Society for Asian Art Newsletter for Members



November - December 2017



Bridal robe (hwalot), 1975, by Han Sang-soo (Korean, 1934-2016). Silk with embroidery. Asian Art Museum, Gift of the Museum Society Auxiliary, 1995.54.a-.b. Photograph © Asian Art Museum.

Couture Korea November 3, 2017 – February 4, 2018

Korea has long been known for the style, bold aesthetics, and craftsmanship of its fashion. Couture Korea will highlight both contemporary and historical Korean fashion, and the context in which it was created. This is the first U.S. exhibition to do so, so don't miss it!





Fridays, August 18 - November 17

Arts of Asia Fall Lecture Series

Saturday, October 14

Visit to Mills College Art Museum: In-Between Places: Korean-American Artists in the Bay Area with Linda Inson Choy

Sundays, October 15, 22, and 29

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

Wednesday, November 8

Lecture: Objects, Museums, and Restitution: A Cambodian Perspective with Kong Vireak

Wednesday, November 15

Visit to Berkeley Art Museum: Repentant Monk: Illusion and Disillusion in the Art of Chen Hongshou with Julia White

Sunday, December 3

SAA Holiday Party at The Zentner Collection in Emeryville

Sunday, December 10

Lecture: Temples of Laos with Graeme Vanderstoel



UPCOMING EVENTS (subject to change)

Fridays, January 26 - April 27

Arts of Asia Spring Lecture Series, Art on the Move Across Asia and Beyond - Part II



Wrapping cloth (bojagi), 1950–1960. Korea. Silk, pieced. *Asian Art Museum, Gift of Mrs. Ann Witter*, 2000.22. Photograph © Asian Art Museum.

Society for Asian Art

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ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2017 LECTURE SERIES

Art on the Move Across Asia and Beyond - Part I

When: Fridays, October 13 - 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

The Fall Arts of Asia lecture series is part of 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 Fall lectures continue through November 17 as scholars and curators investigate the role of art, such as paper, dance, textiles, and costumes, in the exchange of knowledge.

The discussion continues in January 2018 when scholars focus on exchanges within and beyond Asia in Part II of Art on the Move across Asia and Beyond.



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.

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

On the Silk Paper Road: How Paper Traveled from China to the West **Jonathan Bloom**, Boston College

November 3

Fashion and Anxiety in Tang China (618-907 CE) **Suzanne Cahill,** UC San Diego

November 10

Feathered Gowns and Twirling Barbarians: Dance Exchanges across Central and East Asia in the Tang Dynasty (7th-10th centuries) and Beyond

Emily Wilcox, University of Michigan

November 17

Changing Clothes in Asia: Inspiration vs. Appropriation

A Panel of Asian Art Museum Curators

In-Between Places: Korean-American Artists in the Bay Area With Linda Inson Choy

When: Saturday, October 14
Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Place: Mills College Art Museum, 5000 MacArthur Blvd, Oakland

Fee: \$15 Society members; \$20 non-members

This exhibition, organized by Mills College, features new works of Korean American artists Jung Ran Bae, Sohyung Choi, Kay Kang, Miran Lee, Youngjune Lew, Nicholas Oh, Younhee Paik, and Minji Sohn. Their works reveal the reality and complexities of being a Korean American artist in the Bay Area—a location that has served as a gateway for Korean culture and a bridge between Korea and the West. The exhibition embraces both traditional Korean and contemporary western approaches to art making. Many Korean Americans have described their cultural identity as occupying an "in-between" space.



Kay Kang, Guests Missed, 2017.

Independent curator Linda Inson Choy, a specialist in contemporary Korean art, will lead our group on an in-depth walk through of this important exhibition. She has an extensive background in Korean and Asian Art and is a historian and curator. She was also a curatorial assistant at the AAM. Her main aim is to collaborate with artists and help them contextualize local and global environments.

Objects, Museums, and Restitution: A Cambodian Perspective With Kong Vireak

When: Wednesday, November 8
Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Place: Samsung Hall

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

In the last half of the 20th century, Cambodia was a conflict-torn nation which experienced enormous destruction to all sectors of society. Large-scale looting and illicit trade in age-old antiquities led to many of these objects losing their original identities. Cambodia is now demonstrating a strong commitment to its heritage protection and conservation. With the help of UNESCO and the international community, the National Museum of Cambodia has been able to retrieve and study many of these lost objects.



Restoration work at the National Museum of Cambodia

Director Kong will give us a historic perspective on Cambodian art and will talk about the ongoing efforts at restoration and conservation. He is making a special visit to San Francisco after participating at an International Symposium on Cambodia.

Kong Vireak has been the Director of the Department of Museums in the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in Cambodia since 2013. He has a B.A. in Archeology and Art History from the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh and a M.A. in Anthropology from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes des Sciences Sociales in Paris.

Repentant Monk: Illusion and Disillusion in the Art of Chen Hongshou With Julia White

When: Wednesday, November 15
Time: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Place: Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archives, Berkeley

Fee: \$15 Society members; \$20 non-members

This exhibition focuses on Chen Hongshou (陳洪綬; 1599-1652), a major figure in Chinese painting of the late Ming and early Qing dynasties. Highlighting a careful selection of his best extant work, including figure, landscape, and bird-and-flower paintings drawn from UC Berkeley's Art Museum holdings as well as collections worldwide, this exhibition demonstrates why Chen has long been regarded as one of the most visually exciting artists of his time.

