



Staging the Buddha Land: Celestial Child Musicians and Vernacular Performance in Late Chosŏn Buddhist Temples

Maya Stiller
University of Kansas

This talk examines depictions of celestial musicians in late Chosŏn Buddhist temple interiors. From the eighteenth century onward, youthful male performers increasingly joined the female celestials conventionally associated with heavenly music. Their instruments and costumes drew not only on military culture but also on performance idioms that had spread beyond their institutional settings to private banquet halls and village festivals. Drawing on a relational database of ninety-one temple halls and selected case studies, this talk traces how artists transformed vernacular performance idioms into an architectural image of the Buddha land. In this way, the temple ceiling became a site where Buddhist cosmology was recalibrated through the sensory and social forms of late Chosŏn performance culture.

**Register to attend
this in-person talk.**

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4-5:15 pm

Mendenhall Lab 191



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