

# Pinyan Zhu

## EDUCATION

---

Ph.D. 2022 University of Kansas, Art History, conferred with honors  
**Dissertation:** “The Landscape of the Longmen Grottoes: Practices, Repentance, Jeweled Buddhas, and Burials under Emperor Wu Zhao (r. 690–705 CE)”  
Advisor: Amy McNair  
  
**Major:** Visual Culture of Chinese Cave-Shrines  
**Minor:** Japanese Buddhist Sculptures  
**Minor:** Arts of Modern and Contemporary Japan

M.A. 2016 University of Kansas, Art History

B.Soc.Sci. 2014 University of Hong Kong, Geography and Art History

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

---

2024 – present Assistant Professor (Tenure Track), Art History Department  
Emory University, Atlanta, GA

2022 – 2024 Assistant Professor of Art History (Tenure Track), School of Art  
Kent State University, Kent, OH

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Work in Progress

“Longmen Grottoes” and “Gongxian Grottoes.” Co-authored with Zhao Jinchao and Amy McNair. In *Grotto Art of China: A Sourcebook*. Edited by Wu Hung and Katherine Tsiang. Chicago: Center for the Art of East Asia, forthcoming.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Posthumous Release for Lay Women in Tang China: Two Cases from the Longmen Grottoes.” *Religions* 14 (2023), no. 3: 365. 18 pages. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel14030365>

“Avalokitesvara in Gold: Art and Ideology at Contemporary Baodingshan.” *Études chinoises*. vol. XXXVII-2 (2018): 83–100. <https://doi.org/10.3406/etchi.2018.1649>

### Book Chapter

“Advertise Antiquity and Consume Nostalgia: Chinese Pewterware in the Thayer Collection.” In *Perspectives on a Legacy Collection: Sallie Casey Thayer’s Gift to the University of Kansas*. Edited by Celka Straughn, 242–255. Kansas: Spencer Museum of Art, 2021.

### Translation

*Longmen gongyang ren: Zhongguo zhongguo fojiao zaixiang zhong de xinyang, zhengzhi, yu zizhu de guanxi* [Donors of Longmen: Faith, Politics, and Patronage in Medieval Chinese

Buddhist Sculpture]. Authored by Amy McNair. Translated by Chen Chaoyang, Zhu Pinyan, and Zhao Yi. Beijing: Zhonghua shuju, 2020. (English to Chinese)

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

---

- May 2024 “Artistic Transformations among India, Southeast Asia and Chinese Heartland: King Udayana’s icon of Sakyamuni in Medieval China,” delivered at the *Arts of the Indian Ocean*, University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM), Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), and Aga Khan Museum (AKM).
- Apr. 2024 “Materiality and Animacy in Buddhist Cave-Shrines: Leigutai Central Grotto at the Longmen Grottoes,” *Emerging Scholars in Asian Studies*, University of Delaware.
- Apr. 2024 “Sacred Landscape for Women’s Salvation: Tang (618–907) Burial Practices at the Longmen Grottoes,” *Gender and the Environment*, Collective on Gender, Religion and the Arts of Asia (GRAA), Harvard University.
- Sept. 2023 “Performative and Duplicable: Inscribed Buddhist Texts at the Longmen Grottoes,” *Studying Written Artefacts*, the Center for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, Cluster of Excellence, Universität Hamburg, Germany.
- Jun. 2023 “The Women Who were Buried at the Longmen Grottoes: A Gendered Karmic Community in Tang (618–907) China,” *Re-staging the Periphery as the Center: Women Communities in East Asian Religions*, Leiden University, Netherlands.
- Mar. 2023 “How Buddhist Practices Transformed Landscape: The Monumental Vairocana Shrine of the Longmen Grottoes,” Association for Asian Studies 2023 Annual Conference, Boston, MA.
- Nov. 2022 “Jeweled Buddha in the Longmen Grottoes: Promoting Huayan Teaching in Tang (618–907) China with Indian and Central Asian Styles,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings 2022, Denver, CO.
- Jul. 2022 Chair, “Absence, Presence, and Materiality: Refiguring Japanese Religious Art and Culture,” Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, University of East Anglia, UK.
- Oct. 2021 “Statues that Established Karmic Ties: Repentance Rituals at Longmen in the early Tang (618-907),” Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs 2021 Annual Meeting, Indiana University, Bloomington.
- Oct. 2021 “Building Indra’s net on earth: Repentance, ritual performance, and a Buddhist community from the Longmen Grottoes in Tang (619–907) China,” the Research Colloquium at Kress Foundation Department of Art History, University of Kansas.

- Aug. 2020 “Where Hell Became Heaven: Huayan Buddhism and the Reception of Longmen Landscape in the Early Eighth Century,” Tianzhu International and Intensive Program on Buddhism, McMaster University, Canada.
- Aug. 2019 “Chinese Pewterware in the Thayer Collection: Trade in Southern China and Nostalgia in the United States,” *Studies of Asian Arts, Religion, and History*, Fudan University, Shanghai.
- Oct. 2018 “Bodhgayā or Sichuan: The Changing Perceptions of a Buddhist Icon at Qianfoya,” Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs 2018 Annual Meeting, Metropolitan State University, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Jun. 2018 “Avalokiteśvara in Gold: The Transformation of a Devotional Image at Dazu Grottoes,” *Chinese Objects and their Lives*, Association Française d’Études Chinoises (AFEC), Institut National des Langues et Civilisations orientales (INALCO), Paris.

