

Society for Asian Art

Newsletter for Members



May-June 2017

No. 3



Hanging flower basket in the shape of a cicada, approx. 1915–1950. Japan; probably kansai. Bamboo (madake variety), rattan, wood, and metal; twining, openwork square plaiting, and bundled plating. *Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Lloyd Cotsen Japanese Bamboo Basket Collection, 2006.3.11*. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

As we approach the 50th anniversary of San Francisco's Summer of Love, we will celebrate the importance of flowers in Asian culture with the upcoming exhibition, *Flower Power*. In keeping with that theme, pictured here are a few of the Asian Art Museum's superb collection of Japanese baskets for Ikebana, the art of flower arranging. Be sure to see the exquisite baskets on display in the Japanese Galleries on the second floor!



Flower arranging basket, 1900–2000. Japan. Bamboo. *Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Lloyd Cotsen Japanese Bamboo Basket Collection, 2006.3.168*. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.



Flower arranging basket, approx. 1900–1980. Japan. Bamboo. *Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Lloyd Cotsen Japanese Bamboo Basket Collection, 2006.3.48*. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.



Flower basket, 1850–1950. Japan. Bamboo. *Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Lloyd Cotsen Japanese Bamboo Basket Collection, 2006.3.380*. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.





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Flower basket, approx. 1950–1975. Japan. Bamboo (hobichiku variety); openwork irregular plaiting. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Lloyd Cotsen Japanese Bamboo Basket Collection, 2006.3.256. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

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May - June 2017 No. 3

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Margaret Edwards,
and Jean Karnow
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Carolyn Young
Sylvia Wong
*ex officio



ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2017 LECTURE SERIES

Art on the Move Across Asia and Beyond – Part I

When: **Fridays, August 18 – November 17**
 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

This Arts of Asia lecture series launches a two-semester exploration of the centuries of active exchange of art and ideas across the great trade routes of Asia, Europe, and the New World. The renowned scholar Professor Pat Berger of UC Berkeley will be the Instructor of Record for both series. From prehistory and antiquity to the period of the great medieval empires and into the modern era, the arts have been ambassadors of the cultures that produced them, inspiring curiosity, desire, envy, new markets, and even technological espionage. Certain goods—silk, paper, porcelain, gold, gems—transcended cultures. Other goods were attractive because they were exotic.

The fourteen lectures in Fall 2017 will look at the roles of art—ceramics, metalwork, textiles, painting, sculpture, architecture, fashion, and the performing arts—in spreading knowledge and sparking global trade. Leading scholars and curators will share research and insights on how images of the Buddha traveled East, monks on the move 1,300 years ago, Marco Polo’s travels during the Pax Mongolica, traffic along the Silk Road and sea routes, the Bodhisattva of Compassion’s gender issues, costume exchange East and West, and more. The Spring 2018 lectures will continue the discussion on what happens when art changes hands across cultural borders.



Tribute bearers, attributed to Ren Bowen (Chinese, 1254–1327). Ink and colors on silk. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection, B60D100. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

August 18

Marco Polo – The Movement of Things During the Pax Mongolica
 Pat Berger, UC Berkeley

August 25

Ancient Evidence of Trade Across Asia
 Sanjyot Mehendale, UC Berkeley

September 1

Convergence of Hellenism and Buddhism: Gandharan Art Revisited
 Osmund Bopearachchi, UC Berkeley

September 8

How the Buddha Traveled East
 Lewis Lancaster, UC Berkeley

September 15

The Many Faces of Compassion: Avalokiteshvara in Asian Buddhism
 Denise Patry Leidy, Yale University

September 22

Buddhist Pilgrim-Monks as Agents of Cultural and Artistic Transmission:
 The International Buddhist Art Style in East Asia, ca. 645–770
 Dorothy Wong, University of Virginia

September 29

A Tang Dynasty Shipwreck and Marine Archaeology
 Francois Louis, Bard College

October 6

China in the Japanese View, 8th – 12th Centuries
 Kristopher Kersey, University of Richmond

October 13

Dialogues Across Space and Time: The Written Word in East Asia
 Kevin Carr, University of Michigan

October 20

The Arts of Byzantium, Armenia, and Islam: Age of Transition
 Helen C. Evans, Metropolitan Museum of Art

October 27

Silk Road or Paper Road?
 Jonathan Bloom, Boston College

November 3

Tang Silk and Fashion
 Suzanne Cahill, UC San Diego

November 10

Dances and Performance on the Move from Central Asia to East Asia
 in the 7th – 10th Centuries & Beyond
 Emily Wilcox, University of Michigan

November 17

Changing Clothes in Asia: Inspiration vs. Appropriation
 A panel of Asian Art Museum Curators



