



Comparative Hell

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ISBN	9788833671055
Publisher	Officina Libraria
Binding	Hardback
Size	273 mm x 229 mm
Pages	256 Pages
Illustrations	95 color, 5 b&w
Price	£55.00

- Seventy exceptional and visually stunning Asian artworks, ranging in date from the eighth to 21st-century, are reproduced in dazzling colour plates in this catalogue
- Objects are drawn from public and private collections based in the United States and Europe
- Historical portrayals alongside contemporary scenes of hell, revealing the differences, convergences, and influences of religious beliefs, archetypes, and artistic practices across cultures and time

Contemporary popular culture is filled with demonic imagery - from vampires to Goth girls. These subjects in popular culture have roots in eastern and western traditions of depicting hell and its inhabitants, however, few have an understanding of the breadth and depth of religious traditions that make up the foundation of these contemporary phenomena. *Comparative Hell* is the first comprehensive, fully illustrated catalogue to present traditions of hell imagery and their relationship to the development of ancient and contemporary visual materials in Asia.

Through essays by world-renowned scholars of art history and religious studies, as well as detailed object entries and breath-taking images, this cross-cultural volume of artworks explores the common human desire for spiritual transformation and the role of the concept of hell in shaping the visual cultures of Asia's dominant systems of belief: Buddhism, Daoism, Hinduism, and Islam. The publication explores differences in conceptions of the afterlife and artistic practices from religion to religion and culture to culture, organised around the themes of the binary of Hell and Heaven or Paradise; Judgement; Punishment; and Salvation.

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