The production of Tibetan Buddhist art for the Chinese court of the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) reached a high point during the Yongle period (1403-24). Dr. Haufler will look “beyond Yongle” to the Chenghua (1465-87) and Zhengde (1506-21) periods by examining a number of thangkas, painted Buddhist banners, that came out of China in the early twentieth century. The Chenghua paintings illustrate the exquisite culmination of the 15th-century Tibeto-Chinese tradition. The early-16th century thangkas not only represent a significant departure from this tradition, but also a unique moment in the history of Ming imperial patronage of Tibetan Buddhism.

Dr. Marsha Haufler

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