MEMBER EVENTS

SAA Annual Meeting and Reception

When: **Thursday, May 11**
 Time: **6:00 pm**
 Place: **Samsung Hall**
 Note: **Invitations will be sent in the mail; please RSVP**

Our Annual Meeting and Reception will feature Dany Chan, the Asian Art Museum’s Assistant Curator for Exhibition Projects, who will give a talk on the upcoming exhibition *Flower Power*, organized in honor of the 50th anniversary of San Francisco’s Summer of Love. This exhibition highlights the expressive power of flowers in the arts and cultures of Asia, by showcasing six celebrated flowers—lotus, plum blossom, cherry blossom, chrysanthemum, tulip, rose—and the messages they convey. There will be a reception following the meeting and talk.



Vase with “one hundred flowers” motif. China; Jingdezhen, Jiangxi province, Qing dynasty, reign of the Qianlong emperor (1736–1795). Porcelain with overglaze enamels. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection, B65P13. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Visit to Rena Bransten Gallery With Hung Liu

When: **Saturday, May 13**
 Time: **2:30 pm – 4:00 pm**
 Place: **Rena Bransten Gallery, 1275 Minnesota Street, San Francisco**
 Fee: **\$15 Society members, \$20 non-members**

We will visit this well-known gallery in the Minnesota Street Project, a recently-developed area specializing in art galleries, and tour the newly-opened exhibition of Bay Area artist and SAA friend Hung Liu. The *Hung Liu: Promised Land* exhibition includes new paintings and works on paper, based on photographs by American photographer Dorothea Lange. We are honored that Hung Liu herself will be there to guide us and talk about her work on display. If you have not been to this neighborhood before, it’s also a good opportunity to visit other galleries in this recently-opened art complex.

Wine and nibbles will be served.



Hung Liu, *Lily Pad*, 2017, oil on canvas.

Chabana - Flowers in the Japanese Way of Tea With Christy Bartlett

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

This lecture and demonstration will explore the world of Chabana, a simple, yet elegant style of flower appreciation found in Japanese tea rooms. The naturalistic beauty of Chabana is highly adaptable to everyday enjoyment of flowers and seasonality outside the practice of tea. Come learn its basics from a master and bring the gift of ‘flower power’ into your home.

Christy Bartlett is an independent scholar of Asian art and the Director of the Urasenke Foundation of San Francisco, where tea is taught as an art form. She studied the Way of Tea in Kyoto under Dr. Genshitsu Sen, the 15th generation Head Master of the Urasenke tradition.



Columbine, California Poppy and native Feather Grass



ANNUAL REPORT

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of members of the Society for Asian Art will be held in Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin Street, on May 11, 2017 at 6:00 pm for the following purposes:

- To elect 10 Directors to serve until the next Annual Meeting of members to be held in May 2018, and until their successors are duly elected and qualified.
- To transact such other business as properly may be brought before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The Nominating Committee submitted the names of the following nominees for re-election as Directors: **Trista Berkovitz, Sylvia Wong, Sheila Dowell, Merrill Randol, Gregory Potts, Kalim Winata**, plus four new members for election.

The names of additional nominees may be submitted to the Board of Directors for review not less than twenty (20) days prior to the meeting. The petitions shall be signed by not less than twenty (20) members in good standing and shall contain the information required by Section 3 of Article IX of the Bylaws. Each member in good standing is entitled to one vote on each matter considered at the meeting. No proxy voting is permitted. All voting is conducted in person.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Trista Berkovitz
Secretary

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS – ELECTION SLATE

May 11, 2017

The members of the Nominating Committee for the year 2016-2017 are Chair **Nazneen Spliedt, Jeanne Dorward, Linda Lei, Sherlyn Leong,** and **Adrienne Burton**.

Nominations:

The following Members of the Society for Asian Art desire to serve as Directors and are nominated for election to serve their first two-year term of office: **Edward Baer, Etsuko Kobata, Myoung-Ja Lee Kwon, Howard Moreland**.

The following Directors of the Society for Asian Art will complete their first two-year term and are nominated for election to serve a second two-year term: **Trista Berkovitz, Sylvia Wong**.

The following Directors of the Society for Asian Art will complete their second two-year term and are nominated for election to serve a third two-year term: **Sheila Dowell, Gregory Potts, Merrill Randol, Kalim Winata**.

Directors with one year remaining on their two-year terms: **Melissa Abbe, Margaret Edwards, Vince Fausone, Maureen Hetzel, Anne Kahn, Jennifer Kao, Kristl Lee, Sherlyn Leong, David Menke, Pamela Royse, Peter Sinton, Ehler Spliedt, Nazneen Spliedt, Lucy Sun, Kasey Yang, Carolyn Young**.

