



# THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON





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March (date to be announced)

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First Thursday Lecture Series Resumes with Marsha Vargas Handley

Friday, April 13

Lecture: Nepalese exhibition at the Crocker Museum with Nancy Tingley

### *Society for Asia Art*

January - February No. 1

Members' Newsletter

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### **Nominations for Society Board**

The Nominating Committee is looking for candidates to serve on the Society Board. This is a working board with all members serving on at least one committee. If you are interested yourself or know of someone else, please contact the Society office.

### **Announcing a New Storyteller Training**

If you love folk tales, fairy tales or even tall tales, consider signing up to be a storyteller at the ASIAN. Interviews will be held on January 26th. Training will begin on February 23. For more information, contact Ginny Meyer at: [ginnymeyer@gmail.com](mailto:ginnymeyer@gmail.com) or Caren Gutierrez at: [cgutierrez@asianart.org](mailto:cgutierrez@asianart.org).



## The Arts of Southeast Asia and the Himalayas: The Sacred and the Secular Instructor of Record: Forrest McGill

When: **Fridays, January 20 – April 27**

Time: **10:30 am – 12:30 pm**

Place: **Samsung Hall**

Fee: **\$135 Society Members, \$160 non-members (for the whole series, after Museum admission)**

**\$15 per lecture drop-in (after Museum admission, no reservations needed)**

Register now for the NEW Arts of Asia lecture series and join us as we explore the art of Southeast Asia and the Himalayas. Featuring prominent scholars and curators from across the country, the fifteen Spring lectures will showcase many treasures of the Asian Art Museum and illuminate sacred and secular traditions from the steamy kingdoms in the east and south of India to the mountainous realms to the north. Some lecturers will focus on reigns and regions— including Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Tibet, and Vietnam. Others will delve into cultural connections and religious traditions, including Hinduism, Theravada and Vajrayana (Esoteric) Buddhism. Common themes throughout the series include sacred space, belief and ritual practice, kingship and trade. This lecture series coincides with the second semester of a three-year training program for new Museum docents.



### **January 20**

Southeast Asia: Art, Culture, Connections  
Forrest McGill, Asian Art Museum

### **January 27**

Royal Signs: Kingship and Art in Early Southeast Asia  
Robert Brown, UC Los Angeles

### **February 3**

The Road to the Four Mansions: An Introduction to  
Theravada Buddhist History and Teachings  
Justin McDaniel, University of Pennsylvania

### **February 10**

Majesty and Intimacy in the Art of Ancient Cambodia  
Hiram Woodward, former curator, Walters Art Museum, Baltimore

### **February 17**

Reflections on Thai Art: From the Kingdoms of  
Sukhothai, Lanna, Ayutthaya, and Bangkok  
Pat Chirapravati, Cal State University, Sacramento

### **February 24**

Serving the Sacred and the Secular: The Arts of Burma  
Sylvia Fraser-Lu, independent scholar

### **March 2**

Hinduism, Buddhism and the Mother Cult in the Khmer  
and Cham territories of Vietnam  
John Guy, Metropolitan Museum of Art

### **March 9**

Into the Archipelago: Early Arts of Indonesia  
Natasha Reichle, Asian Art Museum

### **March 16**

Temple, Mosque, Court and Village: Later Arts of Indonesia  
Natasha Reichle, Asian Art Museum

### **March 23**

Native and National: Art in the Philippines  
Corazon Alvina, Vice Chairman, Metropolitan Museum of  
Manila

### **March 30**

Lightning Lineages: The Hidden History of Vajrayana Art in  
Asia  
Jeff Durham, Asian Art Museum

### **April 6**

Vajra Visions: Decoding the Esoteric Art of the Himalayas  
Jeff Durham, Asian Art Museum

### **April 13**

Southeast Asian Art, Artifacts, and Material Culture in  
Global Context  
Eric Tagliacozzo, Cornell University

### **April 20**

Trans-Himalaya: Artistic Exchange Between Tibet and Late  
Imperial China  
Patricia Berger, UC Berkeley

### **April 27**

The Local in the Global: Contemporary Art in Southeast  
Asia and the Himalayas  
Sandra Cate, San Jose State University



## SYMPOSIUM

### Maharajas: Political Theatre and the Romance of the East

When: **Saturday, January 28**  
 Time: **10:15 am -- 4:15 pm**  
 Place: **Samsung Hall**  
 Fee: **\$40, after Museum admission (includes lunch box)**  
**Co-sponsored by SACHI (Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India)**

Our speakers will address various aspects of the maharajas' cultural patronage and its impact on Indian art and politics from the eighteenth through the early twentieth centuries. Topics will include responses to British colonialism in India, issues of identity during the British Raj, and Indian engagement with European culture.

