

Art of Burial

Saturday 5 November

Seminar Room 1

10.00–16.45

Celebrate the V&A's autumn exhibition **Power of Making** with a study day discovering the fascinating rituals and beautiful arts associated with burial. Explore traditions from Ghana to Tibet.



Ghanaian Coffin sculpted by Paa Joe

Buddhist relics and reliquaries in Tibet, India and South East Asia – John Clarke

From the time of Buddha's death both his physical remains and any objects associated with his life acquired extraordinary sacredness. The worship and use of reliquary stupas survives today in parts of South East Asia and Tibet.

Mourning and Memory: The Iconography of Shi'a Shrines – Rowan Bain

The shrines of the holy Imams are revered in Shi'a Islam and are popular places of pilgrimage. This talk will examine shrine iconography in post Revolutionary Iran.

Beliefs in the afterlife: funerary practices in early China – Helen Glaister

The discovery in 1972 of the tomb of Lady Dai at Mawangdui, undisturbed for over 2,000 years, presented a remarkable insight to elite burial practises in early China. Explore the content and meaning of funerary art and artefacts in early China.

18th and 19th Century English Coffin Manufacture- Julian Litten

The English funeral trade as we know it today was created in the 17th century. Drawing from trades - carpenters, cabinet-makers, upholsterers, plumbers, engravers and die-stampers - the funeral provider "undertook" to act as the bereaved's representative, hence the term Undertaker.

Sculpted Ghanaian coffins - Jack Bell

The Ga people of Ghana have been sculpting fantastic coffins since the 1950s. Made of wood and oil paint, each work is a celebration of life and carefully constructed to reflect the ambition or the trade of the person for whom it was made.

Eco pods – Hazel Selene

The shape of a coffin has not changed for hundreds of years, the colourful Ecopod is a radical shift away from this tradition being of innovative design and is constructed from recycled materials.

£10, no concessions

Advance booking essential

Book online at www.vam.ac.uk/whatson or call the Bookings Office on 020 7942 2211