The following previously elected Directors are retiring from the Board of Directors: **B.J. Johnson, Linda Lei, Julie Nemeth, Barbara Wirth**.

The following ex-officio Directors will continue to serve: **Forrest McGill** and **Deborah Clearwaters**.

New Nominees:

The Nominating Committee recommends the following members for a first two-year term to the Board of Directors of the Society for Asian Art.

Edward Baer is a former Board Member and Treasurer of SAA and is serving on the Finance and Travel Committees. He is a Museum Story-teller and has been active with the museum and the SAA for many years.

Etsuko Kobata is a docent from the class of 2014 and a fluent Japanese speaker, with an interest and knowledge of Asian Art. She is serving on two SAA committees, helping to organize Member Events and Upper Category Events. She also has broad experience and background in the software industry.

Myoung-ja Lee Kwon is a Museum docent from the class of 2014 and has an M.A. in History and a degree in Library Science. She has worked with various university libraries. She is interested in bringing new ideas to SAA's many programs.

Howard Moreland is a retired chemical engineer who spent part of his working life in Thailand, Japan, Korea, and China. He appreciates the unique cultures, and found the SAA and the AAM a natural way to continue his love of Asia. Since retiring to San Francisco, he has been active in the Museum and the Society and looks forward to deepening his connection to the Society.



SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016-2017

The Society broadened its activities this last year by addressing members' interest in programs on contemporary art and programs tied to events in the Bay Area relating to Asian culture. Examples include the Fall 2016 Arts of Asia series on Asian art from the 19th century to the present and a series of programs complementing the world premiere of an opera version of the celebrated novel, *Dream of the Red Chamber*.

As always, scholarly programs provided by the Society were creative, diverse, and of the highest quality. Examples include:

Summer: A lecture on Chinese monochrome wares, a demonstration of Kunqu Chinese opera, and a study group on Japanese costumes and textiles

Fall: A Ramayana-related literature series on the ten incarnations of Vishnu, a fun-filled trip to Portland, a program demonstrating the Ramayana through dance, and a symposium on the Ramayana which we co-sponsored with the Museum

Winter/Spring: Special lectures by AAM Director Jay Xu on the Han Dynasty and Deputy Director Rob Mintz on Japanese lacquers, a Spring 2017 Arts of Asia series examining women's roles in Asian art, a literature series on ghosts and vixens in Chinese and Korean literature, and a study group exploring snuff bottles with famous Bay Area collectors

And finally, there were programs where members could socialize, including a gourmet dinner and lecture on Japanese bronzes at Orientations in Monterey, the treasure-packed Souk, the Holiday party at Tansu Design, the Spring Dinner at Lai Hong Lounge, SAA "conversations" held with scholars and collectors in private homes, and a recent visit to Filoli Garden.

In short, it has been another successful year, and enormous thanks are due to the committees who organized these programs and provided critical functions such as Membership, Finance, Advisors, etc., and to our SAA Office Manager who kept the organization running smoothly!

Best regards,

Anne Kahn

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Educational Programs

Arts of Asia

The well-received Fall 2016 Arts of Asia lecture series "From Monet to Ai Weiwei: How We Got Here" broke new ground by focusing on modern and contemporary Asian arts. The 15 lectures by scholars from universities and museums in North America introduced and interplayed global art development from mid-19th century modernism to contemporary movements across Asia.

The popular Spring 2017 lecture series "Women, Real and Imagined, in Asian Art" put women on a pedestal. Fifteen renowned scholars and museum curators spotlighted prominent ancient and contemporary Asian women leaders, patrons, and artists of various disciplines as well as illuminated the cultural and artistic impact of female deities and spirits in Asia and beyond. Committee co-chairs were **Jennifer Kao** and **Kristi Lee**, with **Peter Sinton** also serving on the Committee.

Study Group

The Study Group Committee organized two workshops for the 2016-2017 year. The winter workshop focused on Chinese snuff bottles and was given by Vincent Fausone, Wesley Kirkholm, and Raymond Lum. Participants were given an in-depth view of the history of snuff bottles, the making of snuff bottles, and their important connection to Chinese art. Richard Fabian gave the spring study group on how to read a Chinese painting. **Sylvia Wong** and **Carolyn Young** are co-chairs, with members **Annie Dorsey**, **Margaret Edwards**, and **Greg Potts**.

Literature and Culture of Asia

The Literature and Culture Committee developed two literature-based courses. In the Fall, we welcomed back Professors Robert and Sally Goldman from UC Berkeley, who led a six-week course titled "Gods on Earth: Ten Incarnations of Vishnu". As Vishnu and his ten earthly incarnations/avatars are some of the most colorful, dramatic, and popular elements of Hinduism, the class was filled to the maximum.

