

## [LECTURE> Elizabeth Sharf on “How to Read Ingen’s Portraits” \(Zoom/ in-person\), Feb 14th](#)

Discussion published by Jiang Wu on Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Please join us on February 14th at 4 pm in Presidio Room, Student Union for the next lecture of Ōbaku Ingen/Lingyin Lecture Series of the term! **This is a hybrid event (in-person/zoom).**

To receive a link to the webinar, please sign up for our email list here: <http://eepurl.com/gb2yaD>. If you are already on our list and have [updated your preferences](#) by selecting "Lectures and Academic Research," you will receive the link soon.

**Talk title:** “How to Read Ingen’s Portraits”

**Speaker:** Dr. Elizabeth Horton Sharf (Independent Scholar)

**Time and Location:**

Hybrid event

Time: 4:00-5:30 pm (Arizona Time)

Location: Presidio Room, Student Union

Address: 1303 E University Blvd, Tucson

**Abstract:**

The abbot of a Chan/Zen monastery was regarded ex officio as a living Buddha around whom revolved the religious, social, and institutional life of the monastery. The Chinese Ōbaku abbots, in early modern Japan, were, moreover, the living embodiments of southern Chinese literati culture in Japan; they were agents for the transmission of the scientific, technological, religious, and artistic achievements of the late Ming and early Qing. As such, their portraits partook of their charisma and were highly esteemed objects of religious devotion. In this lecture, I will give an introductory overview of portrait paintings of the most renowned Ōbaku abbots, with special reference to images of Ingen, the lineage’s versatile and venerable founder.

**Speaker Bio:**

Elizabeth Horton Sharf has a PhD in Asian Art History from the University of Michigan (1994) and is interested in East Asian Buddhist portraiture. Her dissertation features paintings of Ōbaku Zen abbots. She is also co-editor with Robert Sharf of *Living Images: Japanese Buddhist Icons in Context* (Stanford, 2001). She is now helping curate an online exhibition celebrating the 350th death anniversary of Ōbaku Zen founder Ingen Ryūki (Yinyuan Longqi) organized by the Center for Buddhist Studies at the University of Arizona.

These lecture series are made possible thanks to the generous support from Wanfu Temple in Fuqing, Lingyin Temple in Hangzhou, and [Matcha.com](http://Matcha.com).

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