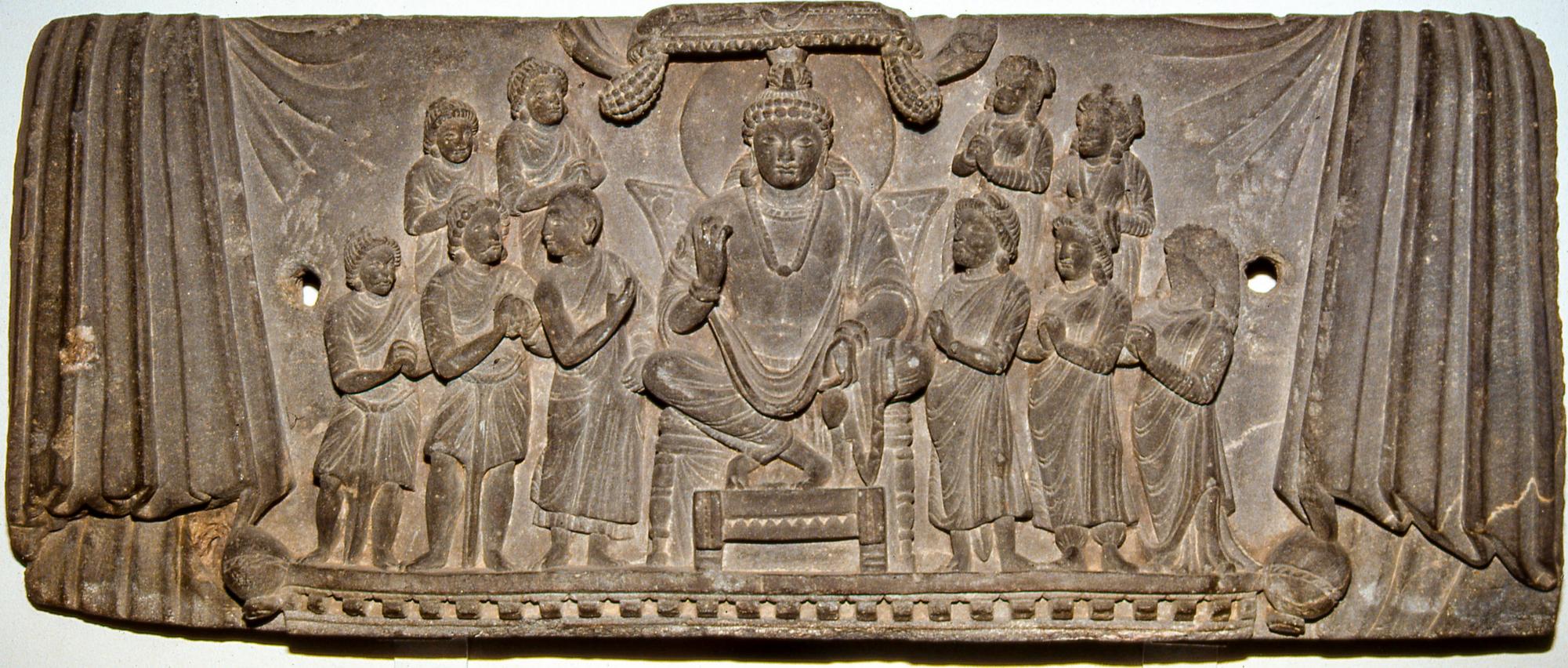


THE GHENT CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES (GCBS) PERMANENT TRAINING IN BUDDHIST STUDIES PRESENTS:
A PUBLIC TALK BY DR. CHRISTIAN LUCZANITS, SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

REVISITING THE BODHISATTVA MAITREYA IN GANDHĀRAN ART



Veneration of an image of Maitreya; Asian Art Museum, Collection of South, Southeast and Central Asian Art, Berlin, no. I 87.

In my presentation, I will return to a topic that has interested me since my student days, namely the depictions and roles of the Bodhisattva and future Buddha Maitreya in Gandhāran art. I have covered some aspects of this topic in previous work, in particular in my contribution on narrative reliefs with a flask-holding Bodhisattva to the 2005 volume of *East and West* dedicated to Maurizio Taddei, and since have an unfinished monograph on the subject on my virtual desk.

This time, I will revisit my earlier ideas on the subject in light of more recent publications. Among other topics, I will consider the origin of Maitreya, his designation as Buddha in early inscriptions, the concepts of Maitreya's paradises, Ketumatī and Tuṣita, as potential precursors of Pure Land Buddhism, and Maitreya as a Bodhisattva representing the brahmanic caste.

Christian Luczanits is David L. Snellgrove Senior Lecturer in Tibetan and Buddhist Art at SOAS. His primary research areas are early Buddhist art during and after the Kushana period (1st to 5th centuries) and early Tibetan Buddhist art (7th to 15th centuries) within its wider context. Recent research has centered around an AHRC-funded project on "Tibetan Buddhist Monastery Collections Today", in particular the documentation and assessment of monastery collections in Mustang, Nepal, and Ladakh, India.

Thursday, April 02, 2026 @ 17.00

Location: Lokaal 3.30 - Camelot,

Blandijn, Campus Boekentoren

9000 Gent

All are welcome. The Gandhāra Corpora Lecture Series is in-person and hybrid online. Please register for the series through this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/TwffQCPuVipUpMvk6> (or through the QR code above).



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Contact Prof. Dr. Charles DiSimone

charles.disimone@ugent.be

 Universiteit Gent

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