This spring, Stephen Roddy, USF, guided us through the literature of amorous encounters between humans and fox spirits, ghosts, and fairies. In four sessions of "Boundless Love: Ghosts and Vixens in Chinese and Korean Literature", we read fiction of the Chinese Tang and Song Dynasties, and the Korean Joseon Dynasty. Members of the Committee are **Judy Frascella**, **Vince Fausone**, **Jennifer Kao**, **Melanie Reamy**, **Pamela Royse** and **Sherlyn Leong**, Chair.



Symposia

This committee arranges symposia in consultation with the museum Education Department and curators. Functions typically include contacting speakers, arranging travel and lodging, coordinating with the museum to reserve Samsung Hall and arrange for food, handling registration, designing and distributing flyers, processing requisitions, and tracking revenues and expenses. Members of the Committee include Chair **Peter Sinton**, **Vince Fausone**, and **Ehler Spliedt**.

In November, the Society helped the museum put on a successful symposium on the Rama Epic in conjunction with the exhibition *Rama Epic: Hero, Heroine, Ally, Foe*. The museum staff did most of the work, but SAA committee chair Peter Sinton was emcee and SAA Board members Vince Fausone, Ehler Spliedt, and Nazneen Spliedt worked on the day of the event. There was no budget allocated for the symposium, although SAA committed to pay up to \$2,500 if expenses exceeded revenues by that amount or more.

Events for Members

Member Events

The Member Events Committee was chaired by **Nazneen Spliedt**, with members **Annie Dorsey**, **Jennifer Kao**, **Phyllis Kempner**, **Etsuko Kobata**, **Kristl Lee**, **Julie Nemeth**, **Ehler Spliedt**, **Graeme Vanderstoel**, **Barbara Wirth**, and **Sylvia Wong**. During the past year, the Committee organized two events each month, on average. There were eleven scholarly talks and lectures, six gallery and artist studio visits, a special evening with Stan Lai the Director of the *Dream of the Red Chamber* opera, and various social events. The Holiday Party was held at Tansu Design and the Spring Dinner at Lai Hong Lounge. We also spent a weekend in Monterey with dinner and a talk at the Orientations gallery. Finally, the Committee also organized the speaker and reception for the 2016 Annual Meeting. Karin Oen, Curator of Contemporary Art, spoke about the SAA's newly-unveiled gift for the Museum's 50th anniversary, *Collected Letters*.

All events were well-attended and either broke even financially or made a small surplus. The Committee strove to organize events on a wide variety of subjects and to schedule them at times to attract more people. Most of the speakers were scholars and/or artists from the Bay Area, as well as curators and SAA Advisors.

Upper Category Member Events

In 2016-2017, four Conversations were held, featuring Therese Bartholomew, Ming Tiampo, Phillip Lutgendorf, and Munis Faruqi. The events were well-attended and generated much discussion. The autumn Sponsors event was a tour of the Wang Tiande Chinese ink painting show, at Nanhai Art Gallery in San Mateo. 2017 opened with a visit to the studio of artist Stella Zhang led by Abby Chen of the Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco, and continued the contemporary woman artist theme with a Conversation with Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker. Textile and ceramics collector Glenn Vinson hosted the spring Sponsors event at his home. **Melissa Abbe** is Committee Chair, with members **Rick Beleson**, **Sheila Dowell**, **Etsuko Kobata**, **Sherlyn Leong**, **Peggy Mathers**, **Ehler Spliedt**, **Lucy Sun**, **Kasey Yang**, and **Kalim Winata**.

Travel

The Travel Committee is chaired by **Greg Potts**, with members **Ed Baer**, **Neaera Baer**, **Trista Berkovitz**, **Megs Booker**, **Kalpna Desai**, **Sheila Dowell**, **Marsha Vargas Handley**, **Mary Hunt**, **Anne Kahn**, **Phyllis Kempner**, **Bianca Larson**, **Linda Lei**, **David Menke**, **Merrill Randol**, **Teri Sandison**, and **Gail Uilkema**. The Travel Committee organizes domestic and international trips with the goal of designing travel experiences that are both educational and affordable for SAA members. In October 2016, sixteen SAA travelers enjoyed the Oregon fall colors while visiting the Portland Museum of Art and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art on the University of Oregon campus in Eugene. We also opened registration for our July 2017 Texas trip and for two exciting international trips: India in fall 2017 and Vietnam and Laos in winter 2018.

