
Quarter/Year	Course Number	Day/Time	Instructor
Winter 2019	ART-HIST 390 & 480	W 2:00-5:00 pm	Linrothe
Course Title	Degree/Distro Fulfillment		
Studies in Asian Art: Borobudur	390 and/or Non-Euro American Distribution		



Since its early 19th century entry into both academic discourse and western colonial control, Borobudur in Central Java has been in constant flux, literally and metaphorically in terms of its place in Buddhist, Asian, and architectural history and canons. A massive stone pyramid with open-air galleries for low-relief narrative sculpture, the structure culminates in a platform for a life-sized sculptural mandala. It forms a totalizing monumental Buddhist cosmological model, but was suddenly abandoned soon after completion in the ninth century—perhaps because of a volcanic eruption. Gradually it was reduced to a ruin as it was reclaimed by jungle. In the mid-19th century it became a source of antiquities for wealthy visitors from abroad, and subsequently has been transformed into an archaeological site, a work of art, an architectural complex, and after 1949, a national monument for Indonesia. It has inspired European artists as diverse as M. Cornelius, William Daniell, and Paul Gauguin and remains a perennial subject for contemporary Indonesian painters. Its architecture, narratives,

history, and meaning—past and present—have occupied statesmen, engineers, architects, anthropologists, Buddhologists, art dealers, curators and art historians. Yet it rarely receives the notice it deserves in the art historical curriculum. The seminar will explore the phenomenological experience of the site, the narratives of its reliefs, issues of image-text relations through the identification of particular Buddhist texts as sources, its place in colonial and contemporary ideologies, and the ongoing attempts to understand the intentions of its makers. Four visiting speakers have been arranged.

Required Textbooks

Gifford, Julie. *Buddhist Practice and Visual Culture: The Visual Rhetoric of Borobudur*. 978-1138784765.

Assessments

Weekly participation including leading discussion, 2 presentations and a final paper.