



Boats Between This World and the Other

Asian boat floats powered by sacred birds and heavenly dragons...

Boats as wombs, boats to send off the dead, boats that bring good fortune

●Boats carry people and goods across quiet waters and wide oceans. The primordial boat was a carved-out tree trunk, or was made from collected bits of wood. It was a floating vessel that enwrapped the people and goods inside.

●All humans are born out of their mother's womb. The womb is also a vessel, a container that protects the fetus before it arrives in this world. The deceased too are frequently sent off by boat. In some places it is even the name for a coffin. In many parts around our globe, the next world, the realm of the gods and the spirits of the dead, was believed to lie on the other shore, far beyond the sea. Boats transported the souls of the departed, invoked holy spirits, and formed a horizontal link between this world and the next. At times, they became vessels bringing good fortune and the protection of the gods.

Boat floats with different aspects from Myanmar, Thailand and Japan

●“Boats between this world and the other” is the theme of RIAD's Second International Symposium on Asian Forms and Design. This time, we will focus on the design of boat-shaped floats that carry Buddha statues, summon gods and transport souls in various regions of Asia.

●At the end of the rainy season, a golden, bird-shaped barge laden with Buddha statues sails out on a lake in Myanmar, and around the same time, a multitude of magnificent dragon-shaped boat floats appear in Thailand. In Japan, vividly decorated boat floats are paraded through the streets at the peak of summer, and *ofune* floats, ornamented with dolls in scenes from kabuki plays, are hauled through the mountains. The elaborate designs of these floats from Myanmar, Thailand and Japan will be presented at this symposium.

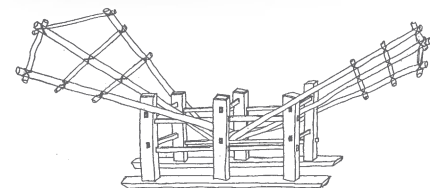


[日本]……楽人を乗せた龍頭船(「駒比行幸絵巻」より)

[日本]……鶴(げき)首を飾る、富山・南砺市、福野夜高祭の舟山車



[日本]……長野・安曇野、池田八幡宮のオフネ



[日本]……長野、諏訪大社・下社のオフネ/構造図(藤森栄一氏による)

Program

Part 1: Screenings

A—Royal Cremation in Bali (Indonesia)

.....Nanci Takeyama (Associate Professor, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

B—Tree-of-Life Floats at the Ashura Festival (Iran)

.....Mojgan Jahanara (Iran)

Opening Address.....Takahito Saiki (President of Kobe Design University)

Introduction.....Kohei Sugiura (Director of RIAD / KDU)

Part 2: Myanmar

The *Karaweik*, a Buddhist Barge in the Shape of a Golden Bird

.....Zayar Win (Researcher at RIAD/KDU, Rikkyo University Center for Asian Area Studies)

Part 3: Thailand

The Dragon Boat Parade of the Chak Phra Festival

.....Hom Phrom-on (Lecturer, Mahidol University, Thailand)

Screening.....Kuopin Huang (Associate Professor, Kobe Design University)

The Representation of Birds and Snakes in Thai Art and Culture

.....Sone Simatrang (Associate Professor, Silpakorn University, Thailand)

Part 4: Japan

The *Ofune* of Nagano and Other Japanese Boat Floats

.....Yoshiko Mitamura (Member of the Folklore Society of Japan)

Part 5: Panel Discussion

Zeyar Win, Hom Phrom-on, Sone Simatrang, Yoshiko Mitamura,

Takahito Saiki, Kohei Sugiura Fumihiko Imamura (Moderator)

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