Souk

The SAA Souk was held the weekend of October 29 and 30, 2016 at Fort Mason Center in San Francisco. SAA members and others donated thousands of Asian and Asian-related antiques and collectibles, which were for sale during the weekend. The goal of the sale was to maximize revenue to benefit the Asian Art Museum via the SAA's many events and programs. The sale earned over \$19,000, net of expenses. Approximately 50 volunteers assisted before and during the weekend. The Committee Chair was **Trista Berkovitz**, and members included **Maureen Hetzel**, **Mel Hetzel**, **Stephen Pegors**, **Greg Potts**, and **Peter Sinton**.

Publications and Public Relations

Newsletter

This Committee publishes the SAA Newsletter six times per year to publicize SAA events and programs. The online version on the SAA website is in color. The printed version is mailed to other art institutions and to members who prefer to receive the paper copy. Both versions support registration for the SAA activities included in the newsletter. **Trista Berkovitz** is the Editor, and **Margaret Edwards** is Co-Editor.



ANNUAL REPORT

Lotus Leaves

There are two issues of *Lotus Leaves* this year. The first, published in November 2016, had a lead article, *The Art of Liu Jianhua: Phenomenal Phenomenology*, by Karin G. Oen. The second article was *The Diversity of the Rama Epic*, by Sohini Pillai. The Spring 2017 issue has a lead article by Benjamin W. Porter on an archeological site in the Middle East. The second article by Dany Chan is *Flower Power*, focusing on the exhibit by that name that will be installed in June. **Alice Trinkl** is Editor and **Margaret Edwards** is Associate Editor.

Publicity

The Publicity Committee's goal is to promote awareness of the SAA and its programs and events. In 2016-2017, the Committee focused on announcing and selling programs such as the Arts of Asia lecture series, the Souk at Fort Mason, and the Book Sale. In addition to announcements through the SAA newsletter and website, the Committee worked with the Asian Art Museum to have SAA activities listed on its website, calendar, and social media sites. The Museum's *A Magazine* also regularly includes a page devoted to SAA activities including the Arts of Asia lecture series, SAA travel programs, special activities such as the Book Sale and the Souk, and the SAA's special commission of *Collected Letters* by Liu Jianhua to honor the Asian's 50th anniversary. **Peter Sinton** chairs the committee, which also includes **Kristl Lee**.

Library/Book Sale

The exciting news this year is that the library card catalog went live online. It can be reached through the Asian Art Museum website by anyone, anywhere in the world. The SAA gave important seed money for this project and helped guide the process. We also continued our support of the Museum library with a monthly donation of \$1,500 dollars, for a total of \$18,000 dollars this year. **Ehler Spliedt** organized the annual book sale held in the loggia of the Museum, which netted over \$8,200. The Library Committee is chaired by **David Menke**.

Website

The SAA Website Committee's primary goal is to continually improve the user experience. This year we succeeded in making the website more mobile responsive so that members can now view the site via Apple iOS, Android and/or other major platforms. We also worked with the *Lotus Leaves* Committee to facilitate the upcoming switchover to online publication, and are currently working on menu changes to improve archive retrieval of Arts of Asia lectures. The Website Committee is chaired by **Kalim Winata** and **Kasey Yang**.

Development and Outreach

Membership

Our membership remains steady with 543 households belonging to the Society, representing about 850 individuals. We continue to recruit new members to replace those not renewing due to relocation or other life events. Our largest category of membership remains our Senior group (44% of memberships up from 41% last year). Contributing, Donor, and Sponsor memberships are 38% of our total, accounting for more than two-thirds of our membership income. We regularly plan outreach mailings to Museum members to ensure their awareness of SAA and our activities. Committee members are **Maureen Hetzel**, Chair, and **B.J. Johnson**.

Advisors

The Advisors Committee recruits, monitors, and supports the Advisors Council, which currently consists of 30 members serving two-year terms. The advisors are primarily academicians who are experts in fields such as Asian art history, history and culture, literature, and contemporary art. This year the SAA Board voted to add two new advisors, professors Stephen Roddy and John Zarobell. In 2016-2017, SAA advisors participated in literature classes, upper category conversations, member events, and *Lotus Leaves*. We updated our record of the advisors' expertise and SAA activities. Our big event was the annual thank you lunch for advisors in April. **Merrill Randol** chairs the Committee, which includes **Melissa Abbe**, **Jeanne Dorward**, **Judy Frascella**, **Maureen Hetzel**, and **Mel Hetzel**.

Administrative

Finance

The Finance Committee is chaired by Treasurer **Vince Fausone** and includes Assistant Treasurer **Ehler Spliedt**, **Ed Baer**, **BJ Johnson**, **David Menke**, **Pamela Royse**, and **Nazneen Spliedt**. The Committee meets regularly to review the financial status of the Society, and to ensure that provisions are made for the Society's financial commitments. We meet quarterly with Keith Woodland of Morgan Stanley who has been the Society's pro bono Financial advisor since 1999. Through past bequests SAA has an endowment that is conservatively invested to yield enough earnings to help offset operating expenses beyond those covered through membership fees and other sources. SAA also contributes to the Museum's exhibits and fundraising campaigns.

