

**Fall 2024 Arts of Asia Lecture
Series
Sponsored by the Society for Asian Art**

Weak in the Knees: When Does Art Move, Inspire, or Bring us to Tears?

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I've taken a slightly different approach in this talk. Rather than an academic position, I'm hoping to walk through some objects in the collection together, sharing how I approach them and think about them. Special attention will be paid to the value of close looking and details as a way to raise larger questions about the collection, as well as themes and issues raised by contemporary works of art.

In the second part of the talk, I'll share some current writing I've done on the theme of "Buddhist Tears," drawing from work I've done in the History of Emotions to think about how we might engage with themes of feeling and emotions in the collection.

Below is a list of some of the works and artists I will discuss, as well as a few recommended readings, should they be of interest.

1. *What Will It Take / For Us To Awake?*, 2024, by Ashwini Bhat. Bronze and patinated steel. Commissioned for the Asian Art Museum by the Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India (SACHI) in appreciation of a valued partnership on the occasion of its 25th anniversary (1997–2022), 2024.86a-c.
<https://exhibitions.asianart.org/exhibitions/ashwini-bhat/>
 - a. More on Ashwini Bhat can be found here: <https://ashwinibhat.com/>
2. Railing pillar with female figure beneath a tree, 100-200, Gift of the Atholl McBean Foundation, B69S13
<https://searchcollection.asianart.org/objects/11250/railing-pillar-with-female-figure-beneath-a-tree?ctx=056da9753dfc31afe7d64c66cba463a6ec775e62&idx=0>
 - a. More *yakshis*, female nature spirirs, and *salbanjikas* can be found here:
<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/the-salabhanjikas-entwined-with-nature-american-institute-of-indian-studies/PQUBTZY5ALiLJQ?hl=en>
3. The Hindu Deity Skanda, 1100–1200, The Avery Brundage Collection, B60S45+
<https://searchcollection.asianart.org/objects/10834/the-hindu-deity-skanda?ctx=cb4414e52da132eafa827007da62d1124c7d96b6&idx=4>
4. *Myself Mona Ahmed*, 2008, Dayanita Singh, Museum purchase, Mortimer-Harvey Fund, 2017.46.a-.u
<https://searchcollection.asianart.org/objects/21768/myself-mona-ahmed?ctx=0758e66be5396dbb62d310506a74d41b0df448ce&idx=0>

- a. More on Dayanita Singh here: <https://dayanitasingh.net/>
5. *Black Masks on Roller Skates*, Amol K. Patel
 - a. More on the project, <https://kfda.be/en/festivals/2023-edition/programme/black-masks-on-roller-skates/>
 - b. More on Amol Patel: <https://princeclausfund.nl/awardees/amol-patil>

Suggested Readings:

1. Vidya Dehejia. *The body adorned: sacred and profane in Indian art*. Columbia University Press, 2009.
2. Imke Rajamani, Margrit Pernau, and Katherine Butler Schofield. *Monsoon Feelings: A History of Emotions in the Rain*. Niyogi, 2018.
3. Rebecca M Brown, "Intimate Archive: Dayanita Singh, the Photo-book and Feminist Iteration." *History of Photography* 46, no. 2-3 (2022): 184-205.
4. Dayanita Singh and Mona Ahmed. *Myself Mona Ahmed*. Scalo Verlag, 2001.