

Quarter/Year

Winter 2018

Course Number

ART-HIST 480
Studies in Asian Art

Day/Time

W 2-5 pm

Instructor

Linrothe

Course Title

15th-17th Century Painting in Central Tibet and Amdo Rebong



The period covered in this course has, until very recently, been a neglected period of Tibetan art history, with Chinese and Euro-American scholars and collectors focusing on earlier material and dismissing this period as one of decline. In fact, the rediscovery of relatively intact monuments that escaped destruction during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, and resistance to market priorities, has led to a reevaluation of quality. So too has the recovery of attributions to what were previously mistakenly thought to be largely anonymous in terms of the artists if not the patrons. This course examines several sites in Central and Midwestern Tibet (dbus tsang) at which 15th to 17th century paintings (mainly murals) survive in a range of styles, including some by artistic personalities known from texts, vernacular artistic training, and tradition. We will examine Gongkar Chöde, where the late 15th century master-artist Gongkar Khyentse developed what is now called the Khyentse style, as well as murals by the 17th century Choying Gyatso working in the New Menri style at Tashilhunpo, and the murals of the Nechung courtyard near Lhasa (see poster illustration). The works created by two stellar patrons, Taranatha and the 5th Dalai Lama, at the Jonang Phuntsokling and the White and Red Palaces of the Potala, respectively, will also be considered, as well as the transmission and localization of

Central/Midwestern painting to Amdo Rebong in northeastern Tibet. A trip to New York by seminar participants to see the exhibition “Unknown Tibet: Buddhist Paintings from the Tucci Expeditions” at the Asia Society Museum and a visit to the Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art will be supported by the Warnock Gift to the Department of Art History.

Required Textbooks

David P. Jackson, *A Revolutionary Artist of Tibet: Khyentse Chenmo of Gongkar* (2016), ISBN: 0991224116.

Samten G. Karmay, *The Illusive Play: The Autobiography of the Fifth Dalai Lama* (2014), ISBN: 1932476679.

Assessments

Participation, class presentations and research paper