

GREGORY LEVINE

Professor
Department of History of Art
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720-6020

(510) 643-7290; Fax (510) 643-2185
gplevine@berkeley.edu

A historian of Buddhist visual cultures and Eco Art History, Gregory Levine's current book project is *A Tree and A Buddha: Arboreal Art History at the End of A World*. He is also at work on a trilogy that examines Buddhism and modern-contemporary visual cultures: *Long Strange Journey: On Modern Zen, Zen Art, and Other Predicaments* (2017); *Buddha Heads: Fragments and Landscapes*; and *Other Buddhas: White Supremacy and Buddhist Visual Culture*. He is an editorial board member of *Artibus Asiae* and the *Journal of Art Historiography* and has reviewed manuscripts for, among others, the University of Washington Press, UC Press, University of Hawai'i Press, and *The Art Bulletin*. A member of the Groups in Buddhist Studies and Asian Studies at Berkeley, his recent graduate seminars have examined the visual cultures of Buddhist modernism; eco art history and Japan; the formation of art history in modern Japan; art forgery and authenticity; and the fragment in art. His lecture courses examine the art and architecture of Japan; Buddhist temples and icons in Japan; global Buddhist visual cultures; and art, ecology, and Asia. Recent undergraduate seminars have focused on Japan's 3/11 disaster; plunder, iconoclasm, and forgery; and Zen painting and calligraphy.

Education

- Ph.D. Art and Archaeology of Japan, Princeton University. 1997. Dissertation: "Jukōin: Art, Architecture, and Mortuary Culture at a Japanese Zen Buddhist Temple." 1992-95: Foreign Research Student, Department of Art History and Aesthetics, Kyoto University; 1991-92: Foreign Research Student, Department of Art History, The University of Tokyo.
- M.A. Art and Archaeology, Princeton University. 1990
- B.A. East Asian Studies, Oberlin College, Oberlin Ohio. 1985.

Recent Fellowships, Grants, Awards

- 2017 Humanities Research Fellowship, College of Letters and Science, U.C. Berkeley.
- 2010 John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, for "Buddha Heads: Sculptural Fragments in Devotional and Modern-Contemporary Imaginations;" Japan Foundation Fellowship for Short-Term Research in Japan (declined); Humanities Research Fellowship, College of Letters and Science, U.C. Berkeley.
- 2007 Finalist (1 of 3), Charles Rufus Morey Prize ("for an especially distinguished book in art history"), College Art Association, for *Daitokuji: The Visual Cultures of a Zen Monastery*.
- 2006 Doreen B. Townsend Center for the Humanities Initiative Grant (U.C. Berkeley) for the project, "Buddha Heads: Buddhist Sculptural Fragments in Devotional and Modern-Contemporary Imaginations."

Publications (* = peer reviewed)

Work in Progress

"Carved Alive: Buddhist Tree-icons in Japan." Chapter for Karl Kusserow, ed., *Picturing Ecology* (Princeton: Princeton University Art Museum, expected summer 2020).

A Tree and A Buddha: Arboreal Art History at the End of A World (book).

Buddha Heads: Fragments and Landscapes (book).

Other Buddhas: White Supremacy and Buddhist Visual Culture (book).

Books

- 2017 * *Long Strange Journey: On Modern Zen, Zen Art, and Other Predicaments*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
- 2005 * *Daitokuji: The Visual Cultures of a Zen Monastery*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

Co-Edited Publications

- 2012 * Gregory P.A. Levine, Andrew M. Watsky, Gennifer Weisenfeld, ed. *Crossing the Sea: Essays on East Asian Art in Honor of Professor Yoshiaki Shimizu*. Princeton: P.Y. and Kinmay W. Tang Center for East Asian Art, Princeton University, in association with Princeton University Press. Co-editor and contributor.
- 2007 Gregory Levine, Yukio Lippit, eds. *Awakenings: Zen Figure Paintings from Medieval Japan*. New York: Japan Society and Yale University Press. Co-editor and contributor.

