This Unique Statue of Mythical bird Is from our Burma Collection at NIU Is now on display in San Francisco at the Asian Art Museum

Beyond Bollywood, Aisan Art Museum in San Francisco
HISTORY AND LEGACY

1986-2002
2002-2023

THE CENTER FOR BURMA STUDIES
AT
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
The Center for Burma Studies at NIU is the only such research and curatorial institution in the US. NIU has the best Burma Art Collection outside of the country located in Southeast Asia. It is the only Center in the world which has a Burma Art Collection within a University.

1. DONATIONS since the inception in 1986

2. PRESERVATION

3. EDUCATION

4. RESEARCH and PUBLICATIONS *The Journal Of Burma Studies* the only academic Peer reviewed Journal

5. EXHIBITION since 2004 (every two years) in conjunction with international Conferences and Symposiums

6. COLLABORATION
   - Regional
   - National
   - International

7. DIPLOMACY
The Center for Burma Studies was founded in 1986 with a donation of 100 art objects. Today, it houses over 15,000 items including bibliographic holdings, maps, manuscripts, and artwork. First online presence since 2005. Exhibition of Art of Burma at the NIU art Gallery in Chicago in 2005 (review Chicago Tribune).
The Center for Burma Studies at Northern Illinois University improves the preservation, safety, and security of c. 3,500 objects in its collections by upgrading its storage conditions.

Both graduate and undergraduate students assist with the project and receive training in object care and handling.

As the result of this grant the collection is accessible and visible. The collections is now used by various divisions of the university and by local community and international scholars.

Since 2022 we received more than 150 undergrads and graduate students from different disciplines and has welcomed dozens of outstanding national and international scholars.
In 2020 with the IMLS grant and the support of RIPS and BOT, compact shelving units were installed in the new storage space of 2,000 sq. ft located in the under basement of the NIU Founders Memorial Library during summer 2020.

We moved all of the objects in late 2020 and early 2021 (approximately 3,500 items) from the basement and eighth floor of Swen Parson Hall to the new space located in the under-basement of the Founders Memorial Library.
3. EDUCATION
BRINGING BURMESE ART INTO THE CLASSROOM
Training students with our collections
4. RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS (our Center for Burma Studies at NIU holds the copyright of *The Journal of Burma Studies*: likely the world’s foremost peer-reviewed academic publication in the field of Burma Studies), produced bi-annual since 1997.

1997-2002-2009 First volumes published in SEAP Southeast Asia Press at NIU
2010-2016 Peer reviewed & Published by National University of Singapore (print & online)
2017-present Published by Hawaii University Press (print & online)
5. EXHIBITIONS Since 1986, the Burma Art Collection is used in a classroom for general education and for training.
6. Collaboration

**Regional** with Community Colleges, with Local communities of Refugees ex. The Art of Surviving. The Journey of Burmese Karen Refugees of Illinois 2021 With the support of Luce Grant 2015-2020 and Luce Grant 2023-24.

**National**: with our collection at Museums in New York 2015, Cincinnati 2022, San Francisco 2023

**International**: Collaboration with Libraries, Museums and Universities in Burma/Myanmar and International Conferences in Asian and in Europe.

Alumni in Yangon, Burma 2019

MoU signed

Alumni in Mandalay, 2019

Statues from the Burma Art Collection On display at in San Francisco At the Asian Art museum 2023

Cincinnati Art Museum 2022-23
6. COLLABORATION

Inside NIU: Interdisciplinary (with projects with the Center for Southeast Asia; and professors/students in Geography, Environment, Anthropology, Public Health, and Business).

In Illinois with the local communities of Burmese refugees in Rockford, Aurora, Chicago.

Outside of NIU
2013 NIU visit 10 universities in Burma with the state department for collaboration
2013-2019 with Exchange with Libraries, Fulbright scholars, Museums
2014 IBSC in National University of Singapore
2015 Exhibit of pieces of NIU at the Asia Society in New York
2018 IBSC in Bangkok
2022 Exhibition with Cincinnati Art Museum
2023 Exhibition with Asian Art Museum in San Francisco
2023 IBSC with University of Zurich

Projects on Public Health & Environmental Studies 2014-19
Return of the 1,000 years old Buddha

The Saga of the stolen Buddha who travelled the world from Burma, to California, to New York, with NIU art historians was repatriated to Burma via Paris.

Burmese Ambassador in Paris
HE U Kyaw Zwar Minn

Institute of International Education,
National Museum of Yangon

2002-2012

2013

2019
2013 T’ai Cultures at NIU in Honor of the coming of Princess Sirindhorn

Using our joint collections from NIU Library, CBS and the Anthropology as PR
Unique Statue of Mythical bird from our Burma Collection at NIU
On display in San Francisco at the Asian Art Museum

Thank you for giving us this presentation opportunity and for your ongoing support!