

## Conference

Buddha made no discrimination between a man and woman regarding the attainment of spiritual goals. Buddhism, while accepting the biological and physical differences between the two sexes, does consider men and women to be equally useful to the society. He delivered discourses for the benefit of both the sexes and the moral code prescribed by him was to be observed by both.

Buddhism does not restrict either the educational opportunities of women or their religious freedom. The Buddha unhesitatingly accepted that women are capable of realizing the Truth, just as men are. He opened the gates for the full participation of women in the field of religion by making them eligible for admission to what was known as the Bhikkhuni Sangha - the Order of Nuns – that truly opened to women new avenues of culture and social service and ample opportunities for public life. This brought to women recognition of their importance to society, and greatly enhanced their social status. They were able to develop and purify their minds and realize the bliss of Nibbana just as men were.

## Exhibition

Avalokitesvara is the most popular Mahayana Bodhisattva and his cult has played an important role in the growth of Mahayana Buddhism and art. The images of Avalokitesvara in India are not feminine, although the body has a sensual form. The well known painting of Padmapani in Cave No.1 of Ajanta no doubt has a sensuous body, but taken as a whole, looks a male Bodhisattva. The paintings of the famous artist Ravi Varma, do not show Hindu Gods as strongly masculine. Essential features of manliness like muscles, broad shoulders are present but there is a touch of conspicuous feminine quality in the images.

It is not known exactly when the Guan-yin came to be regarded as female deity for the first time. Majority of the scholars are of the opinion that the transformation of Guan-yin into female deity took place about the 11th century A. D. But this seems to have been the product of a long process and this might have been influenced by many factors combined to bring the sexual transformation



## International Conference on Women and Buddhism: Perspectives on Gender, Culture and Empowerment 27-29 March, 2017



इन्दिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र

विमेन एण्ड बुद्धिज़्मः

पर्सपेक्टिव्स ऑन जेण्डर,

कल्चर एण्ड एम्पावरमेण्ट

बौद्ध धर्म एवं नारी: लिंग संस्कृति तथा

सशक्तीकरण के परिप्रेक्ष्य

पर आयोजित अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन एवं प्रदर्शनी में  
आपको सादर आमन्त्रित करता है।

प्रदर्शनी

कुआनशियिन / अवलोकितेश्वर: बौद्ध कला  
में स्त्री प्रतीकात्मकता

उद्घाटन

दिनांक : 27 मार्च, 2017

समय : प्रातः 10:30 बजे

स्थान : सभागार, सी.वी. मैस, जनपथ

प्रदर्शनी 28 मार्च, 2017 से 10 अप्रैल, 2017 तक  
ट्विन आर्ट गैलरी, नं. 2, सी. वी. मैस, जनपथ में लगी रहेगी।

शैक्षणिक सत्र : 27-29 मार्च, 2017

वेबसाइट: www.ignca.nic.in

ईमेल: eap.ignca@gmail.com

फेसबुक: www.facebook.com/IGNCA; ट्विटर: @igncald

उत्तरापेक्षी: +91-11-23388211 (9:00 बजे से 5:30 बजे तक)

कृपया \*स्वस्ति संकुल (कैफेटेरिया, कला प्रदर्शनी)

\*राजा दीन दयाल छायाचित्र स्थायी गैलरी, आईजीएनसीए कैम्पस नई दिल्ली में पधारें।



Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

cordially invites you to the

International Conference on

Women and Buddhism:  
Perspectives on Gender, Culture  
and Empowerment

and  
Exhibition on

Guanshiyin/Avalokitesvara :  
Feminine symbolism in Buddhist Art

Inauguration

Date : 27th March, 2017

Time : 10.30 a.m.

Venue : Auditorium, C.V. Mess, Janpath, New Delhi-1

Exhibition on view from 28th March to 10th April 2017

In Twin Art Gallery, No. 2 C.V. Mess Building, Janpath

Academic Session : 27th - 29th March, 2017

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Please visit \*Svasti Sankul (Cafeteria, Art Gallery),  
\*Permanent Photographs Gallery of Raja Deen Dayal at IGNCA  
Campus, New Delhi-110001