Central Tibet, Vajravarahi mandala, c1200 (detail) Private collection

India, Punjab Hills, Basohli, Bhadrakali, Destroyer of the Universe, c1660–70 (detail) Howard Hodgkin Collection, London

TO BOOK see the form on reverse.
GODDESSES IN ASIAN ART

Across cultures the female aspect of the divine has been worshipped as the great goddess who manifests as a loving mother, a compassionate saviour or rage personified. In two terms of eleven lectures each experts in art history and religious studies use ancient texts, temple icons and popular practice to unveil the many manifestations of the goddess.

Focusing on Hindu and Buddhist traditions the extensive cast of characters includes: Shakti meaning power and energy is the name given to the great goddess Kamakhya, Hindu goddess of desire. Kumari: the living goddess of Nepal. The fierce warrior goddess who rode to battle on a lion to defeat the buffalo demon where the god had 18 arms. Parvati: daughter of the Himalayas. The goddess as lived and loved in India. Shakti: the power of Shiva. Dakini: sky dancer and divine envoy. Tara: the Buddhist goddess who embodies the perfection of wisdom. Tara the graceful Buddhist saviour goddess richly adorned with jewels. Parvati: daughter of the Himalayas.

With our extensive program of exhibitions and events the Art Gallery of New South Wales with the support of VisAsia is the leading centre for the appreciation of Asian art in Australia. Please join us for a stimulating and enriching journey.

ARTS OF ASIA
GODDESSES IN ASIAN ART
2006 LUNCHEON LECTURE SERIES
THURSDAYS 12.30PM DOWNE THEATRE
ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

TERM 1

7 March Introduction Jackie Menzie, head curator of Asian art
14 March To be a goddess now and then Rachel Kohn, ABC radio presenter The Spirit of Things and The Ark
21 March Kamakhya. Hindu goddess of desire. Brenda Dobbs, lecturer. School of Education, University of Western Sydney
28 March The goddess in classical Hindu literature: expressions of the divine female in the Rigveda Shenaz Dhiri, lecturer in eastern religions and co-director, Centre for Buddhist Studies, University of Queensland

4 April Iconography of the Hindu goddess Acharya Rambi Shivan, Australian Council of Hindu Clergy

26 April Parvati: daughter of the Himalayas Wendy Dinger, Miras Elate Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religions, Divinity School and Department of South Asian Languages and Civilisations, University of Chicago

2 May Durga: slayer of the buffalo demon Wendy Dinger
9 May The ideal wife and the ideal family in Indian art Jim Messellos, honorary reader, School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry, University of Sydney
16 May Burning of Sita: depictions in Balinese painting Adrian Vickers, chair of Asian studies, University of Sydney

23 May Ratu Kidul, Javanese goddess of the Southern Seas Joanna Barrkman, curator, Southeast Asian art and material culture, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
30 May The Giant Hampatong: protectress of the people of the Cape Ross Linglands, director Nomadic: Rug Traders

TERM 2

18 July Prajnaparamita: the perfection of wisdom in Buddhist religion and art Chaya Chandrasekhar, curator of South and Southeast Asian art
25 July Tara: Texts and icons in India and Tibet David Templeman, independent scholar and PhD candidate Monash Asia Institute, Monash University
1 August Dakini: sky dancer and divine envoy Christina Sournier, curator of decorative arts and design, Powerhouse Museum
8 August Kumbi: the living goddess of Nepal Michael Allen, honorary research associate, Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney
15 August An introduction to tantra: paths to enlightenment through sound and image Swami Shankardave Saraswati, yoga authority, medical doctor and author and Jayne Stevenson, author and filmmaker

22 August Mothers, nuns and the feminine Guanyin: depicting Buddhist goddesses of temporal and heavenly realms Tonia Eckfeld, fellow, Center for the Art of East Asia, University of Chicago
29 August From Sarasvati to Benzaiten: a Goddess of Music and her transformation in South and East Asian cultures Andrew Atter, senior lecturer, ethnomusicology and Hugh de Ferranti, associate professor Japanese studies, University of New England
5 September Shakti: the power of Shiva Alan Croker, architect
12 September Bollywood images of the goddess: Reema Dwyer, reader in Indian studies and cinema and chair of the Centre of South Asian Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University
19 September The goddess as lived and loved in India Kaipana Ram, senior lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Macquarie University
26 September Offerings to the Goddess: Hindu puja ritual Acharya Rambi Shivan, Australian Council of Hindu Clergy

BOOKING FORM

VisAsia/TAASA Membership

No of lectures: $175
Non-member: $225

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