



Welcome to the Asian!



Guardian lions, 1850–1900. Japan. Bronze. *Courtesy of Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, Gift of Marsha Vargas Handley in memory of Raymond G. Handley, F2011.16.1, F2011.16.2.a-b.* Image © Asian Art Museum, San Francisco.

Thanks to Marsha Vargas Handley, these powerful Japanese bronze lions have graced the front steps of the Asian Art Museum since 2013. Resembling lion guardians placed outside Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines, these massive statues announce to the world this is the largest museum in the United States dedicated to Asian art.



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UPCOMING EVENTS (subject to change)

Saturday, September 12

Lecture: The Rise and Fall of Jazz in Shanghai with Cory Combs

Sundays, September 13, 20, 27, and October 11, 18, 25

Literature and Culture of Asia: Women of Japan's 11th Century Classic *The Tale of Genji* with John Wallace

Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27

Weekend Getaway to Monterey and Orientations Gallery

Society Book Sale 2016

Donations for our Annual Book Sale are accepted throughout the year. If you have any Asian related books on art, culture, travel, cooking or novels, please call the SAA office. If you have a couple of boxes, we will pick them up from your home in the Bay Area!



ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2015 LECTURE SERIES

Asia's Storied Traditions

When: **Fridays, August 21 - December 4**
 Time: **10:30 am - 12:30 pm**
 Place: **Samsung Hall**
 Fee: **\$175 Society members, \$200 non-members (for the series after Museum admission)**
\$20 per lecture drop-in (after Museum admission, subject to availability)

Register now for the Fall semester of the Arts of Asia lecture series! The Fall 2015 Arts of Asia series, "Asia's Storied Traditions", will explore narrative usage in Asian art – how myths, legends, histories, and moral precepts have been transmitted through visual means. Topics for discussion will range from the sculptural reliefs and murals used to educate pilgrims at famous religious sites (Sanchi, Dunhuang, etc.) to works created primarily for entertainment (Ramayana treatments, story depictions in Edo Ukiyo-e, the Shahnameh album paintings created for Shah Tahmasp, etc.). Contemporary storytelling will also be addressed via lectures on Bollywood and the manga produced by San Francisco's Henry Yoshitaka Kiyama.



Scene from the epic Ramayana: Kumbhakarna battles the monkeys, approx. 1075–1125. Northeastern Thailand. Sandstone. *Courtesy of Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection*, B66S7. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

As always, a distinguished roster of prominent scholars and curators will be delivering these lectures (see list below). To register online, please use the following link to the SAA website: <https://www.societyforasianart.org/programs/arts-asia-lecture-series/arts-asia-fall-2015-asias-storied-traditions>

August 21

Series Introduction and Hindu and Mughal Narrative Art
 Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker, Mills College

August 28

The Moral of the Story: Narrative Art in Early China
 Patricia Berger, UC Berkeley

September 4

Storytelling with Pictures: An Asian Odyssey
 Victor Mair, University of Pennsylvania

September 11

Displaying the Past: Pictorial Depictions of the Buddhist Myths and Legends of the Kathmandu Valley
 Alexander Von Rospatt, UC Berkeley

September 18

The Badal Mahal at Burundi: A World Painted for Rajput Princes
 Milo Beach, Former Director of Freer & Sackler

September 25

"Where Is This Story Going?" The Paradigetic Pleasures of Popular Hindu Cinema
 Ajay Gehlawat, Sonoma State University

October 2

Japanese Medieval Scrolls
 Melissa McCormick, Harvard University

October 9

Telling the Tales of Rama
 Forrest McGill, AAM

October 16

"Reading" the Ramayana through Javanese Temple Reliefs
 Natasha Reichle, AAM

October 23

Henry Yoshitaka Kiyama and the Manga-Comics Nexus
 Fred Schodt, Independent Scholar and Author

October 30

Nine Cloud Dream, Nectar Ritual, and Much More in Korean Art
 Kumja Paik Kim, AAM

November 6

Stories Old and Untold in Edo Period Art: Implied and Informed Narratives
 Timon Screech, SOAS

November 13

Text and Image: Early Buddhist Narrative Sculpture from Northern India and Gandhara
 Kurt Behrendt, Metropolitan Museum

November 20

The Same Me That Stands Here Now: Jataka Tales on Tenth Century Reliquaries
 Eugene Wang, Harvard University

November 27

No class, Thanksgiving break

December 4

The Shahnameh of Shah Tahmasp: A 16th Century Royal Persian Manuscript
 Sheila Canby, Metropolitan Museum



MEMBER EVENTS

Transformations: Haiku from Japan to the U.S. . . . and Back Again? With Abigail Friedman

When: **Saturday, June 20**
Time: **2:00 pm - 3:30 pm**
Place: **Education Studios**
Fee: **\$15 Society members, \$20 non-members (after Museum admission)**

This talk will focus on how has this traditional Japanese art form been understood – and misunderstood – as it made its way from Japan to America, and how haiku is being written today. Join us for a discussion with this award-winning haiku poet and author as she shares her perspective on the transformation of haiku from one culture to another.

