
Art Appreciation lecture series 2022**Pomp and ceremony: The celebratory role in art**

Celebrating victory in Buddhist Bhutan: art, dance and modernity

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Lecture summary

In December 2003, Bhutanese king Jigme Sangye Wangchuk led his military forces as they eliminated bases that militant separatists from north-east India had established in southern Bhutan's jungles. In preparation and later commemoration of those killed, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuk had 108 memorial *stupas* erected on the Dochula pass east of the capital, Thimphu. A new temple celebrating the achievements of the Wangchuk dynasty was then built overlooking the stupas, again under the Queen Mother's patronage, as was a new *tsechu*, or sacred dance festival commemorating the victory, which was inaugurated in 2011 as an annual event.

This lecture will focus on the innovative wall-paintings on the upper level of the new temple, which are unique in terms of their realistic modernist style, and will discuss the intent and achievements of the artist, *Dasho Karma Ura*, who was also the creative director who designed the new *tsechu*.

Slide list

1. Presentation title slide.
2. Map and 4 key points in recent Bhutan history.
3. Examples of "traditional" Tibetan Buddhist art (Sakyamuni & Cakrasamvara) : credit Himalayan Art Resources Inc.
4. Example of deployment of traditional art: author photo.
5. Examples of traditional specifications in Tibetan Buddhist art: public domain and Brill 2012.
6. Examples of modern Tibetan Buddhist art on traditional lines: public domain.
7. Examples of modern Tibetan Buddhist art on traditional lines: public domain.
8. Examples of politicised Tibetan Buddhist art: public domain and author photo.
9. Mahakala: traditional and modern: Credit Himalayan Art Resources Inc., & Shelly & Donald Rubin collection.
10. Examples of modern works beyond traditional boundaries: public domain.
11. Subject slide: Photo credit Bhutan Royal Media Office.
12. Dochula: public domain.
13. H.M. the Queen Mother of Bhutan: public domain.
14. Druk Wangyal Lhakhang ("Victory Temple"); author photo.
15. Victory temple wall paintings: credit *Dasho Karma Ura* and Mareike Wulff.
16. Victory temple wall paintings: credit *Dasho Karma Ura* and Mareike Wulff.
17. Victory temple wall paintings: credit *Dasho Karma Ura* and Mareike Wulff.
18. *Dasho Karma Ura*: public domain.
19. Victory temple wall paintings: credit *Dasho Karma Ura* and Mareike Wulff and J.C.White (1905) from a private collection.
20. Victory temple wall paintings: credit *Dasho Karma Ura* and Mareike Wulff.

21. Victory temple wall paintings: credit *Dasho* Karma Ura and Mareike Wulff
22. Victory temple wall paintings: credit *Dasho* Karma Ura and Mareike Wulff and public domain.
23. Victory temple wall paintings: credit *Dasho* Karma Ura and Mareike Wulff.
24. Victory temple wall paintings: credit *Dasho* Karma Ura and Mareike Wulff.
25. Victory temple wall paintings: credit *Dasho* Karma Ura and Mareike Wulff.
26. Victory temple wall paintings: credit *Dasho* Karma Ura and Mareike Wulff.
27. Victory temple wall paintings: credit *Dasho* Karma Ura and Mareike Wulff.
28. Victory temple wall paintings: credit *Dasho* Karma Ura and Mareike Wulff.
29. Victory temple wall paintings: credit *Dasho* Karma Ura and Mareike Wulff.
30. Summing up slide
31. Cham dance: public domain
32. Druk Wangyal Lhakhang cham: public domain
33. Druk Wangyal Lhakhang cham: public domain
34. Summing up slide.
35. Thank you

References.

Christoph Cüppers, Leonard van der Kuijp, & Ulrich Pagel (eds.): 2012. *Handbook of Tibetan Iconometry: A Guide to the Arts of the 17th Century*. Leiden: Brill; p.96.

Geoffrey Samuel with Ann R David, "The Multiple Meanings and Uses of Tibetan Ritual Dance: Canm in Context", in *Journal of Ritual Studies*, 30.1, 2016: pp.7-17.

Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck: 2015. *Dochula: a Spiritual Abode in Bhutan*. Thimphu; no publisher stated.

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