Architects of Buddhist Leisure: Socially Disengaged Buddhism in Asia s Museums, Monuments, and Amusement Parks (Hardback)

By Justin Thomas Mcdaniel

University of Hawai i Press, United States, 2016. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Buddhism, often described as an austere religion that condemns desire, promotes denial, and idealizes the contemplative life, actually has a thriving leisure culture in Asia. Creative religious improvisations designed by Buddhists have been produced both within and outside of monasteries across the region-in Nepal, Japan, Korea, Macau, Hong Kong, Singapore, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. Justin McDaniel looks at the growth of Asia s culture of Buddhist leisure-what he calls socially disengaged Buddhism -through a study of architects responsible for monuments, museums, amusement parks, and other sites. In conversation with noted theorists of material and visual culture and anthropologists of art, McDaniel argues that such sites highlight the importance of public, leisure, and spectacle culture from a Buddhist perspective and illustrate how secular and religious, public and private, are in many ways false binaries. Moreover, places like Lek Wiriyaphan s Sanctuary of Truth in Thailand, Su?i Tien Amusement Park in Saigon, and Shi Fa Zhao s multilevel museum/ritual space/tea house in Singapore reflect a growing Buddhist ecumenism built through repetitive affective encounters instead of didactic sermons and sectarian developments. They present different Buddhist traditions,...

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