

Recent Books from Nepal – Feb 2018

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Art

Kasthakala : The Art of Nepalese Woodcarving = Die Holzschnitzkunst Nepals /
Heinrich Meyer
Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2017
162p.
9789937623889
\$ 48.00 / HB
1060gm.

Beauty and elegance of sculptures and wooden works of art, some of them well over a thousand years old, the creativity and ingenuity of the wood artists in the design of varying objects and components, as well as the diversity of shapes and ornaments, characterize this book. It is a magnificent illustrated book with a lot of background information that is aimed at a broad readership, both, professionally interested in Nepalese art, as well as, art lovers, friends of woodcarving, educational travellers and friends of Nepal.

The wood carving art of the Kathmandu Valley is certainly the most exquisite design element of the traditional Newar architecture. For this book, Heinrich Meyer has evaluated the stock of his photographs, documented over four decades, and systematically prepared them for the reader. The author worked as an architect and monument conservator from 1975 - 1979 in the German-funded Bhaktapur Development Project (BDP). In a meritorious way he initiated a woodcarving cooperative, which not only developed economically successful, but also led the art of woodcarving to a new heyday. This book on Nepalese woodcarving is dedicated to the magnificent woodcarvers of the Newar Silpakar cast and is an appreciation of their craft tradition throughout centuries.

Printed on high quality art paper, this book is not only a feast for the eyes, but also a time document of particular value. Many of the valuable historic carvings in Nepal were lost over time due to neglect, decay, earthquakes and theft. The extensive documentation contains photos that were taken in the 1970s after the restoration of the sculptures in a dismantled condition and cannot be photographed in the same

setting again. Other valuable sculptures documented in the book have been stolen in the meantime and have disappeared forever.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=349059>

Religion - Buddhism

Amitayus Tradition of Vajrayana Buddhism : Contemplative Text, Phenomenological Experience, and Epistemological Process / Bhiksuni Lozang Trinlae

Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2018

xxii, 282p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789937623957

\$ 25.00 / PB

486gm.

Pad-ma dKar-po's Amitayus Tradition opens fresh ground by applying phenomenological research methods to discern transformative aspects of contemplative experience using emic reports elicited directly from contemporary practitioners from the Drukpa tradition of Vajrayana Buddhism. After a thorough historical introduction and analytical presentation of the practice text Tshe dpag med zhi ba lha mangs kyi cho ga 'chi med 'dod pa'i re skong nag 'gros su bkod pa bzhugs so (Ritual of the abundant peaceful deities of Amitayus satisfying the wishes of those desiring immortality), this work portrays direct experiences of performing Kun-mkyen Pad-ma dKar-po's 16th c. ritual in a practice tradition attributed to the 12th c. female Indian teacher Siddharajñi. Preliminary spiritual care and contemplative factor models are presented along with a detailed theoretical process analysis of positive psychospiritual development through the contemplative action of the communally-enacted mandala ritual practice.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=349060>

Sociology

Buddhism, Culture and Society in Bhutan / (Ed) Seriji Kumagai (Foreword) Her Majesty the Royal Queen Grand Mother of the Kingdom of Bhutan

Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2018

vii, 244p. ; 175 x 250 mm.

Includes Bibliography

9789937623940

\$ 35.00 / HB

608gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=349061>
