# **Shaping The Lotus Sutra Buddhist Visual Culture In Medieval China**

**Julia Schneider** 

#### **Shaping The Lotus Sutra Buddhist Visual Culture In Medieval China:**

**Shaping the Lotus Sutra** Eugene Yuejin Wang, 2005 The Lotus Sutra has been the most widely read and most revered Buddhist scripture in East Asia since its translation in the third century The miracles and parables in the king of sutras inspired a variety of images in China in particular the sweeping compositions known as transformation tableaux that developed between the seventh and ninth centuries Surviving examples in murals painted on cave walls or carved in relief on Buddhist monuments depict celestial journeys bodily metamorphoses cycles of rebirth and the achievement of nirvana Yet the cosmos revealed in these tableaux is strikingly different from that found in the text of the sutra Shaping the Lotus Sutra explores this visual world Challenging long held assumptions about Buddhist art Eugene Wang treats it as a window to an animated and spirited world Rather than focus on individual murals as isolated compositions Wang views the entire body of pictures adorning a cave shrine or a pagoda as a visual mapping of an imaginary topography that encompasses different temporal and spatial domains He demonstrates that the text of the Lotus Sutra does not fully explain the pictures and that a picture or a series of them constitutes its own text In exploring how religious pictures sublimate cultural aspirations he shows that they can serve both political and religious agendas and that different social forces can co exist within the same visual program These pictures inspired meditative journeys through sophisticated formal devices such as mirroring mapping and spatial programming analytical categories newly identified by Wang The book examines murals in cave shrines at Binglingsi and Dunhuang in northwestern China and relief sculptures in the grottoes of Yungang in Shanxi on stelae from Sichuan and on the Dragon and Tiger pagoda in Shandong among other sites By tracing formal impulses in medieval Chinese picture making such as topographic mapping and pictorial illusionism the author pieces together a wide range of visual evidence and textual sources to reconstruct the medieval Chinese cognitive style and mental world The book is ultimately a history of the Chinese imagination Read an interview with the author http dgeneratefilms com cinematalk cinematalk interview with professor eugene wang on chinese art and film Shaping the Lotus Sutra Eugene Y. Wang, 2015-08-17

Visualising China, 1845-1965 Christian Henriot, Wen-hsin Yeh, 2012-11-09 In Visualizing China the authors launch a broad inquiry aimed at a synergistic understanding of the story of visuality in modern China The essays cluster around several nodal points including photographs advertising posters and movies from the 1840s to the 1960s Buddhist Visual Cultures, Rhetoric, and Narrative in Late Burmese Wall Paintings Alexandra Green, 2018-01-04 Step into a Burmese temple built between the late seventeenth and early nineteenth centuries and you are surrounded by a riot of color and imagery The majority of the highly detailed wall paintings displays Buddhist biographical narratives inspiring the devotees to follow the Buddha s teachings Alexandra Green goes one step further to consider the temples and their contents as a whole arguing that the wall paintings mediate the relationship between the architecture and the main Buddha statues in the temples This forges a unified space for the devotees to interact with the Buddha and his community with the aim of

transforming the devotees current and future lives These temples were a cohesively articulated and represented Burmese Buddhist world to which the devotees belonged Green s visits to more than 160 sites with identifiable subject matter form the basis of this richly illustrated volume which draws upon art historical anthropological and religious studies methodologies to analyze the wall paintings and elucidate the contemporary religious political and social concepts that drove the creation of this lively art form Buddhist Visual Cultures Rhetoric and Narrative in Late Burmese Wall Paintings is truly a tour de force that allows us to see Burmese temple paintings of the Life of the Buddha and similar themes as an open ended genre that like literary discourse participates in wider social intellectual and religious contexts Juliane Schober Arizona State University Alexandra Green introduces this relatively unknown material and subjects it to sophisticated analysis This study is major step towards creating a template that could be used for analyzing other late traditions of Buddhist painting Janice Leoshko University of Texas at Austin The Art of Terrestrial Diagrams in Early China Michelle H. Wang, 2023-11-21 This is the first English language monograph on the early history of cartography in China Its chief players are three maps found in tombs that date from the fourth to the second century BCE and together constitute the entire known corpus of ancient Chinese maps ditu A millennium separates them from the next available map from 1136 CE Most scholars study them through the lens of modern empirical definitions of maps and their use This book offers an alternative view by drawing on methods not just from cartography but from art history archaeology and religion It argues that as tomb objects the maps were designed to be simultaneously functional for the living and the dead that each map was drawn to serve navigational purposes of guiding the living from one town to another as well as to diagram ritual order thereby taming the unknown territory of the dead In contrast with traditional scholarship The Art of Terrestrial Diagrams in Early China proposes that ditu can speak through their forms Departing from dominant theories of representation that forge a narrow path from form to meaning the book braids together two main strands of argumentation to explore the multifaceted and multifunctional diagrammatic tradition of rendering space in early China **Burning for the Buddha** James A. Benn, 2007-02-28 Burning for the Buddha is the first book length study of the theory and practice of abandoning the body self immolation in Chinese Buddhism It examines the hagiographical accounts of all those who made offerings of their own bodies and places them in historical social cultural and doctrinal context Rather than privilege the doctrinal and exegetical interpretations of the tradition which assume the central importance of the mind and its cultivation James Benn focuses on the ways in which the heroic ideals of the bodhisattva present in scriptural materials such as the Lotus Sutra played out in the realm of religious practice on the ground Silver Screen Buddha Sharon A. Suh, 2015-01-29 How do contemporary films depict Buddhists and Buddhism What aspects of the Buddhist tradition are these films keeping from our view By repeatedly romanticizing the meditating monk what kinds of Buddhisms and Buddhists are missing in these films and why Silver Screen Buddha is the first book to explore the intersecting representations of Buddhism race and gender in contemporary films Sharon A Suh examines

