

KYOTO LECTURES 2025



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An Early Modern Tradition in Perspective

Nyaungyan Buddhist Narrative Murals of Burma (c. 1580-1800)

Tuesday, March 18th, 18:00

Cristophe Munier-Gaillard
SPEAKER



The Buddha collecting alms in Rājagaha

Cristophe Munier-Gaillard is an associate member of the Centre de Recherche sur l'Extrême-Orient de Paris-Sorbonne. His research focuses on the narrative technique and styles of early modern Burmese Buddhist murals. He edited *Mural Art: Studies on Paintings in Asia* (River Books, 2017).

Burmese mural painting is best known from the Pagan period of the 11th-13th centuries, whose corpus of over 300 monuments is the largest in Southeast Asia. This lecture shows that the Nyaungyan mural tradition is not a continuation of this first pictorial tradition, but represents a foundational change, heralding the modern era. Not subject to any major foreign influence, its fundamentals reflect a simplified program and graphism, a new iconography, and a new structuration of the mural space. These developments ultimately led to a new way to teach Buddhist moral precepts through entertaining scenes highlighting Portuguese and Indian gatekeepers.



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This hybrid lecture will be held on site and via Zoom. Registration required in advance via QR code.

Zoom meeting ID: 865 8768 1543

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