



laden ein zu einem

# VORTRAG

**Donnerstag, 7. April 2016, 18:30**

**Beatrix Mecsi**  
**(*ELTE University Budapest*)**

## Daruma

### How did a religious founder become a doll?

A lecture about Bodhidharma in Japanese art and popular culture



Bodhidharma (Daruma in Japanese), the founder of Zen Buddhism, is very popular in Japan, especially in the form of a fat bellied, red figure. The Daruma is regarded as a sign of fortune, a talisman for adults and a toy for children. There are several games and diverse practices connected to him, but he is still venerated as a religious founder in Zen temples.

In my talk I look behind the various popular images and usages of Daruma. Based on field work and research of Buddhist scripts and art objects, I attempt to shed light on the dynamics of the formation of the legend, its art forms and the popularization of the Daruma image in Japan.

**Dr. Beatrix Mecsi** received her PhD at SOAS, London. She is associate professor of art history with a specialization of East Asian Art and heads the Japanese Department at ELTE Budapest University.

**Institut für Ostasienwissenschaften – Japanologie, Seminarraum 1**