

Abstract:

The aim of this thesis is to present the concept of hell as it is portrayed in Korean Buddhist paintings. The opening chapters focus on introducing the concept of hell throughout the history, from India to Korea, the definition of the term, description and classification of hells. Core part of the text consists of three genres of Korean Buddhist painting: *jijangdo*, *gamnodo* and *siwangdo*. Rituals, which correlate with the paintings, are also mentioned. Short digression about buddhist cosmology, specifically a description of a world sphere, *cakra-vāda*, is made in chapter 3. Closing chapter briefly deals with portrayal of hells in contemporary Korean art and culture.