

Einladung zum Gastvortrag

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Buddhist wooden sculptures in the early Heian period under the aspect of Shintō – Buddhist Syncretism

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Kunsthistorisches Institut, Koserstraße 20, 14195 Berlin

This lecture concerns the standing image of Yakushi Nyorai, (skt. Bhaiṣajyaguru) at Jinkōin temple in Kyoto. This previously little-known image is very important as a part of the syncretic Shintō-Buddhist belief system and an example of early or 9th century single-block construction sculpture. The lecture will cope with the artwork and will also consider the background of its creation. This image represents a Buddhist deity, but was made for a Shinto deity. At the beginning of the Heian period, or the early 9th century, the syncretic Shintō-Buddhist philosophy was spreading, incorporating the belief that the power of Buddha was required to enhance the power of Shintō deities.

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