

Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies The Asian Studies Program & The History of Art

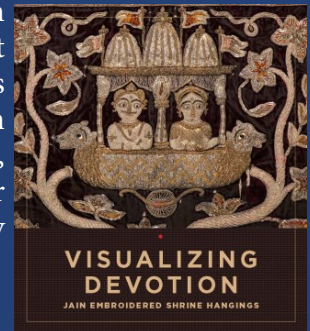
Articulating Devotion: the Visual, Material, and Social Vocabularies of Jain Sacred Wall Hangings (*Chod*)

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Eye-catching works of velvet and sateen cloth lavishly embroidered with gold and silver gilt thread, Jain devotional sacred wall hangings (*chod*) shine with visual references to Jain mythology, influential spiritual teachers, sacred sites, ritual traditions, and other prominent religious themes. Historically significant textiles arising from South Asian trade, local artistic production, and diverse religious patronage, these wall hangings adorn places of worship at various religious institutions in India as well as the homes, shrines, and temples of Jain immigrant communities in the West. This talk will capture how the visual, artistic, and socially informed programs on *chod* articulate a Jain devotion that often bridges the past with the present.



Lynna Dhanani obtained her doctorate at Yale University and is currently an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies in the Department of Religion, Culture and Society at the University of California, Davis. Her current book project explores the confluence of poetic and aesthetic expression and philosophical debate in the Sanskrit hymns of the celebrated twelfth-century Shvetambara Jain Hemachandra—court pandit to two Hindu kings of medieval Gujarat—and of the hymns in Prakrit and Apabhramsha of his contemporaries in medieval northwest India. She co-curated the 2022-23 exhibition of Jain shrine hangings (*chod*) at the UCLA Fowler museum and is a co-author for the exhibition volume titled *Visualizing Devotion: Jain Embroidered Shrine Hangings* (Los Angeles: Fowler Museum at UCLA, 2025).



Thursday, April 23 at 3:30, Arts Seminar Room 333