

*The Archaeological Institute of America Toronto Society and the  
UofT Archaeology Centre present an illustrated lecture:*



# ***“Buddhist Sculpture of Gandhara”***

**By David Jongeward**  
*Royal Ontario Museum*

**Tuesday February 26, 2019 at 6:00 pm**  
**Location: Anthropology Building AP130 19 Russell  
Street, University of Toronto**

Gandhara is renowned as the home of a school of Buddhist sculpture that thrived for at least six centuries, with a peak of achievement during the time of the Kushan Empire in the first to fourth centuries AD. Gandhara is located in modern day Pakistan in an area that includes the Peshawar Valley, extending north into Swat Valley, and west into the Hadda, Kabul and Begram areas of Afghanistan. Trade routes, now often referred to as the Silk Road, facilitated the movement of artistic ideas and techniques that linked Gandhara to the Mediterranean, the Indian subcontinent, Central Asia and Persia. All these influences are apparent in the development of Gandharan Buddhist iconography and artistic expression. Many cities supported large Buddhist monastic complexes, and hundreds of monasteries were also constructed in rural settings, often located in scenic hilltop locations near villages along the trade routes. Gandharan arts benefited from generous patronage, with lay devotees from wealthy merchant classes, Indian nobility and Kushan royalty all involved in the commissioning of large numbers of monuments, stupas and sculptures. In this lecture I offer an overview of the main types of Gandharan artistry, especially narrative panel reliefs that depict scenes from the life of the Buddha, free-standing sculptures of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, as well as secular arts also found in monastic settings.

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