



July - August 2017

No. 4



Plum Blossoms, 1965, by Xiao Ru (Chinese). Ink on paper. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection, B66D5. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Flower Power

Plum blossoms, one of the six flowers featured in the *Flower Power* exhibition, are said to represent the transience of life. Pictured here is an exquisite Chinese hanging scroll from the Asian's collection (not currently on display). Visit the *Flower Power* exhibition to see more fabulous examples of flowers in Asian art.

June 23 to October 1



IN THIS ISSUE

Saturday, June 17

Lecture: Negotiating 'Betweenness' - A Foreign Artist in India with Waswo X. Waswo

Thursday, July 13

Visit to Berkeley Art Museum to see *Divine Visions, Earthly Pleasures: 500 Years of Indian Painting* with Robert J. Del Bontà

Friday, August 11

Lecture: The King Progresses to the Heavens with Forrest McGill

Saturday, August 12

Lecture: Cloisonné and Champlevé - The Marriage of Glass and Metal with Marsha Vargas Handley

Fridays, August 18 – November 17

Arts of Asia Fall Lecture Series

Sundays, October 15, 22, and 29

Literature and Culture of Asia: The Epic of Nations – *Shahnameh*, The Chronicle of Kings with Mitra Ara



UPCOMING EVENTS (subject to change)

Saturday, September 30

Vietnamese Textiles with Serena Lee

Thursday, October 5

Visit and talk/demonstration at the LOOT flower shop

Saturday, October 14

Visit to exhibition of Korean contemporary artists at Mills College



Manju (cake)-type openwork netsuke of chrysanthemums, approx. 1800–1900. Japan. Carved and lacquered wood. *Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection, B70Y1434*. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Society for Asian Art

July - August 2017, No. 4

Members' Newsletter
Edited by Trista Berkovitz,
Margaret Edwards,
and Jean Karnow
published bimonthly by:

Society for Asian Art
200 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
www.societyforasianart.org
(415) 581-3701

officemanager@societyforasianart.org

Copyright © 2017 Society for Asian Art

Board of Directors 2017-2018

President	Anne Adams Kahn
Vice President	Maureen Hetzel
Vice President	Peter Sinton
Secretary	Trista Berkovitz
Treasurer	Ed Baer
Asst. Treasurer	Vince Fausone

Melissa Abbe
Deborah Clearwaters*
Sheila Dowell
Margaret Edwards
Jennifer Kao
Etsuko Kobata
Myoung-Ja Kwon
Kristl W. Lee
Sherlyn Leong
Forrest McGill*
David Menke
Howard Moreland
Greg Potts
Merrill Randol
Pamela Royse
Ehler Spliedt
Nazneen Spliedt
Lucy Sun
Alice Trinkl
Kalim Winata
Sylvia Wong
Kasey Yang
Carolyn Young
*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

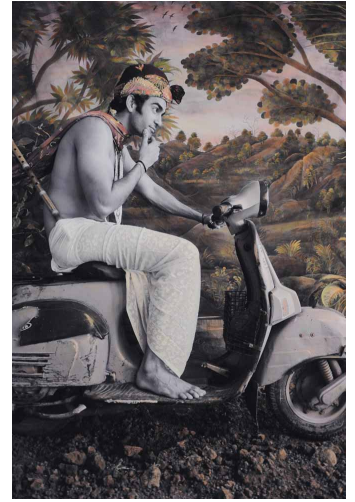


Negotiating 'Betweenness' - A Foreign Artist in India With Waswo X. Waswo

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 – Additional Tour Added! With Robert J. Del Bontà

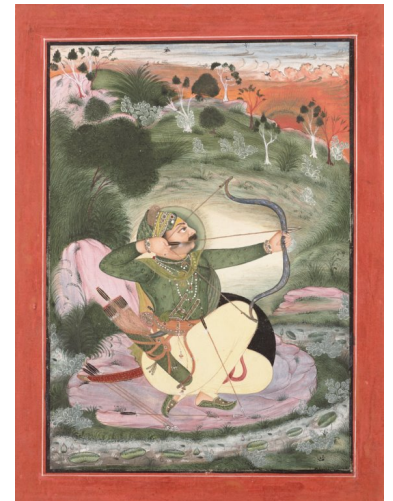
Note that due to high interest, we have added a second tour in addition to the previously-announced 11:00 am tour. Details of the second tour are shown below:

When: **Thursday, July 13**
Time: **2:00 pm**
Place: **Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley**
Fee: **\$30 members, includes lunch**
Society members only. Members on the 11:00 am tour waitlist will receive priority

Due to overwhelming response, we are offering a second tour of this exhibition guest-curated by Indian painting scholar and SAA Advisor Robert Del Bontà.

This exhibition at BAMPFA in Berkeley 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. This exhibition showcases disparate styles and trends.

This second tour will start in the afternoon, after lunch at Great China Restaurant in Berkeley.



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.



The King Progresses to the Heavens With Forrest McGill

When: **Friday, August 11**
Time: **10:30 pm – 12:00 pm**
Place: **Samsung Hall**
Fee: **\$15 Society members; \$20 non-members (after Museum admission)**

One of the world's grandest and most solemn ceremonies, the cremation rites of a king of Thailand, will take place this fall, after a year of official mourning. Conchs will be blown and ancient music played as a parade of colorfully-clad soldiers and officials accompany the coffin, carried on a monumental golden chariot, to the place of cremation.

The ceremonies, and the structures built for them, follow a long history reaching back to the Angkor period of ancient Cambodia. Reliefs, building plans, and paintings help trace the tradition, as do nineteenth-century photographs and twentieth-century films of state funerals. A major development in our understanding of the tradition came with the discovery in 2015 of two scrolls made in 1704 depicting that year's elaborate royal cremation.