Chen's iconic manner of painting figures utilizing a variety of styles borrowed from ancient masters lends an aura of antiquity to his work, which is equally charged by distinct expressions of irony, humor, and pathos. In his landscape paintings, we recognize his vast knowledge of past traditions, while in his bird-and-flower paintings we see a remarkable freshness and modernity that has tremendous popular appeal.

The Repentant Monk exhibition is organized by BAMPFA senior curator for Asian art Julia M. White, who has again graciously offered to guide us through this not-to-be-missed exhibition. Julia is also one of the Advisers on the SAA Advisory Board.



Hermit in landscape, approx. 1618–1652, by Chen Hongshou (Chinese, 1598–1652). Ink and colors on silk. *Asian Art Museum, Museum purchase*, B79D8. Photograph © Asian Art Museum.

SAA's Annual Holiday Party The Zentner Collection

When: Sunday, December 3 Time: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Place: The Zentner Collection, 5757 Horton Street, Emeryville

Fee: \$45 Society members; \$50 non-members

Join SAA for our annual holiday festivity at Zentner's newly-redesigned 4,000 square foot gallery in the East Bay. The gallery will be ablaze with holiday regalia and the best of Zentner's vast collection of Asian art and furnishings. It will truly be a winter wonderland!

We will enjoy wine and a sit-down Indian meal while being regaled with live music by "Just Us". Gift items small and large will be on sale and members will receive a 25% discount on all items, with complimentary gift wrapping and party favors for all. In addition, there will be a special silent auction of four exceptional Ikebana baskets, with a flower-arranging session with master Japanese Ikebanist Hideko Metaxas of the Ikenobo Society for each winner.

Don't miss this guaranteed seasonal highlight!



Japanese scroll from the Zentner Collection

Temples of Laos With Graeme Vanderstoel

When: Sunday, December 10
Time: 2:00 pm — 3:30 pm
Place: Educations Studios

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

The finest Buddhist temples of Laos are preserved in the ancient royal capital Luang Prabang, and are surrounded by mountains at the conflux of the mighty Mekong and Nam Khan rivers. Dating from the 16th to 19th century, the temples are distinctive in style and decoration from the ones in Thailand. They have been well-preserved despite the turbulence of past centuries and are part of the unique qualities that have earned Luang Prabang UNESCO World Heritage status. Their monasteries and monks continue to be an important part of Lao ceremonies, festivals, and culture.

SAA member Graeme Vanderstoel is an avid photographer and antiquarian book dealer who has studied and been involved in Asian religion and art, especially the performing arts, for well over 50 years, including leading many trips to Asia. Over the past 10 years, he has been documenting the temples of Luang Prabang and their rich legacy.



Vat Khili in Luang Prabang- Laos. Photograph Graeme Vanderstoel



LITERATURE AND CULTURE OF ASIA

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 *Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings* by Abolqasem Ferdowsi, translated to English by Dick Davis, published in 2007 and 2016 by Penguin Classics. 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 Shahnama (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.



OTHER NEWS

Dunhuang Foundation Event

The Dunhuang Foundation is cordially inviting SAA members to a special presentation on the Mogao Caves in Dunhuang. Noted scholar and the Foundation Chair Mimi Gardner Gates will introduce the work of the foundation, which has recently moved to San Francisco. In addition, Stanford Professor of Art Xiaoze Xie will speak about the history and importance of Dunhuang, particularly Cave 17, the "Library Cave". Professor Xiaoze Xie is the first Artist-in-Residence of the foundation and has researched and worked on the "Library Cave" in Dunhuang.

When: Friday, November 10
Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Place: Samsung Hall

Fee: Free with Museum admission

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!



Save the Date! Philadelphia - May 21 - 26, 2018

Come join the SAA on our "Phabulous Philly" trip. Top curators at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (Dr. Felice Fischer and Dr. Darielle Mason) and at the University of Pennsylvania (Dr. Nancy Steinhardt) will guide us through their collections. We will also tour Winterthur, the former DuPont estate with its world-famous collection of American antiques, and see their conservation labs accompanied by conservator/curator Dr. Joyce Hill Stoner. While in the area, we will also explore the Brandywine River Museum of Art seeing their new exhibition, 3 Generations of Wyeths, and visiting the family home and studio of Andrew Wyeth.

Mark your calendars now for May 21 - 26, 2018. Trip details and the registration form will be included in the next newsletter.

SAA IS A VENDOR OF CSA TRAVEL PROTECTOR INSURANCE

Buying travel protection insurance is easy if you follow the policies detailed in the CSA brochure available in the SAA office. CSA has a wide range of coverage available, from emergency medical insurance to complete trip cancellation protection. Each time you use CSA, the SAA earns a commission which goes into our general fund. Sign up on-line at www.csatravelpro.com or call 1-800-834-8853. Please use SAA's Producer Code 20100719, so we get credit.



SAA Board members touring the Asian Art Museum Library with John Stuckey

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
October 13-November 17: Fall Arts of Asia Lecture Series	\$175 Members \$200 Non-Members		
☐ October 14: Visit to Mills College Art Museum with Linda Inson Choy	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
□ November 8: Objects, Museums, and Restitution with Kong Vireak	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
☐ November 15: Visit to Berkeley Art Museum with Julia White	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
☐ December 3: SAA Holiday Party at The Zentner Collection in Emeryville	\$45 Members \$50 Non-Members		
☐ December 10: Temples of Laos with Graeme Vanderstoel	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		

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