### **INVITED WORKSHOPS AND TALKS**

---

- Aug. 2022 The Mellon Chinese Object Study Workshop (COSW) Convening, National Museum of Asian Art, Washington, DC.
- Aug. 2020 Tianzhu International & Intensive Program on Buddhism with McMaster University, Canada.
- Feb. 2020 Goryeo Art and Culture Study Day, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Washington, DC.
- Nov. 2019 “Megan Rye’s *Foundling* and the History of International Adoption,” UpClose Talk at the Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas.
- Oct. 2019 “Megan Rye’s *Foundling* and the History of International Adoption,” Senior Session Talk at the Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas.
- Jun. 2017 Woodenfish Dunhuang Buddhist Studies Workshop, Woodenfish Foundation and Dunhuang Academy, China.
- Aug. 2016 “Chinese Calligraphy,” Mellon Chinese Object Workshop, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
- Aug. 2015 “Chinese Art of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century,” Mellon Chinese Object Workshop, Los Angeles County Museum of Art.
- Jul. 2013 *The Universe of Naming: Qiu Zhijie*, Spring Workshop, Hong Kong.

### **MUSEUM EXPERIENCE**

---

- Spring 2024 Co-curator, *Learning Art History in Contemporary Crises: Environmentalism and Cultural Appropriation*, Design Innovation Hub, Kent State University.

- Fall 2019 Curator, [\*Foundling\*](#), Spencer Museum of Art.
- 2017–2019 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/Loo Family Intern of Asian Art  
Spencer Museum of Art.
- 2019 Curatorial Consultant, [\*Campaign for a New China\*](#), Kauffman Museum, Bethel  
College.
- Summer 2019 Co-Curator, *Altered Perspectives*, Spencer Museum of Art, University of  
Kansas.
- Summer 2018 Co-Curator, *Six Degrees of Separation: Prints from KU and Beyond*, Spencer  
Museum of Art, University of Kansas.
- Spring 2018 Curatorial Assistant, *Above Ground: Young Feminist Activists in China*,  
Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas.

## **DIGITAL PROJECTS**

---

- Apr. 2021 “Cemetery as Heaven: The Perception and Representations of Longmen  
Grottoes in the Eighth Century.” Poster presentation for the United Kingdom  
Association for Buddhist Studies (UKABS) 2021 Annual Conference.
- Mar. 2021 “On the Chinese translation of Dr. McNair's book ‘Donors of Longmen.’”  
Video interview with Dr. Amy McNair (Available on the YouTube Channel:  
KU Art History).
- 2014–2015 “Screen with Osugata (Buddhist pilgrimage prints),” and “Misty Day in Nikkō  
by Yoshida Hiroshi.” Online catalogue entries for the exhibition *Sacred Space  
and Japanese Art at the Spencer Museum of Art*.

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

---

- 2023–2024 Faculty Fellow, co-sponsored by Design Innovation Hub and the School of  
Peace and Conflict Studies, Kent State University, OH
- 2022–2023 Postdoctoral Instructor (declined), Center for the Art of East Asia  
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2021–2022 Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, granted by the Chiang  
Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, Taiwan
- Richard and Jeannette Sias Graduate Fellowship in the Humanities (declined),  
The Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas
- Summer 2021 Doctoral Fellowship, granted by the Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art  
Studies, Kyoto, Japan

- 2019 Marilyn J. Stokstad Spencer Museum Student Award, Spencer Museum of Art.  
Spencer Museum Student Research Awards, Spencer Museum of Art.
- 2018 Scholarship for Academic Excellence in Asian Art, Kress Foundation  
Department of Art History, University of Kansas.
- 2017 Marilyn J. Stokstad Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Educational  
Mission of the Department, Kress Foundation Department of Art History,  
University of Kansas.
- 2016 Chu-Tsing Li Award for Academic Excellence in Chinese Art History, Kress  
Foundation Department of Art History, University of Kansas.
- 2014 H. T. Ho Prize for a Final Year Student with the Best Result in Asian Art,  
Department of Fine Arts, University of Hong Kong.  
  
Honorable mention in Asian Art Essay Prize, Department of Fine Arts,  
University of Hong Kong.
- 2012–2013 Serena Yang Award, Department of Social Sciences, University of Hong  
Kong.

## **SERVICE**

---

### **School of Art, Kent State University**

- Fall 2022–2024 School of Art Undergraduate Scholarship Committee  
Fall 2023–2024 School of Art DEIA Committee  
Spring 2023 Search Committee Member for the Assistant Professor NTT Ceramics

### **University of Kansas**

- Fall 2018 Search Committee Member for the Associate Conservator, Mellon  
Initiative, University of Kansas Libraries and Spencer Museum of Art.  
  
Oct. 2018 Co-chair, History of Art Graduate Student Symposium “*Visualizing  
Knowledge: Visual Culture and Its Discursive Power,*” October 5–6,  
2018, University of Kansas.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

---

- Association for Asian Studies  
Association for Chinese Art History  
American Academy of Religion