

# Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhism Public Scholars: Job Description

<b>Position Title:</b>	Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhism Public Scholar
<b>Host Institution:</b>	National Museum of Asian Art, Smithsonian Institute
<b>Location:</b>	Washington, DC
<b>Remote Work:</b>	Mostly remote (in-person trips every few months)
<b>Stipend:</b>	\$70,000 (typical break down of \$60,000 stipend + \$10,000 relocation/other expenses) allowance for 12 months plus health insurance. Renewable for a second 12-month term by mutual agreement.
<b>Start Date:</b>	September 2024
<b>Supervisor:</b>	The scholar will report to the Elizabeth Moynihan Curator for South and Southeast Asian Art and consult with the Head of the Scholarly Programs and Publications.

## Organization Description

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art is committed to preserving, exhibiting, researching, and interpreting art in ways that deepen our collective understanding of Asia and the world. Home to more than 46,000 objects, the museum stewards one of North America's largest and most comprehensive collections of Asian art, with works dating from antiquity to the present from China, Japan, Korea, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Islamic world. Its rich holdings bring the arts of Asia into direct dialogue with an important collection of nineteenth- and early twentieth century American works, providing an essential platform for creative collaboration and cultural exchange between the United States, Asia, and the Middle East.

Beginning with a 1906 gift that paved the way for the museum's opening in 1923, the National Museum of Asian Art is a leading resource for visitors, students, and scholars in the United States and internationally. Its galleries, laboratories, archives, and library are located on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

## Website

[asia.si.edu](http://asia.si.edu)

## Position Description/Responsibilities

The Buddhism Public Scholar's projects will advance the museum's goal of enhancing the interpretation of Buddhist material for the public. The museum's collections of Buddhist artworks (approximately 200 Tibetan Buddhist objects, 40 South Asian objects, and 25 Southeast Asian objects) have been catalogued from an art historical perspective and their provenances have been traced. This information is currently stored on the museum database. We seek a candidate who will expand upon the present cataloguing by creating new entries that are engaging for the public. The scholar will work closely with the curators of South Asian, Southeast Asian and Himalayan art, exploring the potential of multiple perspectives and ways to address diverse publics. Each entry, for example, will combine visual observation with another perspective, such as a relevant aspect of Buddhist religion, thought, practice, history, or provenance. Together, the entries will constitute a robust online presence for the collections. Additionally, the scholar will engage with museum specialists in audience studies and interpretation, and may be expected to design and collaborate with colleagues in presenting public programs that inspire connections between historic and contemporary religious practices.

## Required Qualifications

- PhD in [humanities or interpretive social sciences](#)
- Expertise and academic training in Buddhist knowledge and traditions

## Preferred Qualifications

- Expertise in Tibetan, South Asian or Southeast Asian traditions
- Experience working with or wishing to expand facility in working with the material culture of religion

## Additional Information

All candidates must apply through the [ACLS Online Fellowship and Grant Administration \(OFA\) System](#) by 9 PM EST on January 18, 2024. More information about Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhism Public Scholars is available [here](#).

This position is only available through The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies. You may not contact the host institution to inquire about the position.