Bylaws and Operating Procedures

The Committee updated and drafted new SAA Operating Procedures, Bylaws, and Policies as needed. **Trista Berkovitz** chairs the Committee; the members are **Maureen Hetzel**, **Linda Lei**, and **Nazneen Spliedt**.



MEMBER EVENTS

Negotiating Betweenness - A Foreign Artist in India With Waswo X. Waswo

When: Saturday, June 17
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Place: Education Studios
Fee: \$15 Society members; \$20 non-members (after Museum admission)

Living and working as a foreign artist in India, Waswo finds himself in an odd position. While the privilege of "whiteness" can open doors, the fact of being a foreigner can also lead to isolation from the Indian mainstream. US-born artist Waswo, who has lived and practiced in India, relates his own experiences in the context of other foreigners. The post-colonial terrain is laden with the perils of historical baggage, while at the same time making the attempt at artistic response surprisingly fruitful.

Waswo X. Waswo has lived in India for over 16 years and makes his home in Udaipur, where he collaborates with many artists. His books include Photowallah and Men of Rajasthan. He has a vast collection of Indian prints, including etchings, lithographs, and woodcuts. One of his prints was recently bought by the Asian Art Museum. His works have been widely shown in New Delhi, New York, and Paris.



First Incarnation the Second, Waswo X Waswo and Rajesh Soni

Divine Visions, Earthly Pleasures: 500 years of Indian Painting With Robert J. Del Bontà

When: Thursday, July 13
Time: 11:00 am
Place: Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley
Fee: \$30 members, \$35 non-members, includes lunch

This exhibition at BAMPFA in Berkeley, guest-curated by Indian painting scholar and SAA Advisor Robert Del Bontà, consists of more than 60 exquisite miniature paintings and drawings from BAMPFA's permanent collection, and explores the full range of Indian painting traditions, from the early 15th to the 20th centuries, showcasing disparate styles and trends.

We are honored to have Bob lead us through this exhibition. After the tour, we will have lunch at one of our favorite places in Berkeley, Great China Restaurant.



Surajamala-ji, Son of Rao Nirandasa, India, Rajasthan, Devgarh, c. 1820; ink, gouache, and gold on paper; 21 1/4 x 8 5/16 in.; University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive; gift of Jean and Francis Marshall.

Lotus Leaves Is Going Online!

After a careful review of the rising costs of printing and mailing *Lotus Leaves*, the SAA Board has decided that *Lotus Leaves* will now join the many scholarly publications that are online only. This means that each issue will be sent to members by email, and will be available for download from the SAA's website, beginning with the Spring 2017 issue (late May or June).

Apart from cost savings, there are several advantages to online publication:

- It is greener.
- It allows easy access by members, who can review the issue online and print it, or not, as they prefer.
- As the costs per page will be less than a printed version, the typeface can be larger, making it easier to read.
- End notes and illustrations can include live links, which enhances your reading and learning experience.
- Online publication allows distribution to a broader audience than just SAA members, which is good for our generous authors, and should help us attract authors in the future.
- The online issues may be searched by date, title, author, subject and key words.
- Online issues will be easy to archive, and will not require file cabinet space in the small SAA office.
- Online *Lotus Leaves* will not pile up on your reading table at home (unless you print it out).

You will receive your next issue of *Lotus Leaves* by email. The email will have an attachment in pdf form, that can be printed. If you have not updated your email address with the SAA office, please contact Jean Karnow at officemanager@societyforasianart.org so you do not miss your issue. For those few members who do not use email, we suggest you ask a friend in SAA to print it for you, or that you have someone download it from the SAA's website.

 **OTHER NEWS**

Join the Asian Art Museum Docent Corps!

The Asian Art Museum will open applications for a new docent training class on April 20th. The training will start on September 8, 2017 and will emphasize touring school audiences. If you're interested in receiving the announcement, please email cgutierrez@asianart.org or look for the online application at asianart.org.



Docent Graduation 2014

Vietnam Laos Trip Sign Ups Now Open!

The time is now to sign up for the SAA's exciting trip *Exploring Vietnam and Laos: Art and Culture, Past and Present*, January 25 through February 10, 2018. The flyer with trip details and registration form is included with this newsletter. The flyer is also found at the end of the online version of the newsletter or you may click on the following link to access the flyer directly: <https://www.societyforasianart.org/programs/tripstravel/exploring-vietnam-laos-art-culture-past-present>. Registration is by mail only and must include your check for the full deposit amount and your registration form. Members will be accepted for the trip based on the postmark date.