Articles, Entries, Chapters in Multi-author Volumes

- 2019 "Tree-buddhas." In *Eco-Art History in East and Southeast Asia*, ed. De-nin D. Lee. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Press.
- 2018 "Evil Buddhas: A Note on the 'Third Rail' of Buddhist Visual Culture." For the issue, "Asia and the West: Other Forms of Orientalism?" *Histoire de l'art* 82 (Dec., 2018).
- 2017 "Zen Sells Zen Things: Meditation Supply, Right Livelihood, and Buddhist Retail." In *Zen and Material Culture*, ed. Steven Heine and Pamela Winfield. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2016 * "Critical Zen Art History." *Journal of Art Historiography* 15 (Dec., 2016).
<https://arthistoriography.wordpress.com/>
- 2014 * "The Faltering Brush: Material, Sensory Trace, and Nonduality in Chan/Zen Buddhist Death Verse Calligraphies." In *Sensational Religion: Sensory Cultures in Material Practice*, ed. Sally M. Promey, 561-579. New Haven: Yale University Press 2014.
- "Zen Art before 'Nothingness'." In *Inventing Asia: American Perceptions Around 1900*, ed. Noriko Murai and Alan Chong, 100-114. Boston: Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2014.
- 2012 * "On Return: Kano Eitoku's *Flowers and Birds of the Four Seasons* and the Digital World." In *Crossing the Sea: Essays on East Asian Art in Honor of Yoshiaki Shimizu*, ed. Gregory Levine, Andrew Watsky, and Gennifer Weisenfeld, 285-305. Princeton: Tang Center for East Asian Art, Princeton University Press, 2012.
- * "Buddha Rush: A Story of Art and its Consequences." *BOOM: A Journal of California*, vol. 2, 3 (Fall, 2012): 45-61.
- * "Zen Art: Pure Gesture, Nationalist Aesthetic, or Nothing at all?" In *Handbook of Contemporary Japanese Religions*, ed. Inken Pohl and John Nelson, 529-550. Leiden: Brill, 2012. Revision of "Two (or More) Truths: Reconsidering Zen Art in the West," published originally in *Awakenings: Zen Figure Paintings from Medieval Japan*, ed. Gregory Levine and Yukio Lippit, 52-63. New York: Japan Society and Yale University Press, 2007.
- 2011 "Malraux's Buddha Heads." In *Blackwell Companion to Asian Art*, ed. Deborah Hutton, Rebecca Brown, 629-654. London: Blackwell, 2011.
- "Switching Sites and Identity: The Founder's Statue at the Zen Buddhist Temple Kōrin'in." Republished in *Japanese Religions*, SAGE Benchmarks in Religious Studies Series, vol. 3, ed. Lucia Dolce. London: Sage Publications Ltd, 2011.

- 2007 "Two (or More) Truths: Reconsidering *Zen Art in the West*" and "Pilgrims Offering Treasures to Luohan," "The Transformation of a Luohan," "Luohan in a Bamboo Grove Receiving Offerings" (catalogue entry). In *Awakenings: Zen Figure Paintings from Medieval Japan*, ed. Gregory Levine and Yukio Lippit, 52-63, 138-143. New York: Japan Society and Yale University Press, 2007.

Gregory Levine and Yukio Lippit. "Patriarchs Heading West: An Introduction," "Awakenings in the West: A Bibliography on Chan/Seon/Zen Buddhism and Art." In *Awakenings: Zen Figure Paintings from Medieval Japan*, ed. Gregory Levine and Yukio Lippit, 16-21, 202-207. New York: Japan Society and Yale University Press, 2007.

- 2004 "Rakan in America: Travels of the Daitokuji 500 Luohan." In *Moving Objects: Time, Space, and Context*, ed. Tokyo National Research Institute of Cultural Properties, 96-109. Tokyo: Heibonsha, 2004.
- 2001 * "Switching Sites and Identities: The Founder's Statue at the Japanese Zen Buddhist Temple Kōrin'in." *The Art Bulletin* Vol. LXXXIII (March 2001): 72-104.

Book Reviews, Translation

- 2004 Review: Andrew Watsky, *Chikubushima: Deploying the Sacred Arts in Momoyama Japan* (2003). *Monumenta Nipponica*, 59, no. 3 (Autumn, 2004): 421-24.
- 1999 Review: Joseph Parker, *Zen Buddhist Landscape Arts of Early Muromachi Japan (1336-1573)* (1999). *Journal of Asian Studies* 58/4 (Nov. 1999): 1150-1153.
- 1992 Gregory Levine and Emanuel Pastreich, translators, Sasaki Jōhei, Sasaki Masako, "The Formation and Development of Japanese Painting Schools," *Fenway Court (Competition and Collaboration: Hereditary Schools in Japanese Culture)* (1992): 46-59.

