki (Edited)
Singapore: NUS Press &
Kyoto: Kyoto University Press, 2010
xviii. 309p. ; 23cm.
Includes index
ISBN-13: 9789971695002
1. Aesthetics
2. Aesthetics, Japanese
3. Aesthetics, Korean
4. Aesthetics, Chinese
5. Aesthetics, Indic
6. Asia - Civilization
\$ 25.00

While the artistic traditions of the various countries of East, Southeast and South Asia display distinctive aesthetic features, this volume Examines the qualities of each area, and seeks commonalities that define Aesthetics of a broader Asian civilization. Contributors include specialists in philosophy, literature, art history, religion and the comparative study of cultures. Some of them are writing from within their own cultural traditions while others approach their subjects as outside observers.

The book is divided into five sections, dealing with Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Indian and Southeast Asian aesthetics. Individual chapters Provide in-depth investigations of specific traditions, embracing both classical as well as modern aesthetic forms. The authors suggest that Japanese culture is characterized by an openness to diverse cultural influences, Korean culture by "peninsularity," Chinese culture by parallels with the West, Indian culture by "rasa" (a kind of "cosmic" feeling that is distinct from the one who feels), and Southeast Asian culture by dilemmas of modernization. The volume as a whole integrates these studies, clarifying essential elements of each aesthetic culture and drawing on this material to characterize

an Asian civilization that transcends individual countries and cultures.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=119837>

Ming Wong: Life of Imitation = Kehidupan Pura-Pura
Singapore: Singapore Art Museum, 2010
112p. ; 29cm.
ISBN-13: 9789810855468 (HB)
\$ 65.00

Life of Imitation celebrates and reflects on the context of the Golden Age of Singapore cinema in the 1950s and 60s: an era of nation-building, struggle, rapid modernization and cultural flux. This award-winning exhibition premiered at the Singapore Pavilion in the 53rd Venice Biennale in 2009, organized by the National Arts Council (Singapore), curated by Tang Fu Kuen, and presenting artist Ming Wong who won Special Mention from the jury. This is the highest accolade ever received by Singapore at the most prestigious international art platform. The Singapore Art Museum is proud to re-stage the show on homeground - with a new design and additional exhibits - before bringing it on tour to other cities. Inspired by Singapore's rich screen legacy, Ming Wong re-reads 'National cinema' as meditated by language, role playing and identity. He re-interprets films which engage with performative notions of mis-casting and parroting, and reflects on Singapore's roots and hybridity, and the politics of becoming.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=119838>

Nigerian Artistry / Pat Oyelola
Ibadan: Mosuro Publishers, 2010
xxxii. 328p. ; 28cm.
ISBN-13: 9789784841214
\$ 150.00

Nigerian Artistry illustrates all the major arts in their historical and social contexts and, in the process, depicts their norms and values. Above all, the beauty and dynamism in Nigerian Arts are manifest. The author has undertaken the task with wide knowledge and genuine enthusiasm. Both in descriptions and illustrations, the author shows the close connection between the arts and the culture of a society. This work has a wide historical perspective with contemporary activities well represented. Nigerian Artistry is a collector's treasure, a reference guide, and a book to read and enjoy. It is sound, well documented, and illuminating, a vital contribution to the literature on Nigerian arts.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=119593>

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