Abigail Friedman is an award-winning haiku poet and former U.S. diplomat who lived in Japan for eight years. She began composing haiku in 2001 as the only non-Japanese member of a haiku group in Japan. Her books include The Haiku Apprentice: Memoirs of Writing Poetry in Japan, and her recently published book, I Wait for the Moon: 100 Haiku of Momoko Kuroda (Stone Bridge Press). Her haiku, haibun, and writings on haiku have been featured in publications in many countries.



Harvest Moon and Raven Bean with Haiku, Sakai Hoitsu
Yale University Art Gallery.

The Rise and Fall of Jazz in Shanghai - June 27 with Cory Combs This event has been postponed to September 12

If you've signed up already we will hold your reservations.



Portals to Sri Lankan Culture: The Architecture of Geoffrey Bawa (1919-2003) With Tom Soper

When: **Friday, July 10**
Time: **2:00 pm - 3:30 pm**
Place: **Education Studios**
Fee: **\$15 Society members, \$20 non-members (after Museum admission)**

Tom Soper will talk about the well-known architect – Geoffrey Bawa from Sri Lanka – and demonstrate Bawa's mastery of regional splendor, providing insight into the culture of the country via this art form. Bawa, with his partners, created a style they called "tropical modernism," bringing new awareness of indigenous materials and crafts leading to a post-colonial renaissance of culture. His works can be seen in many countries around Asia and especially in Sri Lanka. Members of the Society going on the Sri Lanka trip will have the opportunity to experience several of his masterpieces.

Tom Soper, an SAA member, is a practicing architect working in the Bay area for four decades. Born in Seneca Falls, NY, he received his bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and Master's from Michigan. He is a member of the American Institute of Architects. Tom has travelled extensively with the SAA and has led a group from the Museum on a Sri Lanka trip to see the works of Geoffrey Bawa.





MEMBER EVENTS

The Double Life of Li XiangLan – A World Premier Film With Ms. Mei-Juin Chen

When: **Saturday, August 1**

Time: **2:00 - 4:00 pm**

Place: **Samsung Hall**

Fee: **Free after Museum admission**

Co-presented by the SAA, Asian Art Museum, Center for Asian American Media

Well-known Taiwanese film director Mei-Juin Chen will screen her film about the life and times of Li XiangLan, who in her lifetime was known by many different names, among them Shirley or Yoshiko Yamaguchi. She was an opera singer, film actress in both Chinese and Japanese films, pop idol, accused of being a traitor in China, wife of artist Noguchi Isamu. She was a prominent movie star and singer from the late 1930's to 1958 when she married a Japanese diplomat and retired from a successful but controversial career. She served as a goodwill ambassador and was active in the Women's Fund to compensate comfort women. Her most famous song "Ye Lai Xiang" (The Tuberose) is still hummed by Chinese around the world. The hour-long movie will be followed by a Q&A session with the award-winning movie director.



Mei-Juin Chen has an MA in Visual Anthropology from USC. In 1993 she founded Lotus Films and embarked on a career as a documentary film maker. Her work has appeared in major film festivals around the world. In her work she continually seeks to explore how culture, nationality, and society shapes our sense of who we are and how it leads us to embrace multiple identities.

Exhibition of Japanese Bamboo Sculpture With Jiro Yonezawa

When: **Tuesday, August 4**

Time: **1:30 pm**

Place: **World Shibori Network Gallery, 696 Hilldale, Berkeley**

Fee: **\$15 Society members, \$20 non-members**

We will visit the exhibition and meet the artist Jiro Yonezawa, a bamboo sculptural artisan. He apprenticed with the master artist Ono Makakatsu. His works have been shown in Japan, the U.S., and Europe, and are in many public and private collections. He is the recipient of many Japanese and international awards. One of his works was awarded the Lloyd Cotsen Prize, and his works have been collected by various museums in the U.S. We will have the unique opportunity of meeting him while he is visiting Berkeley and have him take us around the exhibition and talk about his work.



Jiro Yonezawa, Banjo, 2007.
Bamboo, cane, cedar root, urushi lacquer. 9.5 x 41 in.

