

Fall 2019 Arts of Asia Lecture Series
Seeking the Divine: The Lesser-Known Religious Traditions of Asia
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

Sky and Earth: Exploring the Non-Buddhist Religious Traditions of Mongolia

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Dates and Chronology for pre-Buddhist cultures in Mongolia:

Prehistoric period, 40,000 BCE
Neolithic, 5,000 BCE ~ 1,000 BCE
Bronze Age, First Millennium BCE, 13th c. – 3rd c. BCE

Early Steppe States (empires, confederations):

Xiongnu (Hunnu), 3rd c. BCE-1st c. CE
Juan-Juan (Rouran, Nirun), 4th c. – 6th c. CE
Turkic state, 6th c. -8th c.
Uighur, 8th c. -9th c.
Khitan, 9th – 11th c.
Mongols, 1206-present

Terms and concepts used in the lecture

Early Nomads – early people inhabiting Eurasian steppes in the area of Altai Mountains and modern-day Mongolia

Deer stones – steles with carved images of stylized animals

Khirigsur – stone configurations in either a circular or square arrangement

Stonemen – ancient Turkic stones, ca. 7th -8th c.

Balbal – row of small stones at Turkic burial complexes

Animal style – images with motifs based on stylized animals

Sülde – vital energy

Onggho – spirit

Ongghon – spirit support

Shanyu – ruler in Xiongnu state

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