

Prof. Boreth Ly
ARTH 2500, section 2: Introduction to Asian Art and Visual Culture
(Spring 2008)

The Art of Describing: A Looking Exercise

(Paper is due in class on Friday, March 7, 2005)

I will accept no late papers!

One of the most important skills in Art History is looking critically at and analyzing visual images. This assignment will involve your looking closely at images of Asian Art objects in the collection of the Utah Museum of Fine Arts. Chose **one** image from the Asian Art Galleries that you find compelling to look at and submit a typewritten, 2-3 page, double-spaced visual description and analysis of it. In addition, please make a sketch (**I do not want a post card or a digital photo**) of your chosen image and attached it to your essay. Although I appreciate talent, your sketch does not have to be a “masterpiece” (although maybe a greatest hit). Drawing from what you have learned from lectures and assigned readings, you might want to keep the following questions in mind when looking closely at your chosen image: What are the iconographical attributes that enable you to identify the figure? What materials is the image made of? How does the artist (or do the artists) go about rendering the image? What was the intention behind the making of the image?

Note: Please do not plagiarize (i.e., copy word for word) labels and other “interpretive” literature. I know this collection very well and you will risk failing this writing assignment if you do not cite sources. Also please make sure that you pick an object from Asia and not other regions of the world.

Utah Museum of Fine Arts

410 Campus Center Drive

Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0950

Museum Hours: Tuesday–Friday 10:00 am -5:00 pm

Wednesday 10:00 am-8:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday 11:00 am-5:00 pm

Closed Mondays and Holidays

Please visit the Web site for more details about the museum:

<http://www.umfa.utah.edu/>

Tel: (801) 581-7332

Admission fee: Free for all University of Utah students

