



RICE HUMANITIES

Chao Center for Asian Studies

TAI LECTURE SERIES IN
CROSS-CULTURAL STUDIES

Chan Buddhism Explained

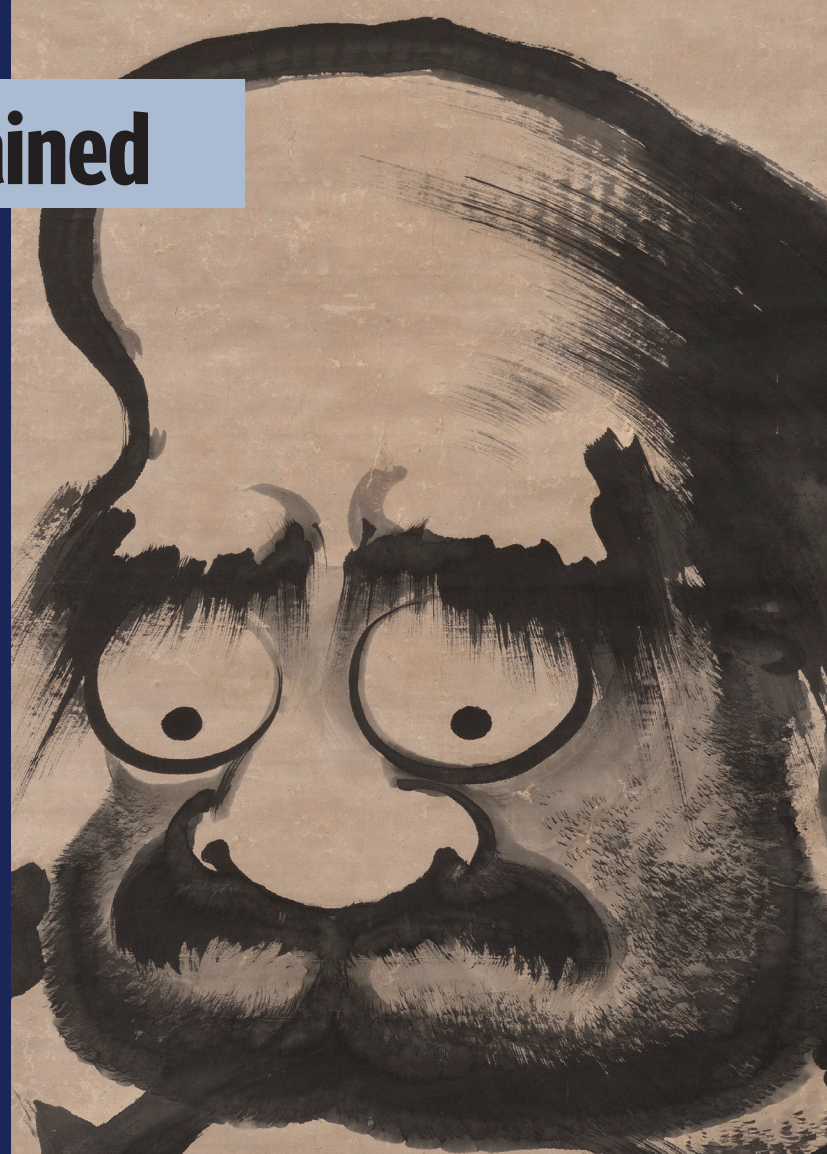
Considerable progress has been made in the past few decades in our understanding of the institutional and literary history of early (Tang and Song period) Chan. But when it comes to the properly *philosophical* teachings of Chan, as found in the “recorded sayings” texts (*yulu*) and “public case” compilations (*gong’an*), advances have been more modest. The writings of the Chan patriarchs are still regarded more as inscrutable utterances pointing to a non-discursive experience—perhaps something akin to a poetry of the sublime—rather than philosophy proper. My talk will argue otherwise and demonstrate that Chan authors were advancing eminently scrutable and conceptually sophisticated positions on pressing issues and controversies that had preoccupied Buddhist exegetes for centuries. Indeed, many of the issues remain philosophically salient today.

Thursday, February 23, 2023

4 PM CST

Online Only via Zoom

Register at ow.ly/ixYV50MubLc



Ito Jakuchu, *Giant Daruma*, late 18th century, hanging scroll; ink on paper, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, The Gitter-Yelen Collection, gift of Dr. Kurt Gitter and Alice Yelen Gitter, 2021.204

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