the cinematic encounter with Buddhism that has flourished in Asia and in the West in the past century from images of Shangri La in Frank Capra s 1937 Lost Horizon to Kim Ki Duk s 2003 international box office success Spring Summer Fall Winter and Spring The book helps readers see that representations of Buddhism in Asia and in the West are fraught with political gendered and racist undertones Silver Screen Buddha draws significant attention to ordinary lay Buddhism a form of the tradition given little play in popular film By uncovering the differences between a fictionalized commodified and exoticized Buddhism Silver Screen Buddha brings to light expressions of the tradition that highlight laity and women on the one hand and Asian and Asian Americans on the other Suh engages in a re visioning of Buddhism that expands the popular understanding of the tradition moving from the dominance of meditating monks to the everyday world of raced gendered and embodied lay Buddhists **Yungang** Joy Lidu Yi, 2017-11-13 The first ever comprehensive analysis of its kind in any western language this unique volume provides a social art history of Yungang a 5th century rock cut court cave complex UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the greatest Buddhist monuments of all time Yungang asks why when and under what circumstances this impressive cave sanctuary was made and who played significant roles at various stages Recent economic changes in China including the expansion of roads have led to unprecedented numbers of objects being unearthed on site and near the cave chapels Archaeological discoveries in 2010 have shed significant new light on the architectural configuration of monasteries in the capital and the functions of different sections of the cave complex as well as monastic life within it For the first time it is possible to reconstruct where the monks lived and translated sacred literary texts and to fully understand that freestanding monasteries are an important component of the rock cut cave complex Illustrated throughout with remarkable full colour photographs this re examination of the cave chapels which brings together previous scholarship primary documentation and more than a decade of first hand field research will not only fill in the gaps in our knowledge about Yungang but also raise and perhaps answer new questions in art history **Appearance Politics** Lex Lu,2024-11-15 In Appearance Politics Lex Lu argues that crafting an appealing and powerful outward image has long been a critical political tool in China This strategy is evident in historical records imperial portraits physiognomic assessments photographs posters statues and digital images Using rare archival materials from Beijing Shanghai and Nanjing Lu explores how political figures designed their images and examines the shifting standards of male beauty that shaped their choices The book analyzes five case studies Ming Prince Zhu Di s usurpation the rise of Manchu masculinity and blended Han Manchu beauty standards under Emperor Yongzheng modern photography and Western beauty ideals in the early 20th century Sun Yat sen's crafted image as the Republican founding father and Mao Zedong s iconic visual legacy Through this empirical nuanced study Appearance Politics challenges stereotypical portrayals of Chinese male leadership in Western media and scholarship offering a richer understanding of appearance as a deliberate political strategy Approaches to Disruptions and Interactions in Archaeology Penny Coombe, Ying Tung Fung, 2022-08-18 A collection of papers presented at the Graduate