In March, SAA members visited the Filoli House and Garden in Woodside. The tulips and daffodils were in full bloom, with many other beautiful plants and spring flowers. Here are a few pictures from the visit.



THE SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART PRESENTS

Exploring Vietnam & Laos: Art & Culture, Past & Present

JANUARY 25 – FEBRUARY 10, 2018



Wat Wisunalat, Luang Prabang

Come join the Society for Asian Art as we explore the art and culture of the 21st century and of centuries past in Laos and Vietnam. Contrasts between old and new, past and present are seen throughout Southeast Asia, but are most strikingly evident in these two fascinating countries. On one day in Vietnam, we will be very much in the present as we dine with local professionals in their private homes discussing the art and culture of today. On another day, we will transport ourselves back to 192 AD and the kingdom of Chama as we explore the Cham temple ruins. The journey between past and present continues all the way to the magical Laotian city of Luang Prabang situated between the Mekong and Nam Khan Rivers. Here you will see beautiful textiles made using techniques that have remained the same over the centuries. You will also have the opportunity to dine at a variety of restaurants with cuisine rivaling the menus in any of today's major cities. The SAA is proud to offer this specially crafted journey to Vietnam and Laos giving you the opportunity to immerse yourself in their cultures, their histories and their ideas.

Tour Highlights

HANOI – 4 nights

Metropole Hotel

- ♦ Morning tour by pedi-cab around Hoan Kiem Lake
- ♦ Stroll through the ancient quarter of “36 streets & 36 wares” and local markets
- ♦ Explore Ethnology Museum
- ♦ Enjoy the performance of Traditional Vietnamese Water Puppets
- ♦ Tour the National Gallery of Arts with the local art expert, Suzanne Lecht
- ♦ Private reception at Art Vietnam Gallery
- ♦ Day excursion to the famous Bat Trang Pottery Village
- ♦ Dinner at a private home



Hanoi's ancient quarter

- ♦ Experience the early morning fish market
- ♦ Day excursion to Cham ruins of My Son with a local historian

HO CHI MINH CITY (HCMC) – 2 nights

Continental Hotel

- ♦ Take an orientation city tour of HCMC (Saigon)
- ♦ Free time at the famous Ben Thanh market
- ♦ Day excursion on the majestic Mekong River

VIENTIANE – 2 nights

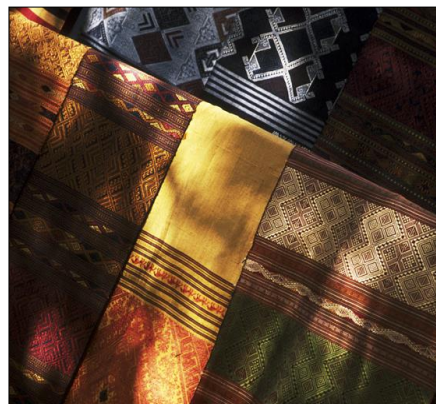
Green Park Boutique Hotel

- ♦ Explore the city and its many Wats and markets
- ♦ Witness local artisans at work
- ♦ Visit to the well-known artisan Carol Cassidy's textile shop

HUE – 2 nights

La Residence Hue Hotel & Spa

- ♦ Tour the ancient Citadel and Royal Tombs
- ♦ Morning boat cruise on Perfume River to visit Thien Mu Pagoda
- ♦ Enjoy authentic cuisine of Hue's royalty for lunch
- ♦ Visit to New Space Arts Gallery
- ♦ Special Tha Ohm dinner at a private traditional Hue style garden home



Laos' textiles

LUANG PRABANG – 3 nights

Sofitel Luang Prabang Hotel

- ♦ Visit to Wat Xieng Thong, National Museum (formerly Royal Palace), Wat Mai, Wat Sensoukarahm, and local market
- ♦ Join a private welcome Barsi ceremony
- ♦ Explore the weaving center Ock Pop Tok with an opportunity to take courses on weaving and natural dyes
- ♦ Experience the special monks' daily alms with an opportunity for food donation
- ♦ Private dinner with local experts at the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Center

DIFFICULTY LEVEL and TRAVEL INSURANCE:

There will be walking on uneven surfaces, stair climbing, and extended periods of standing. The trip is not suitable for those with mobility problems. SAA sells CSA Travel Protection Insurance 800.348.9505 www.csatravelprotection.com, Producer code: 20100719. You can buy trip insurance which will repay all non-refundable costs for cancelling this trip for ANY reason. This must be purchased at the time of your initial deposit.

