

NIU School of Art, Faculty Biennial Lecture Series

The Other Emerald Buddha Temple:

Interpreting the Iconography and Architectural History of the Ho Phrakeo Museum

Catherine Raymond, Associate Professor of Southeast Asian Art History



315 Altgeld Hall (the Castle)
5:00 PM, Thursday 15th November 2007
Northern Illinois University
De Kalb IL 60115 USA
Free and open to the public

For most westerners even slightly familiar with the Emerald Buddha —the *Phrakeo Morakut*— the temple in which it is now venerated is understood to be *Vat Phrakeo*, within the walls of the Royal Palace, in the Thai capital Bangkok. But most Lao Buddhists —and many amongst the large ethnic Lao minority in Thailand— well know that an earlier temple, named *Ho Phrakeo*, was erected in the mid-16th century by King Xaythattirat in the then-new Lao Lane Xang capital Vientiane, which sheltered the Phrakeo Morakut for the following 200 years.



Prof. Raymond will present the history of Vientiane's Temple of the Emerald Buddha and examine how the display and interpretation of the Ho Phrakeo's exceptional collections of religious art have been eclipsed by the complex and ambiguous relationship between intended museological purposes and its actual dominant function as an auspicious house of worship and pilgrimage site.