Dr. Forrest McGill, Wattis Senior Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art and Director of the Research Institute for Asian Art, needs no introduction to our members. He will explain to us the rituals and their significance. This is a timely subject as Thailand prepares to hold this ceremony for their dearly departed king this Fall.



Cloisonné and Champlevé - The Marriage of Glass and Metal With Marsha Vargas Handley

When: **Saturday, August 12**
Time: **2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**
Place: **Education Studios**
Fee: **\$15 Society members; \$20 non-members (after Museum admission)**

This lecture will examine the history of cloisonné and champlevé in Asia as well as the origins of this technically challenging art form in the early medieval Middle East. It will explore the techniques and materials used to produce these fabulous works of art, and will elaborate on how styles and technology changed from pre-Ming China to late Meiji Japan.

Marsha Vargas Handley, a long-time SAA member and friend, was a dealer in Asian arts for over 45 years as the owner of Xanadu Gallery in San Francisco. As a Senior Member of the American Society of Appraisers, Marsha has been certified as an appraiser in Asian art for over 35 years and has handled and studied a wide range of Asian works of art.



Cloisonné double vase, Chinese 18th century.
George Walter Vincent Smith Art
Museum, Springfield, Mass.



The Epic of Nations - *Shahnameh*, The Chronicle of Kings With Mitra Ara

When: **Sundays, October 15, 22, and 29**

Time: **10:15 am – 12:15 pm**

Place: **Education Studios**

Fee: **\$60 Society members; \$75 non-members (after Museum admission)**

Ancient Iranians, like other peoples of antiquity, created narrative poems and prose works of legendary and heroic content.

We will focus on *The Book of the Kings*, or *Shahnameh*, composed over a thousand years ago by the Persian poet Ferdowsi, reviewing the work with illustrated paintings from different manuscripts. This monumental volume in 50,000 verses is a compilation of various mythological and heroic episodes in a single epic. It tells the story of several Iranian peoples from the creation of the world to the seventh century Common Era. Other related accounts from the earlier Avestan and Middle Persian texts will also be introduced, but the *Shahnameh* is regarded as the national epic of many nations.

Primary reading materials will be from *Stories from the Shahnameh of Ferdowsi* (Abolqhasem Ferdowsi, translated to English by Dick Davis, Mage Publishers, 2004). Other selected readings will be introduced as we proceed.

Dr. Mitra Ara is professor and founding director of Persian Studies at San Francisco State University, where she lectures on the Ancient Iranian cultures, religions, and mythologies.



The hero Rustam kills the White Demon, from a manuscript of the *Shahnameh* (Book of Kings), approx. 1580. Iran; perhaps Shiraz. Opaque watercolors on paper. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, From the Collection of William K. Ehrenfeld, M.D., 2005.64.162. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.



Lotus Leaves Is Now Online!

Lotus Leaves has now joined the many scholarly publications that are **online only**. Each issue will be sent to members by email, and will be available for download from the SAA's website.

If you haven't yet received your email for the Spring 2017 issue, please contact Jean Karnow at officemanager@societyforasianart.org.

Society Book Sale 2018

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!

We are pleased to announce the 2017 Book Sale made over \$8,400 for the Museum's C.Lann Chun Library. Thank you to everyone who participated.

THE SAA IS A VENDOR OF CSA TRAVEL PROTECTOR INSURANCE

It is quite easy to buy any travel protection insurance by using the CSA policies which are detailed in a brochure available in the SAA office. Each time you use CSA, the SAA earns a commission which goes into our general fund. You can sign up on-line at www.csatravelpro.com. Or you can call an agent at 1-800-834-8853. Please use our "Producer Code" of 20100719 so that we get credit. There is a wide range of coverage available, from emergency medical insurance to complete trip cancellation policies.



Lotus Water Dropper I, by Kim Kichul (Korean, b. 1935). Korea. Glazed porcelain. *Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Gift of Frank S. Bayley, F2012.43.2.* Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.



SAA members enjoying a tour by Crocker Museum curator Amelie Chau of the exhibition *Into the Fold: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics from the Horvitz Collection*. Photos by Stephen Pegors.





REGISTRATION FORM

How to Register

To Register you may:

1. Go to our website, sign up and pay online: www.societyforasianart.org

OR

2. Print this registration form and send it with a check to: SAA, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

We cannot accept fax registrations at this time. Please use mail, our website, or call the office.

Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. If a program becomes fully enrolled, your payment will be returned. Refunds are granted for cancellations up to one business week before the event and take one or two weeks to process. **SAA does not issue tickets or confirmations. You will be contacted ONLY if your registration cannot be completed.**

Paid Programs	Fee	Quantity	Sub-Total
<input type="checkbox"/> June 17: Negotiating 'Betweenness' - A Foreign Artist in India with Waswo X. Waswo	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> July 13: Visit to Berkeley Art Museum: <i>Divine Visions, Earthly Pleasures: 500 Years of Indian Painting</i> with Robert J. Del Bontá	\$30 Members Members Only		
<input type="checkbox"/> August 11: The King Progresses to the Heavens with Forrest McGill	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> August 12: Cloisonné and Champlevé — The Marriage of Glass and Metal with Marsha Vargas Handley	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fridays, August 18-November 17: Fall Arts of Asia Lecture Series	\$175 Members \$200 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sundays, October 15, 22, and 29: The Epic of Nations— <i>Shahnameh, The Chronicle of Kings</i> with Mitra Ara	\$60 Members \$75 Non-Members		

E-Mail _____ Total _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Visa MC Discover _____ - _____ - _____
Card Number Expiration Date CCV# (3-digit # on back)

Signature