

## Abteilung für Asiatische und Islamische Kunstgeschichte SS 2015

### Vortrag

**Prof. Dr. Gudrun Bühnemann**

**(Professor, Department of East Asian Languages and Literature/Languages and Cultures of Asia, The University of Wisconsin-Madison):**

### **The Buddha's Return to Lumbinī in Newar Buddhist Art**

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According to Newar Buddhists, Śākyamuni Buddha returned to his birthplace Lumbinī after his enlightenment. Depictions of his journey and visit to Lumbinī date back to the seventeenth century. They show the Buddha riding standing up on a Nāga while being attended by Hindu deities in service to him. The theme, known as the *lumbinīyātrā*, is represented in numerous paintings and in wood and metal work and became especially popular in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Nepal. In this paper I will trace the history of the *lumbinīyātrā* by examining descriptions in texts and artistic representations. I will then discuss elements of the *yātrā* which are also found independently in other contexts. In conclusion, I will offer some thoughts on the significance of the theme.

#### **About Prof. Dr. Gudrun Bühnemann:**

Gudrun Bühnemann is a Professor in the Department of East Asian Literature/Languages and Cultures of Asia at The University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has published extensively on South Asian iconography and ritual. Her recent books include *Buddhist Iconography and Ritual in Paintings and Line Drawings from Nepal* (Lumbini International Research Institute, 2008) and *The Life of the Buddha: Buddhist and Saiva Iconography and Visual Narratives in Artists' Sketchbooks from Nepal* (Lumbini International Research Institute, 2012).

Details can be found at: <http://lca.wisc.edu/~gbuhnema/>

