

**The University of Michigan**  
**REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

REQUEST FOR ACTION

Subject: Art Deaccession

Action  
Requested: Approval to complete deaccession

Effective date: September 19, 2024

Background:

The University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) would like to deaccession a 9th-century *Figure of Buddha* statue in order to repatriate it to its native Nepal. Regental approval to deaccession a work of art from UMMA's collection is a requirement of its collections management policy.

UMMA has determined that deaccessioning and repatriating the statue is appropriate in this instance because the statue's provenance has been credibly challenged. The statue was received as a donation in 2016, and the donor provided a 1988 purchase receipt from a London antiques shop; there are no reliable records prior to that date. Moreover, ample and persuasive information has been provided to UMMA showing the statue was likely taken from Nepal without authorization in the mid-1970s. In light of this information and the history of theft of cultural artifacts from this region of the world, repatriating the statue would be appropriate and consistent with museum best practices for collection management.

Therefore, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the deaccession of the 9th-century *Figure of Buddha* Nepalese statue, effective immediately.

Respectfully submitted,



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Laurie K. McCauley  
Provost and Executive Vice  
President for Academic Affairs

September 2024