Short Essays, Blog Posts, Opinion

- 2012 "Deepening Chill in Berkeley: A Recap of Political Repression Against Campus Protest." Posted on Michael Meranze, Christopher Newfield, "Remaking the University," March 21, 2012. <http://utotherescue.blogspot.com/2012/03/ddeepening-chill-in-berkeley-recap-of.html>.
- 2011 "Art Occupies at Occupy Cal." SOTA (State of the Arts), University of California Institute for Research in the Arts. November 28, 2011. <http://ucsota.wordpress.com/2011/11/28/art-occupies-at-occupy-cal/>. Reposted on Shannon Jackson, *Arc Muses*, Dec. 12, 2011 (UC Berkeley Arts Research Center) <http://arcdirector.tumblr.com/>
- "'Outgunned' Campus Response to Protest," Op-Ed, *The Daily Californian*, September 16, 2011, 4.
- Gregory Levine and Louise Fortmann, "Viewpoints: UC Execs' Pension Plea is Demoralizing," *Sacramento Bee* January 6, 2011, 13A. Posted as, "The Gilded 36 and What 'Demoralizing Really Means at UC," on *Remaking the University*, Jan 11, 2011. <http://utotherescue.blogspot.com/2011/01/gilded-36-and-what-demoralizing-really.html>
- 2010 Gregory Levine and Peter Glazer, "Common Ground." *Townsend Center for the Humanities Newsletter* (Mar./Feb., 2010): 25-27.

Interviews

- 2016 "Zen Interview 1: Seiyō/Tōyō no nigenron o kaihi shi, Zen no henyō to katei o akiraka ni suru" 西洋/東洋の二元論を回避し、禅の変容と過程を明らかにする (Resisting the East-West Binary to

Clarify Zen's Transformation and Evolution). *Bijutsu techō* Special Issue on Zen in the 21st Century, Nov. 2016 美術手帖 特集 禅: 更新を続ける 21 世紀の禅, 17-19.

- 2012 In "Fear No Art: The Aesthetic of Occupy Cal." Director: Annie Parker, with Courtney Livesay, Laila Moire-Selvage, Carol Denny (May 6).

Recent Invited Lectures, Presentations

- 2019 "Carved Alive: Buddhist Tree-Icons in Japan," Sponenburgh Lecture on the History and Aesthetics of Sculpture," College of Design, University of Oregon, Eugene (Nov. 14).
 "Bohemian Buddha: A Colossal Buddha in the 'Redwood Cathedral'." For Learning in Retirement, U.C. Berkeley (Sept. 24)
 "Stuffed Buddhas: Buddhist Sculpture and Interior Consecrated Objects," Asian Arts Council, San Diego Museum of Art (April 25).
- 2018 "'Tree-Buddhas,' or What is Eco Art History?" Art Department, Oberlin College (April 5).
- 2017 "Yamanaka's Buddha Heads: Fragmentation and Re-presentation of the Chinese Buddhist Site Tianlongshan in early Twentieth-century Collecting and Art History." Council on East Asian Studies, Yale University (Mar. 8).
- 2016 "Yamanaka's Buddha Heads: Fragmentation and Re-presentation of the Chinese Buddhist Site Tianlongshan in early Twentieth-century Collecting and Art History." Fralin Museum of Art, University of Virginia (Oct. 27).
 Lunch Poems Kickoff Reading ("Really the Real," Gary Snyder). Morrison Library, UC Berkeley (Sept. 1).
- 2014 "Stuffed Buddhas: Buddhist Sculpture, Interior Consecrated Objects, and Iconic Images." Society for Asian Art, Asian Art Museum, SF (Feb. 28).
- 2013 "'Silenced by Aesthetics'? A Tentative Poetics of Art History and Ecology." Department of Art and Art History, Washington College, Maryland (April 11).
 "Disrupting the Disruption? Academic Fraud? Thoughts on 'Occupying the Asian Art Museum.'" Doreen B. Townsend Center for the Humanities Working Group in Contemporary Art, U.C. Berkeley (Mar. 7).
 "Bohemian Buddha: The SF Bohemian Club's Colossal Buddha (1892), Buddhism, and Race in Late 19th-c. California." Center for the Pacific Rim, University of San Francisco (Feb. 20).
- 2012 "Captured Buddhas: Kawabata Ryūshi's *Rakuyō kōryaku*." Department of Art History, Visual Art, & Theory, University of British Columbia (Nov. 19).
 "Occupy the Asian Art Museum, SF, Nov. 18, 2011." For the workshop, "Politics of Exhibition." University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (Nov. 8).
 "Captured Buddhas: Kawabata Ryūshi's *Rakuyō kōryaku*." Asian/Pacific Studies Institute, Duke University (Nov. 7).
 "On the Look and Logos of Zen Art Modernism." Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (Sept. 26).
 "On the Look and Logos of Zen Art Modernism." Exhibiting Asia in the 21st Century Lecture Series, Freer-Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (May 24).
 "Captured Buddhas: Kawabata Ryūshi's *Rakuyō kōryaku*." Smart Lecture series, Department of Art History, University of Chicago (Jan. 12).