Archaeology at Oxford Conferences 2017 2019 The papers draw out different aspects of the key themes of interaction mobility entanglement and disruption amongst various communities and demonstrated through material culture relating to a The Lotus Sūtra Donald S. Lopez, Jr., 2016-09-12 A concise and accessible introduction to the classic Buddhist text The Lotus Sutra is arguably the most famous of all Buddhist scriptures Composed in India in the first centuries of the Common Era it is renowned for its inspiring message that all beings are destined for supreme enlightenment Here Donald Lopez provides an engaging and accessible biography of this enduring classic Lopez traces the many roles the Lotus Sutra has played in its travels through Asia Europe and across the seas to America The story begins in India where it was one of the early Mahayana sutras which sought to redefine the Buddhist path In the centuries that followed the text would have a profound influence in China and Japan and would go on to play a central role in the European discovery of Buddhism It was the first Buddhist sutra to be translated from Sanskrit into a Western language into French in 1844 by the eminent scholar Eug ne Burnouf That same year portions of the Lotus Sutra appeared in English in The Dial the journal of New England's Transcendentalists Lopez provides a balanced account of the many controversies surrounding the text and its teachings and describes how the book has helped to shape the popular image of the Buddha today He explores how it was read by major literary figures such as Henry David Thoreau and Gustave Flaubert and how it was used to justify self immolation in China and political extremism in Japan Concise and authoritative this is the essential introduction to the life and afterlife of a timeless masterpiece Chinese Religious Art Patricia Eichenbaum Karetzky, 2013-12-19 Chinese Religious Art is a broad survey of the origins and development of the various forms of artistic expression of Chinese religions The study begins with an overview of ancient archaeology in order to identify nascent religious ideologies in various Neolithic Cultures and early Chinese historical eras including the Shang dynasty 1300 1050 BCE and Zhou Dynasty 1000 221 BCE up until the era of the First Emperor 221 210 BCE Part Two treats Confucianism as a religious tradition examining its scriptures images temples and rituals Adopted as the state ideology in the Han dynasty Confucian ideas permeated society for over two thousand years Filial piety ethical behavior and other principles shaped the pictorial arts Part Three considers the various schools of Daoist belief and their expression in art The ideas of a utopian society and the pursuit of immortality characterize this religion from its earliest phase Daoism has an elaborate pantheon and ritualistic art as well as a secular tradition best expressed in monochrome ink painting Part Four covers the development of Buddhist art beginning with its entry into China in the second century Its monuments comprised largely of cave temples carved high in the mountains along the frontiers of China and large metropolitan temples provide evidence of its evolution including the adoption of savior cults of the Buddha of the Western Paradise the Buddha of the Future the rise of Ch an Zen and esoteric Buddhism In their development these various religious traditions interacted sharing art architecture iconography and rituals By the twelfth century a stage of syncretism merged all three traditions into a popular religion All the religions are reviving after their extirpation during the

Cultural Revolution Using historical records and artistic evidence much of which has not been published this study examines their individual and shared manner of worshipping the divine forces The Five-Colored Clouds of Mount Wutai: Poems from Dunhuang Mary Anne Cartelli, 2012-12-07 In The Five Colored Clouds of Mount Wutai Poems from Dunhuang Mary Anne Cartelli introduces a significant corpus of Chinese Buddhist poems from the Dunhuang manuscripts celebrating Mount Wutai They offer important literary evidence for the transformation of the mountain into the earthly paradise of the bodhisattva Ma ju r by the Tang dynasty Photo Poetics Shengging Wu, 2020-12-08 Chinese poetry has a long history of interaction with the visual arts Classical aesthetic thought held that painting calligraphy and poetry were cross fertilizing and mutually enriching What happened when the Chinese poetic tradition encountered photography a transformative technology and presumably realistic medium that reshaped seeing and representing the world Shengging Wu explores how the new medium of photography was transformed by Chinese aesthetic culture She details the complex negotiations between poetry and photography in the late Qing and early Republican eras examining the ways traditional textual forms collaborated with the new visual culture Drawing on extensive archival research into illustrated magazines poetry collections and vintage photographs Photo Poetics analyzes a wide range of practices and genres including self representation in portrait photography gifts of inscribed photographs mass media circulation of images of beautiful women and photography of ghosts immortals and imagined landscapes Wu argues that the Chinese lyrical tradition provided rich resources for artistic creativity self expression and embodied experience in the face of an increasingly technological and image oriented society An interdisciplinary study spanning literary studies visual culture and media history Photo Poetics is an original account of media culture in early twentieth century China and the formation of Chinese literary and visual modernities Handbook of Buddhist Practice Paula Kane Robinson Arai, Kevin Trainor, 2022 Foregrounds the impact of embodiment in Buddhism Highlights the diversity and fluidity of Buddhist identities The most comprehensive available volume on Buddhist practice Book jacket Transcending Patterns Mariachiara Gasparini, 2019-11-30 In Transcending Patterns Silk Road Cultural and Artistic Interactions through Central Asian Textiles Mariachiara Gasparini investigates the origin and effects of a textile mediated visual culture that developed at the heart of the Silk Road between the seventh and fourteenth centuries Through the analysis of the Turfan Textile Collection in the Museum of Asian Art in Berlin and more than a thousand textiles held in collections worldwide Gasparini discloses and reconstructs the rich cultural entanglements along the Silk Road between the coming of Islam and the rise of the Mongol Empire from the Tarim to Mediterranean Basin Exploring in detail the iconographic transfer between different agents and different media from Central Asian caves to South Italian churches the author depicts and describes the movement and exchange of portable objects such as sculpture wall painting and silk fragments across the Asian continent and across the ages Gasparini's history offers critical perspectives that extend far beyond an outmoded notion of Silk Road studies Her cross media work shows readers how certain material cultures are

