



## **Indian Textiles for Island Taste – Cloth in Early Indian Ocean Trade**

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This session introduces the Indian textile trade to Southeast Asia, with a specific emphasis on Indonesia. Key textiles from the Indo-Pacific Department at the Yale University Art Gallery—the earliest of which trace back to the 14th century—will be discussed in detail. These cloths were much in demand in maritime Southeast Asia, and became an essential part of the exchange for the islands' spices and precious sandalwood. After their acquisition, the textiles were integrated into court and village societies, often becoming part of various ceremonies and rituals. As it will be shown, they also had a formative impact on local aesthetics and designs.