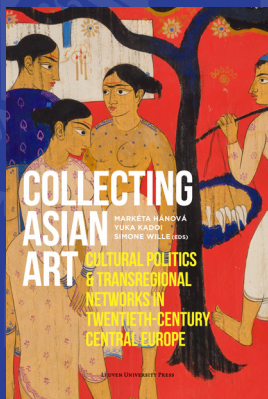


Collecting Asian Art

Cultural Politics and Transregional Networks in Twentieth-Century Central Europe

MARKĚTA HÁNOVÁ, YUKA KADOI, AND SIMONE WILLE (EDS)



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Museum collections of Asian art in Central Europe.

Rather than centering on the well-known collections in Western European and North American museums, *Collecting Asian Art* turns to museum collections of Asian art in Central Europe which emerged from the late 19th century onwards. Highlighting the dimensions of Central European connectedness, this volume explores how these collections evolved and changed under changing cultural and political conditions from the pre-World War I to the post-World War II periods. With a primary focus on collections of East Asian, South Asian, and West Asian art in Vienna, Prague, Berlin, Warsaw, Kraków, Budapest, and Ljubljana, it outlines the transregional connections and networks that gradually developed.

Collecting Asian Art locates Asian art across the twentieth-century in Central Europe via discourse and ideology, and discusses key collections and the way individual collectors built their networks. It thus explores transregional connections that developed through collecting activities and strategies in the prewar, interwar and postwar eras. Contributors also examine the personal connections between a group of Indologists from postwar Prague and modernist Indian artists from the early 1950s to the 1980s and also discuss the systematic archiving of East Asian art collections in Slovenia. A concluding conversation looks at colonisation and decolonisation from a broader perspective by approaching it through recent art historical discussions on the global dimensions of modernism. By defining the region through its external relationships and its entanglements with regions across Asia rather than as a self-contained unit, the contributions in this volume outline how these transregional connections and networks evolved and changed over time, thus highlighting their singularity in comparison to developments in Western Europe. Based on recent research, *Collecting Asian Art* reveals neglected sources while reinterpreting well-known ones.

Markéta Hánová is Head of the Collection of Asian Art, National Gallery Prague.

Simone Wille is Elise Richter Fellow (V880-G) at the Department of Art History, University of Innsbruck.

Yuka Kadoi is Elise Richter Fellow (V-995) at the Department of Art History, University of Vienna.



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Minderbroedersstraat 4
3000 Leuven
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