

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2019
Seeking the Divine: The Lesser-Known Religious Traditions of Asia
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Daoism and the Arts of China

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This lecture explores the historical development of Daoism (Taoism) from a late Bronze Age (5th century BCE) philosophy to a fully-fledged religion in the late Han dynasty (2nd century CE), the paradoxical nature of Daoist thought and belief (e.g., a religion with a huge pantheon but no supreme being), Daoist cosmology, the early origins of the cults of sacred mountains and the emergence of such early Daoist deities as Taishang laojun (the deified sage Laozi) and Xiwangmu (Queen Mother of the West), the relationship of Daoist art to Buddhist art, Daoist ritual, talismanic calligraphy, the Daoist pantheon, Daoist architecture, the relationship between Daoism and Chinese popular religion, divine manifestations of the *yin* (feminine) force, Daoist perfected beings (adepts or immortals) in myth and history, alchemy (in both its outer = *wai* [chemical] and inner = *nei* [visualized] forms), and the relationship of Daoism to Chinese landscape painting.

Suggested readings:

Katz, Paul R., *Images of the Immortal: The Cult of Lu Dongbin at the Palace of Eternal Joy* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1999).

Kohn, Livia, ed., *The Taoist Experience: An Anthology* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1993).

Little, Stephen, "Taoist Art," in Livia Kohn, ed., *Taoism Handbook* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2000), 709–746.

Little, Stephen & Shawn Eichman, eds. *Taoism and the Arts of China* (Exh. cat.) (Chicago: The Art Institute of Chicago, 2000).

Munakata, Kiyohiko, *Sacred Mountains in Chinese Art* [Exh. cat.] (Urbana-Champaign: Krannert Art Museum, 1991).

Pregadio, Fabrizio, *Encyclopedia of Daoism*. 2 vols. (London: Routledge, 2008).

Robson, James, *The Norton Anthology of World Religions: Daoism* (New York & London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2015).

Schipper, Kristofer, *The Taoist Body*. Translated by Karen C. Duval (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993).

Waley, Arthur, *The Way and Its Power: A Study of the Tao Te Ching and Its Place in Chinese Thought* (New York: Grove Press, 1958).

Watson, Burton, trans., *The Complete Works of Chuang Tzu* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1968).

Welch, Holmes & Seidel, Anna, eds., *Facets of Taoism: Essays in Chinese Religion* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1979).