How did ancient Chinese mourners use artworks to transform their dead? How did medieval Korean Buddhists make deities accessible on earth? How did misshapen, misfired Japanese ceramics come to define the height of elite taste? Over the course of the semester, we will explore questions like these, as we survey the arts of East Asia through focused case studies of individual artworks and sites. We will examine tombs that served as crucibles for deceased souls, pagodas that provided present access to future paradises, paintings that embodied cosmic visions, sculptures endowed with organs, and, ultimately, contemporary installation art that ironizes tradition. The objects and sites under consideration will sometimes raise historical questions about the impact of one tradition upon the others, allowing us to see East Asia as a culturally connected macroregion; in other cases, the lectures will bring together works that require us to think more critically about how we analyze and interpret the history of artistic production. Ultimately, this course will provide students with a narrative of the history of East Asian art, as well tools by which to rethink that narrative.