



Universität
Zürich^{UZH}

Section for East Asian Art



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
FOR
ASIAN ART and ARCHAEOLOGY

University of Zurich, Section for East Asian Art History
European Association for Asian Art and Archaeology

Keynote lecture

Ashura's Face

Prof. Dr. Yukio Lippit (Harvard University)



Time: Thursday, 24th August 2017, 18:30 – 19:30
Address: Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich (Room KOL-F-101)

This is a keynote lecture on the occasion of The Second Conference of the European Association for Asian Art and Archaeology. It is open to the public and will be followed by a reception. For the rest of the three-day conference, a registration fee will be required. For questions, please contact the organizing committee (conference@ea-aaa.eu) or go to the conference homepage:

<http://www.ea-aaa2017.ch>



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Keynote abstract

No work of Japanese sculpture has been the subject of as much attention and rapturous commentary from writers, philosophers, and critics than Kofukuji's *Ashura* (dated 734), now perhaps the most famous piece of sculpture in Japan after the Great Buddha at Todaiji itself. This lecture offers a new interpretation of the sculpture's enigmatic expression by examining the ways in which *Ashura* catalyzed the religious imagination in relation to its ritual context, architectural setting, and the materiality of dry lacquer technique. *Ashura* allows us to better understand a new paradigm of temple hall in the ancient imperial capital of Nara, one that emerged in the wake of new forms of Buddhist knowledge and practice spreading throughout East Asia.

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