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BY JORDI BALTÀ PORTOLÉS
09 SEP 2015 - 10 JAN 2016

"The Buddhism of Madame Butterfly: Buddhist Japonism" | Switzerland



The **Ethnographic Museum of Geneva (MEG)**, an ASEMUS member, presents an exhibition entitled **"The Buddhism of Madame Butterfly: Buddhist Japonism"**, between 9 September 2015 and 10 January 2016. Several related activities are foreseen in this context. The MEG's new exhibition focuses on **Buddhist Japonism** and the influence that Japanese arts and religion exerted on Europe at the end of the nineteenth century.

Japanese art had a deep impact on European fine arts in that period, through a movement known as Japonism. Japan's Buddhism was also a revelation for old Europe, and **several European travellers brought back collections of statues and paintings related to this "religion without God"**. The exhibition is **divided into five sections**: opening Japan to the world; Japonism; Buddhist Japonism; *Madame Butterfly* – the twilight of Japonism; and the rediscovery of Japan and Japanese Buddhism. "The Buddhism of Madame Butterfly. Buddhist Japonism" presents **works from the MEG's Japanese collection along with remarkable objects borrowed from major European museums**. The exhibition presents the encounter between two cultures and Japanese Buddhism as a major element in world spirituality. The theme will be further explored through a cycle of lectures, an international symposium, an illustrated catalogue and a full programme of cultural activities for visitors of all ages. Among these activities is the **international symposium "Buddhist Japonisme: Negotiating the Triangle of Religion, Art and Nation"**, which will be held at MEG on 18-19 September. The symposium, held in the context of the **Japanese Buddhist Art in European Collections (JBAE)** project, will involve presentations by several international experts. An **extensive catalogue of the exhibition** has also been published on the occasion. For **additional information about these activities**, please visit <http://www.ville-ge.ch/meg/expo23.php>

Pictures: Programme, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Madame Butterfly, season 1909-1910; and sitting Amida Buddha (Amida Butsu zazō), Japan, 18th century

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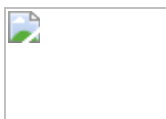
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