

In the Shadow of the Golden Age:
Art and Identity in Asia from Gandhara to the Modern Age

Edited by Julia A.B. Hegewald

This volume examines and debates the validity and usefulness of the concept of the golden age when investigating, structuring and categorising Asian and Islamic art. The book contains contributions from fifteen renowned international specialists in the visual arts and humanities working on material from a wide range of periods and regions throughout Asia and the Islamic world.

Instead of concentrating on the so-called 'high points' and 'golden ages' of art, which have so far stood at the centre of art-historical enquiries, this text focuses on visual expressions of confrontation with the 'other' during times of change. These challenging but artistically often very fertile periods were marked by intense efforts by communities in search of new identities.

Through their art and frequently through the re-use of old symbols in new settings they have succeeded in redefining themselves so as to strengthen their religious, cultural or political position. In the history of art, these less investigated phases raise new issues, which contribute significantly to the discipline.

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