

Fall 2024 Arts of Asia Lecture Series  
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**Who was I made for? Provenance research at the Asian Art Museum**

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Definitions (all from Merriam Webster):

*Provenance*—

- origin, source
- the history of ownership of a valued object or work of art or literature

*Restitution*—

- an act of restoring or a condition of being restored: such as
  - a:** a restoration of something to its rightful owner
  - b:** a making good of or giving an equivalent for some injury

*Repatriation*—

- the act or process of restoring or returning someone or something to the country of origin, allegiance, or citizenship

UNESCO convention

National laws

Famous international case studies

Parthenon sculptures (Pediment of temple to Athena removed by Lord Elgin)

Benin bronzes

Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer, 1903-1907, Gustav Klimt

Asian Art Museum examples

**Vishnu reclining** (Anantashayana Vishnu), approx. 1050

Thailand, Buriram province, Prasat Ku Suan Tang (or Taeng)

National Museum Bangkok

**Lintel with Yama**, deity of the underworld, 1000-1080  
sandstone  
Northeastern Thailand, Nong Hong Temple  
Repatriated May 2021

**Lintel**, 975-1025,  
Sandstone  
Northeastern Thailand, Khao Lon Temple  
Repatriated May 2021

**Architectural panel**, approx. 1112  
Ghazni, Afghanistan  
Ghaznavid dynasty, Reign of Mas'ud III (1099-1115)  
Marble  
Deaccessioned; repatriation pending

**Burial urns**, approx. 600  
Mindanao, Philippines, Soccsksargen Province  
Limestone  
Gift of Marion Greene, 1991.323.1-.2

Four bronzes from northeastern Thailand

**The bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara**, approx. 675-625  
Thailand, likely from near Prasat Hin Khao Plai Bat II, Buriram province  
Bronze with silver inlay  
The Avery Brundage collection, B65B57

**The bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara**, approx. 750-850  
Thailand, likely from near Prasat Hin Khao Plai Bat II, Buriram province  
Bronze  
The Avery Brundage collection, B66B14

**Standing buddha**, approx. 750-850  
Thailand, likely from near Plai Bat hill, Buriram province  
Bronze  
The Avery Brundage collection, B65B70

**Bodhisattva**, approx. 600-700  
Thailand, likely from near Plai Bat hill, Buriram province  
Bronze  
The Avery Brundage collection, B68S9

Further reading and resources:

General discussions

- <https://observer.com/2024/07/museum-repatriation-news-in-2024/>
- Stephen Murphy, “Restitution and repatriation as an opportunity, not a loss: some reflections on recent Southeast Asian cases.” *Antiquity*. Published online 2024:1-11. doi:10.15184/aqy.2024.129
- Louise Tythacott and Panggah Andiyansyah, *Returning Southeast Asia’s Past: Objects, Museums, and Restitution*, Chicago University Press, 2021.
- Denis Byrne, “The problem with looting: An alternative perspective on antiquities trafficking in Southeast Asia,” *Journal of Field Archaeology* 41, no. 3, 2016, pp. 344-354.
- Neil Brodie, “Congenial bedfellows? The academy and the antiquities trade,” *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* 27, no. 4, 2011, pp. 408-37.
- Emiline Smith and Erin L. Thompson, “A Case Study of Academic Facilitation of the Global Illicit Trade in Cultural Objects: Mary Slusser in Nepal,” *International Journal of Cultural Property*, 2023, pp. 1–20.
- Samuel Hardy, “Conflict Antiquities’ Rescue or Ransom: The Cost of Buying Back Stolen Cultural Property in Contexts of Political Violence,” *International Journal of Cultural Property* 28, no. 1, 2021, pp. 5–26.
- Marieke Bloembergen and Martijn Eickhoff, *The Politics of Cultural Heritage in Indonesia: A Cultural History*. Cambridge University Press, 2020.
- Marieke Bloembergen, “The Politics of ‘Greater India’ a Moral Geography: Movable Antiquities and Charmed Knowledge Networks between Indonesia, India, and the West, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*,” 2021: 63 (1): 170-211.
  - SOAS talks ‘Artefacts, Identities and Restitution,’  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOF0tMOHnf4&t=3763s>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7kRLPTcFdo>

#### Ghazni panel:

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/04/magazine/ghazni-panels-afghanistan-art.html>
- “Blood Antiquities and the Global Art Market” exploring the history of the Ghazni panels from Afghanistan, the ethical and legal issues surrounding the market of antiquities, artistic responses to cultural heritage loss and reclamation in Iraq, and sustainable heritage management practices: <https://youtu.be/8Byxj8P6ShU>

#### Thai lintels

- On the return of a lintel looted from Phnom Rung: Charles F. Keyes, “The Case of the Purloined Lintel: The Politics of a Khmer Shrine as a Thai National Treasure,” in *Thailand: Aspects of Identity, 1939-1989*, Monash University, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Monash Papers on Southeast Asia, No. 25, 1991, pp. 261-292.

#### Philippine burial urns

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/349c2f18a34045a99a1266dd209ddcb1>

#### Plai Bat II bronzes

- P. Phanomvan, “Plai Bat: Reclaiming Heritage, Social Media, And Modern Nationalism,” in *Returning Southeast Asia’s Past: Objects, Museums, and Restitution*, NUS Press and Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme, SOAS University of London, 2021, pp. 235-63.
- Emma C. Bunker, “Pre-Angkor Bronzes from Pra Kon Chai,” *Archives of Asian Art*, 1971-2, pp. 67-76.
- Emma C. Bunker, “The Prakhon Chai Story: Facts and Fiction,” *Arts of Asia* 32, no. 2, 2002, pp. 106–25.
- <https://www.denverpost.com/2022/12/01/emma-bunker-douglas-latchford-cambodian-art-denver-art-museum/>

#### 60 Minutes on Douglas Latchford:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1DFOGHHcm4>

Podcast on Latchford <https://dynamitedoug.com/>