What's The Story? Storytelling with Puppets, Masks & Scrolls With Kathy Foley

When: **Friday, August 14**

Time: **10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

Place: **Samsung Hall**

Fee: **\$15 Society members, \$20 non-members (after Museum admission)**

Puppets, masks, and story scrolls are interrelated traditions used to present traditional Asian epic stories like the Mahabharata, Jataka tales, Hamzah, and Yoshitune. Text-based forms like bunraku contrasted with orally generated forms like the Indonesia wayang. Puppets conform to a story at first, then the story bends to performance structure. Iconography, performance, music, and dance prevail. Kathy will take us through the various forms of performance stories and Asian epics. This is a good introduction to our forthcoming Arts of Asia series on Asia's Storied Traditions.

Kathy Foley is a Professor of Theatre Arts at UC Santa Cruz and Editor of the Asian Theatre Journal. She curates exhibitions on Asian masks and puppetry and performs wayang golek - a rod puppet form of West Java.



Mahabharata demon King Nirwatakawaca mounting an attack against heaven. Javanese Wayang Kulit Purwa shadow show. Photo by Kathy Foley.

**Persian Mythology: Gods, Heroes, and Beliefs
With Mitra Ara**

When: **Saturday, August 29**
Time: **10:30 am - 3:30 pm**
Place: **Education Studios**
Fee: **\$45 members, \$55 non-members (after Museum admission), includes morning coffee and lunch**

Persian mythology, as an extension of Indo-European mythology, consists of traditional stories in which the origins and functions of those traditions are rooted, and portrays divinities, heroes, kings, priests, demons, and magical and fabulous creatures. Through an illustrated presentation Dr. Ara will survey legendary stories and epics, recapturing ancient themes and characters. The lecture will trace the myths and legends as far back as the 2nd-1st millennium BCE from the oral poetic traditions to the later written Persian epics. This overview will provide a practical account of what is considered mythological in Persian culture and how it relates to archeological, historical, and religious traditions.

Dr. Ara will also introduce Persia's *Shahnameh*, the Book of Kings, as one of the world's great works of literature, as the national epic of Persia, and as a pan-national epic. She will highlight the significance of the book in past and present history and offer contemporary interpretations of the heroic exploits and prowess of its heroes.

Mitra Ara earned her PhD from UC Berkeley in Asian Studies. Dr. Ara is Assistant Professor and Founding Director of the Persian Studies minor at San Francisco State University. She is the author of the book entitled Eschatology in the Indo-Iranian Traditions: The Genesis and Transformation of a Doctrine, in addition to numerous articles, presentations, public speaking, and community teaching. Her scholarly interests are Indo-Iranian religions, as well as Persian language and Persianate cultures. She is also an Advisor for the Society for Asian Art.



Sasanian silk twill textile of Simorgh in a beaded surround, 6–7th century. Used in the reliquary of Saint Len, Paris.

 **OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST****Revision of Upper Category Membership Benefits**

The Society is revising the benefits of Upper Category memberships based on an assessment of its activities this past year and feedback from members. Effective July 1, 2015, the benefits have been revised as follows:

\$125 Contributing (TWO members)

All the benefits of Participating membership plus:

- Invitations to attend two conversations yearly in private homes with Asian art specialists, scholars, or curators.

\$275 Donor (TWO members)

All the benefits of Participating and Contributing plus:

- An invitation to a Sponsor-level event.

\$425 Sponsor (TWO members)

All the benefits of Participating, Contributing, and Donor plus:

- Invitations to a minimum of two special no-fee events yearly, such as visits to artists' studios, tour of a private collection, or other scholarly events.

Any members wishing to change their category of membership may do so at the time of renewal or by contacting the SAA Office.

2015 Luncheon for Society for Asian Art Advisors

The SAA Board of Directors hosted a festive luncheon in the Peterson Room on Sunday, April 26; 19 of our 30 scholars/advisors joined us for this occasion. The luncheon is an annual event to thank our advisors for their knowledge and expertise which they share with us in scheduling SAA events. During the past year advisors have delivered lectures, developed and delivered a Literature and Culture curriculum, written for Lotus Leaves, and accompanied a domestic trip. A highlight of the luncheon is the advisors sharing summaries of their current research and publication interests.

Boston Trip Sign Ups Now Open!

The time is now to sign up for the SAA's Boston trip, October 5-10, 2015. The flyer with trip details and registration form is included with this newsletter. It is found at the end of the online version of the newsletter. You may click on the following link to access the flyer directly: www.societyforasianart.org/programs/tripstravel/art-not-banned-boston. Registration is by mail only and must include your check for the full amount and your registration form. Members will be accepted for the trip based on postmark date. We anticipate the trip will fill up immediately and, if necessary, we will use a lottery system to determine who will be the lucky Boston-bound travelers.

Iran Trip Sign Ups Next Newsletter

To allow us to focus on Boston, we are postponing the opening of registration for the SAA's Iran trip until the next newsletter coming in early August. This exciting trip will take place from April 30-May 15, 2016. An optional extension, May 15-22, will be offered to archeological sites in northern Iran. Dr. Keelan Overton, a dynamic young scholar specializing in Islamic art at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, will lead our tour.



