DD2003
Issues in Art History & Theory:
Aesthetic Manifestations of Buddhist Devotion & Practice

Eligibility: NTU

LE (64065): Yin KER (Assistant Professor)
Tuesdays, 0900–1200 at TR+166

Learning Objective
This course seeks to familiarise students with the highlights of Buddhist art over two millennia, as well as the theoretical tools of analysis and frameworks applied to their study. In the process, it initiates critical approaches to seeing, understanding, experiencing and discoursing on Buddhist art.

Content
This course builds on and develops knowledge and theoretical skills acquired from Histories of Art II and III. It allows students acquainted with Buddhist art to deepen and widen their knowledge on the topic and to acquire critical frameworks for rethinking prevailing canons of Buddhist art. It covers a selection of artefacts, sites and works of Buddhist art from over two millennia from c. 300BCE to the 21st century. The geographical scope echoes the internationalisation of Buddhism, from South Asia to the Far East and Southeast Asia since the first millennium, followed by the Western world since the last half-century. We ask: how have Buddhist teachings been interpreted by image-makers over space and time, and how have the representations been subsequently experienced, read and used? The exploration of Buddhist artefacts and sites from the premodern to the contemporary is concurrent with the critical study of art historical frameworks imposed on these aesthetic manifestations of Buddhist devotion and practice. Strategies to circumvent their inadequacies will be proposed and tested.

To find out more, please contact: ADM_Undergrad@ntu.edu.sg

Bagyi Aung Soe (1923/24-90), Untitled, c. 1988,
Felt-tip pen and ink on paper, 28 x 18 cm,
Collection of Gajah Gallery.