Our trip begins in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, with a morning tour by pedi-cab around the historic Hoan Kiem Lake (Lake of the Restored Sword) and then continues with a walking tour to the ancient quarter of “36 streets and 36 wares”. We will visit the Ethnology Museum, Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, National Gallery of Art; and enjoy the performance of traditional Vietnamese water puppets. We will travel in a day trip to Bat Trang, the traditional

porcelain and pottery village which is seven centuries old.

We will fly to the former royal capital of Hue, visiting the Citadel and Royal Tombs and take a leisurely cruise on the Perfume River to the iconic Thien Mu Pagoda. In Hue, we will stop by the New Space Arts Gallery and enjoy both a Royal lunch and special Tha Ohm dinner.

From Hue, we travel by car to the quaint old town of Hoi An with a stop to visit the Cham Museum in Danang City. We will enjoy a walking tour of Hoi An visiting its numerous places of interest: the 400-year old Japanese Covered Bridge, the Phuc Kien Assembly Halls, the old House of Tan Ky. Get up early to visit the morning fish “wet” market to see the fishermen coming back with their first catches. We will have an excursion with a local historian to explore the Cham ruins of My Son. Enjoy some free time strolling around this lovely town with its many shops and galleries.

A morning flight takes us to Ho Chi Minh City, a bustling city of commerce. Spend the day to exploring the city

and feeling its energy, visiting the Reunification Hall (formerly Presidential Hall), the old Post Office, Notre Dame Cathedral and spend some free time at the busy Ben Thanh market. We will travel to the Mekong Delta for a full day excursion to experience the lush landscape, with its checkered rice paddies and winding rivers. Its abundant fruits and vegetables are evident in the colorful floating and land markets.

We will board the plane to Vientiane, the capital city of Laos, where we can explore its many Wats and markets. We will also visit the silk weaving facility and shop of the well-known artisan Carol Cassidy to see some of the finest Ikat works in the Southeast Asia.

With less than one hour flight, we will arrive at Luang Prabang, the former royal capital and cultural center and a World Heritage Site. This picturesque small town, located on the banks of the Mekong River and at the foothills of Mount Phousi, is endowed with stunning pastoral landscapes, ancient golden temples, and numerous monasteries. There is little traffic on the streets of Luang Prabang and monks in orange robes scurry in all directions carrying umbrellas to shade them from the sun. The Royal Palace, now the National Museum, Wat Xieng Thong, Wat Mai, Wat Sensoukaram will be on our schedule. We will have an opportunity to participate in a

local welcome Barsi ceremony. We will also visit the weaving center Ock Pop Tok to learn about the many different textiles from various ethnicities of Laos and to the Living Land Farm to experience the whole process of rice production. The trip will end with a private farewell dinner with local experts at the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Center.

**EXPLORING VIETNAM & LAOS:
ART & CULTURE, PAST & PRESENT
\$6,550 Per Person sharing a room
Single Room Supplement \$2,570**

The Tour Cost includes:

- 16 nights at hotels as listed in the itinerary, based on double occupancy
- Breakfast daily, 15 lunches, 12 dinners
- Two soft drinks or bottled water included with each meal, and bottled water during local transit
- Private reception and dinners
- One National tour guide & one local tour leader will travel with the group in each country
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- Ground and air transportation within & between Vietnam & Laos
- Private welcome Barsi ceremony
- Private boat trip on Mekong Delta
- Portage at airports
- Visa fees

Not included are:

- A \$400 donation to the Society for Asian Arts
- International airfares to Vietnam and from Laos
- Tour-related gratuities to guides, drivers, waiters and hotel porters
- Personal insurance for health, baggage, trip cancellation
- Items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed
- Excess luggage charges, laundry charges, and communication (phone, fax, internet) charges

RESERVATION FORM: Exploring Vietnam & Laos: Art & Culture, Past & Present

I would like to reserve _____ space(s) for EXPLORING VIETNAM & LAOS: ART & CULTURE, PAST & PRESENT, 2018

Enclosed is a deposit of \$500 per person, a total of \$ _____. **Please make checks payable to GLOBAL SPECTRUM**

(Your deposit is refundable any time prior to October 20, 2017, less a \$250 per person administration fee)

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.

Personal Information (please write clearly)

Name (participant 1) _____

Name (participant 2) _____

Address _____

Phone (1) Cell _____ Land line _____

Phone (2) Cell _____ Land line _____

Email (1) _____

Email (2) _____

Please send your Reservation Form and deposit check to: Society for Asian Art, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Applications will be accepted by mail only, enrollment priority will be based on the postmark date, and confirmed by email.

For more information, please call Global Spectrum at 703-890-0595 or the Society of Asian Art office at 415-581-3701