Persepolis, © Teri Sandison Photography 2014



Boat, 2012, by Zhu Jinshi (Chinese, b. 1954). Xuan paper, bamboo, and cotton thread. Courtesy of Rubell Family Collection, Miami. © Zhu Jinshi, © ARS, New York.

Spice Up Your Summer!

Step into the 21st century with this exciting exhibition by 28 contemporary Chinese artists. Drawn from the Rubell Family Collection, these engaging pieces are displayed not only in the special exhibition galleries and the North and South Courts. They are also strategically positioned in the second and third floor collection galleries. Join the Museum as it celebrates contemporary Asian art with this exhibition, followed in September by *First Look: Collecting Contemporary at the Asian*, which features works from the Museum's own collection, some on display for the first time.



Table with Two Legs, 2008, by Ai Weiwei (Chinese, b. 1957). Wood from qing dynasty (1644–1911). Courtesy of Rubell Family Collection, Miami. © Ai Weiwei.

Contact Information

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Society for Asian Art

ART NOT BANNED IN BOSTON

Including a day in Cambridge with Professor Robert Mowry

Museums and Private Collections in the Boston Area

October 5 - 10, 2015



Come travel to Boston this October with the Society for Asian Art and see beautiful art as well as experience the famed New England fall season. Covering Boston, Cambridge, and Salem, we'll explore some of the most important art museums in the country. We are extremely fortunate that the very popular Arts of Asia lecturer, Professor Robert Mowry, will be with us when we tour the much lauded Renzo Piano-redesigned Harvard Art Museums. Other trip highlights include:

- Touring the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, considered one of the most comprehensive art museums in the world with a collection encompassing nearly 450,000 works of art. We can look forward to curator- led walk-throughs of both the Japanese and Chinese galleries. We will also have the opportunity to see their Asian art conservation lab.
- Viewing the Chinese and East Asian art galleries at the Peabody Essex Museum in historic Salem in addition to touring the museum's renowned Asian export art collection. The Peabody Essex traces its roots back to 1799 and has the only complete Qing Dynasty house outside China.
- Visiting the homes of two collectors and having the opportunity to see their private collections of contemporary Japanese ceramics and Chinese furniture.

Robert Mowry.....



Senior Consultant on Chinese and Korean Art at Christie's, the well-known international auction house, Robert Mowry was previously the Alan J. Dworsky Curator of Chinese Art and head of the Department of Asian Art at the Harvard Art Museums; he also served as Senior Lecturer in Harvard's Department of the History of Art and Architecture, teaching courses on Chinese and Korean art. He accompanied SAA members on our recent trip to Korea.

The Details

\$1600 (double occupancy, based on minimum group size of 20), Single Room Supplement \$875

The tour cost includes:

- Five nights at the Eliot Hotel, a boutique hotel with spacious accommodations in Boston's historic Back Bay
- Group dinner at Clio Restaurant, recently named "best French restaurant" by *Boston Magazine*
- Breakfasts daily
- Museum entrance fees
- Travel to all planned sightseeing and events
- A \$150 donation to the Society for Asian Art

Not included are:

- Airfare from the Bay Area to Boston and return
- Transportation from and to Boston's Logan Airport
- Drinks other than water with meals
- Laundry, gratuities, and communication charges (phone, fax, wifi, internet)
- Personal insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation
- Any meals or items not listed on the final itinerary

For more information, please call **Society for Asian Art: 415-581-3701** or **Jeanne M. O'Dea at Fugazi Travel 415-397-7111 Ext. #119**.

Difficulty Level: Medium

The trip will spend considerable time in museums and will require being able to be on your feet for extended periods of times. The trip will sometimes involve walks of 10 to 15 minutes.

RESERVATION FORM

I would like to reserve _____ space(s) for the **Society for Asian Art Boston tour**.

Enclosed is the **full payment** in the total amount of \$_____. Please make checks payable to the Society for Asian Art and mail to Society for Asian Art (SAA), 200 Larkin Street, SF CA 94102.

***Applications will be accepted by mail only and inclusion will be based on postmark date.
Your payment is refundable up to 60 days prior to departure less a \$250.00 per person cancellation fee.
Do NOT make any airline reservations until your trip participation is confirmed.***

Personal Information:

Last Name: _____ First name: _____

Last Name: _____ First name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Room Arrangements

- Single supplement
- Double Occupancy, I will be sharing a room with: _____
- I would prefer a roommate, but will pay the single supplement if one is not available.

Travel Arrangements

- I/we would like Fugazi Travel (Jeanne O'Dea) to assist with flight to Boston
- I/we will make my/our own travel arrangement to Boston.
- I/we would like additional nights to be booked at the hotel. Please specify dates _____