connected not only by the physical routes they take but also because of the meanings and interpretations these objects engage in various places Transcending Patterns is at once art history material and visual cultural history Asian studies conservatory studies and linguistics Body and Face in Chinese Visual Culture Hung Wu, Katherine R. Tsiang, 2020-03-17 Traditionally the Chinese body was approached as a totality and explained by sweeping comparisons of the differences that distinguished Chinese examples from their Western counterparts Recently scholars have argued that we must look at particular examples of Chinese images of the body and explore their intrinsic conceptual complexity and historical specificity The twelve contributors to this volume adopt a middle position They agree that Chinese images are conditioned by indigenous traditions and dynamics of social interaction but they seek to explain a general Chinese body and face by charting multiple specific bodies and faces All of the chapters are historical case studies and investigate particular images such as Han dynasty tomb figurines Buddhist texts and illustrations pictures of deprivation illness deformity and ghosts clothing formal portraiture and modern photographs and films From the diversity of art forms and historical periods studied there emerges a more complex picture of ways that the visual culture of the body and face in China has served to depict the living memorialize the dead and present the unrepresentable in art The Journal of Korean Studies, Volume 16, Number 1 (Spring 2011) Clark W. Sorensen, Donald Baker, 2011-06-09 The University of Washington Korea Studies Program in collaboration with Rowman Littlefield Publishers is proud to publish the Journal of Korean Studies In 1979 Dr James Palais PhD Harvard 1968 former UW professor of Korean History edited and published the first volume of the Journal of Korean Studies For thirteen years it was a leading academic forum for innovative in depth research on Korea In 2004 former editors Gi Wook Shin and John Duncan revived this outstanding publication at Stanford University In August 2008 editorial responsibility transferred back to the University of Washington With the editorial guidance of Clark Sorensen and Donald Baker the Journal of Korean Studies JKS continues to be dedicated to publishing outstanding articles from all disciplines on a broad range of historical and contemporary topics concerning Korea In addition the IKS publishes reviews of the latest Korea related books To subscribe to the Journal of Korean Studies or order print back issues please click here Word Embodied Halle O'Neal, 2020-10-26 In this study of the Japanese jeweled pagoda mandalas Halle O Neal reveals the entangled realms of sacred body beauty and salvation Much of the previous scholarship on these paintings concentrates on formal analysis and iconographic study of their narrative vignettes. This has marginalized the intriguing interplay of text and image at their heart precluding a holistic understanding of the mandalas and diluting their full import in Buddhist visual culture Word Embodied offers an alternative methodology developing interdisciplinary insights into the social religious and artistic implications of this provocative entwining of word and image O Neal unpacks the paintings revolutionary use of text as picture to show how this visual conflation mirrors important conceptual indivisibilities in medieval Japan The textual pagoda projects the complex constellation of relics reliquaries scripture and body in religious doctrine practice and art Word Embodied also expands our

thinking about the demands of viewing recasting the audience as active producers of meaning and offering a novel perspective on disciplinary discussions of word and image that often presuppose an ontological divide between them This examination of the jeweled pagoda mandalas therefore recovers crucial dynamics underlying Japanese Buddhist art including invisibility performative viewing and the spectacular visualizations of embodiment 

Unlocking the Chinese Gate Galia Dor, 2024-05-01 Unlocking the Chinese Gate offers an innovative analysis of gates in early Chinese thought and material culture Observing gates from various perspectives including philosophy architecture and psychology and through the conceptual lens of Chinese correlative thinking Galia Dor conceptualizes the Chinese gate as a membrane like apparatus that from the space in between efficaciously manifests de the Way dao into the ten thousand forms of actualized life This methodology exposes an open to closed gradation between pairs of inside outside wai nei that resonates throughout the Chinese model of psychocosmic concentric circles The consequential strategies e g continuity break chaos order demonstrate how early Chinese cosmological philosophical and political idealities as well as afterlife religious beliefs were applied including the various approaches to and practices of self cultivation The book sheds new light on ancient Chinese thought and material culture and offers points of comparison to Western thought and modern science including a model of decision gating that carries relevant implications and insights to our current lives

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