The Legacy of Artistic Interaction between Cambodia and Thailand … and Beyond

Presentation Abstract

This presentation provides a select introduction to the art history of Cambodia and Thailand with an emphasis on the long history of artistic interaction between these countries, as well as with neighboring traditions in other parts of Southeast Asia, India, and China. Early Hindu and Buddhist art are particularly highlighted, but case studies range from the ancient past to the contemporary art world and include examples of metalwork, sculpture, architecture, ceramics, and painting.

Part 1: Foundations from Prehistory to “Charter States”

Key theme: the adaptation of international influences assimilated across historically porous ethnic, religious, and political borders to yield unique and distinctly localized artistic expressions. Examples include Bronze Age traditions, Dvaravati Buddhist art in Thailand, Preangkorian Khmer sculpture, and the art/architecture of Angkor.

Part 2: “Golden Age” Art Traditions, Past to Present

Key themes: the art traditions of Angkor and Sukhothai; the relevance of the art associated with these traditions for contemporary people and politics.

Assigned Readings for Session


Recommended Reading on Southeast Asian Art History


