

Narratives and Icons in Japanese Art History

HA 788/990

Fall 2015 Seminar

Tuesdays 2:30-5:00 in SMA 103

Instructor: Sherry Fowler



How are legends, miraculous tales and stories illustrated in Japanese art? What is the role of the icon in a Buddhist temple setting and how can it function as art outside that context? How does visual art communicate religious messages? In this seminar we will examine the roles of narratives and icons in Japanese painting and sculpture through such topics as illustrated handscrolls, printed books, miraculous living icons, and hidden images as well as consideration of the tensions between public and private viewing.