- 2011 "Malraux's Buddha Heads: Fragments of the Past and the Sculptural Gothic-Buddhist." Society for Asian Art, Asian Art Museum, SF (Oct. 20).

Recent Conference, Workshop, and other Presentations

- 2018 "Tree Buddhas." For the symposium "Picturing Ecology: Art and Ecocriticism in Planetary Perspective," Princeton University Art Museum, Dec. 7, 2018.
- 2016 "Bohemian Buddha: A Colossal Buddha in the Bay Area (1892)." History of Art Department lecture (April 13).
 "Zen Sells Zen Things: Meditation Supply, Right Livelihood, and Buddhist Retail." For the panel, "Zen Matters." Association for Asian Studies Meeting, Seattle (April 1).
- 2013 "Buddha Head in a Tree: Materiality, Ecology, and Art History." Colloquium, "Art History & Materiality," Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown (Mar. 15-16).
- 2012 "Buddha Rush: Landscape, Race, and the Visual Cultures of Buddhist Modernism." Conference "Icons of Impermanence: Contemporary Buddhist Art." University of British Columbia (July 7).
- 2011 "The Faltering Brush: Looking at a Zen Buddhist Death Verse Calligraphy." Conference "Sensational Religion: Sense and Contention in Material Practice," Yale University (Nov. 2).
- 2010 "Looking at and Reading Sesshū's *Splashed-ink Landscape*": Thoughts on Intratextuality." International Symposium on Paintings and Inscriptions (Gasans Kenkyūkai Shinpojiumu). Hanazono University, Kyoto (Mar. 21).

Recent Collaborations

- 2017- "Phantasmatic Asia: A Collaborative Reconsideration of Asian Religions and Global Art Modernisms," with Judith Delfiner (Université Grenoble Alpes, LARHRA / INHA) and Julie Ramos (Université Paris 1, HiCSA).
- 2016 Consultant (non-compensated; Johann Fleuri) for an episode of *Jardins d'ici et d'ailleurs* (Gardens Here and There; European public channel ARTE) focused on the landscape gardens at the monastery Daitokuji. (September)
 Co-convener, Collaborative Research Seminar, "The Fate of Nature in the Anthropocene: The Humanities and the Environmental Turn," organized by Anne-Lise Francois, Carolyn Merchant, Doreen B. Townsend Center for the Humanities, UC Berkeley.
- 2014 Advisor (non-compensated) to documentary film project, *Zen and the Art of Architecture* (Kevin Gordon, SUB64Films), about the construction of the Zen Buddhist temple, Tenpyōzan, in Lower Lake, CA.
- 2011 Participant, Haas East Asian Studies Faculty Working Group, "China and Global Technological Exchange," Institute of East Asian Studies, U.C. Berkeley.
- 2009-11 Participant, Luce Foundation, Yale University Initiative for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion.

Professional Affiliations

College Art Association; Association for Asian Studies; Japan Art History Forum