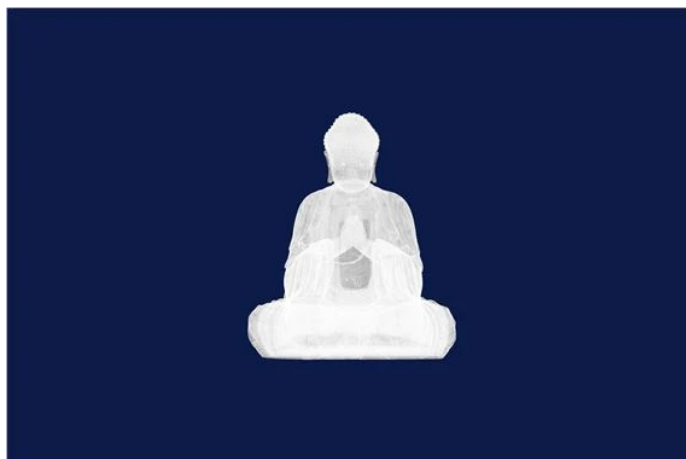


Shadow and Void: Buddha¹⁰

esea contemporary

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JAN 18, 2025 - APR 20, 2025



esea contemporary and MAO (Museum of Asian Art), Turin, are pleased to present 'Shadow and Void: Buddha10', an innovative collaboration between the UK's only non-profit gallery dedicated to East and Southeast Asian contemporary art and one of Europe's foremost institutional collections of Asian art. Curated by Xiaowen Zhu, Director of esea contemporary, and Davide Quadrio, Director of MAO, this exhibition intertwines scientific studies, contemporary art, and spirituality by showcasing recently restored Buddhist sculptures from the seventh to the eighteenth centuries CE, on loan from MAO, alongside contemporary works by Shigeru Ishihara, Lee Mingwei, LuYang, Sun Xun, Sinta Tantra, Wu Chi-Tsung, and Zheng Bo, including three new commissions created specifically for 'Buddha10'.

The 'Buddha10' project began in 2022 as an initiative by MAO to study, analyse, and critically reinterpret Buddhist artefacts from its collection, asking questions such as: Where do they come from? Why are they here? What are the reasons behind the presence of these pieces in an Italian museum? And ultimately, how did they get here?

Additionally, the project, now realised as an exhibition, explores and re-evaluates their significance through a contemporary lens, highlighting their layered histories and cultural transformations. Initially centred on MAO's collection of Buddhist artefacts, the exhibition's first phase ran from 20 October 2022 – 3 September 2023, establishing a foundation for a multi-layered exploration of Buddhism's historical and spiritual resonance. These sculptures catalyse a dialogue about the often-overlooked history of fragmented Buddha heads displayed in isolation – a legacy that is linked to colonial disruption. The project at MAO introduced interdisciplinary programming, such as workshops, live restoration activities, and collaborations with international scholars and conservators, inviting audiences to engage with Buddhist iconography through themes of conservation, authenticity, and the ethical questions around transposing sacred objects from the contexts of rituals to museum displays.

Artists on show

Lee Mingwei

Shigeru Ishihara

Sun Xun

Zheng Bo

Lu Yang

Sinta Tantra

Wu Chi-Tsung