Speakers include:  
*Tushara Bindu Gude, Associate Curator of South and South East Asian Art at LACMA; Barbara Metcalf, Professor Emeritus, History of South Asia, UC Davis; Thomas Metcalf, Professor Emeritus, History and Indian Studies, UC Berkeley; Sudipta Sen, Professor of History and Middle East and South Asian Studies, UC Davis*



Pratap Singh of Orcha



## STUDY GROUPS

### Beauty in Everyday Things: Burmese Crafts With Sylvia Fraser-Lu

When: **Saturday February 25**  
 Time: **10:15 am -- 3:00 pm**  
 Place: **Education Studio**  
 Fee: **\$45 Society members, \$55 non-members, after Museum admission (includes lunch)**  
 Note: **Registration required**

Ms. Fraser-Lu tells us that "a visitor to Burma cannot but be impressed by the wealth of traditional arts and crafts still in existence throughout the country. A casual stroll up the stairway of any of the larger pagodas will reveal a host of simple, finely-crafted local objects for sale."

In the morning Ms. Fraser-Lu will discuss the historical development and role of crafts in society. She will also talk about the influences and contributions of Buddhism and of Burma's regional neighbors such as China and India. Following lunch, we will examine specific objects. Members are welcome to bring in objects, excluding textiles, for "show and tell". Note that all objects must be registered at the desk at the Museum's side entrance on McAllister before being brought into the museum.

*After graduating from Otago University, Sylvia Fraser-Lu, a New Zealander by birth, spent many years as an educator in a variety of teaching and administrative positions in East and Southeast Asia. In recent years she has turned her attention to Burma with publications such as *Burmese Lacquerware* (Orchid Press, 1985 and 2000, Bangkok), *Burmese Crafts: Past and Present* (Oxford Press 1993, Singapore), and *Splendour in Wood: The Buddhist Monasteries of Burma* (Orchid Press, 2001). She continues to write and lecture on Southeast Asian art.*



**Don't forget the Annual Society Book Sale.** This year it will be held on Friday, March 9 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Make room on your shelves for bargains galore by clearing out your old, no-longer-wanted books and donating them to the Society for someone else to enjoy. You can bring donations to the Society office, the collection box at every Arts of Asia lecture or you can call Jim to inquire about a possible pick up. We accept books on all subjects relating to Asia: art, history, literature, culture, travel and even cooking! All proceeds will benefit the ASIAN's world class library.

**The First Thursday lecture series** will begin again on April 5 with an exciting lecture by Marsha Vargas Handley, President of the International Netsuke Society and owner of Xanadu Gallery on Maiden Lane in San Francisco. You won't want to miss it and, at \$10 (after Museum admission), it's still the best deal in town!



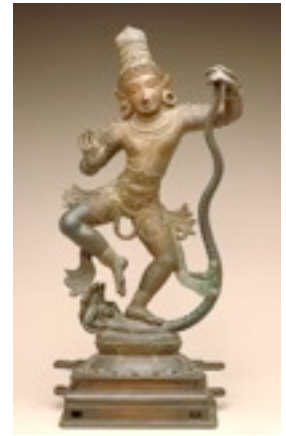
## Krishna Tales

With Sally and Robert Goldman

When: **Six Sundays, March and April (final dates to be determined)**  
Time: **10:15 am – 12:15 pm**  
Place: **Education Studio**  
Fee: **\$100 Society members, \$125 non-members, after Museum admission**  
Note: **Fee does not include texts or materials**

Join us and the Goldmans for their new course focusing on Indian and Southeast Asian tales of Krishna. The six-week course is intended to complement the year-long Arts of Asia focus on South Asia and Southeast Asia. A more detailed explanation of the course will be available in the next newsletter, on the Society website, and on flyers available in the Museum in January.

Professor Robert P. Goldman and Sally Goldman both teach in the South and Southeast Asian Studies Department at UC Berkeley. Both have published widely in the fields of Sanskrit literature and Indian epics. Their most recent scholarly work is the definitive, critical and fully annotated edition of Valmiki's Ramayana.



Krishna overcoming the serpent Kaliya. AAM.



## MEMBER EVENTS

### Collecting Indian Painting in the West: Power, Pictures, and Personalities

With Daniel Ehnbohm

When: **Saturday, January 7**  
Time: **2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
Place: **Education Studio**  
Fee: **\$15 Society members, \$25 non-members, after Museum admission**  
**Space is limited, registration required**

The story of western exposure to Indian painting is rife with drama, enormous egos, and fascinating history. The first Indian paintings known to have come to the West are in the Laud Ragamala album presented by William Laud, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Bodleian Library in Oxford around 1640, just a few decades after its creation and a few years before Laud was executed by order of Oliver Cromwell. This less than auspicious beginning augured a checkered future for the collection of Indian painting, which, not surprisingly, was closely linked to the British colonial enterprise. Another early collector was the brilliant and eccentric William Beckford, whose 18th century collecting career coincided with the gradual dispersal of the Moghul imperial library.



Enraged Elephant. India, Rajasthan, Kota, c. 1740. Opaque color on paper. Private Collection.

Collecting waxed and waned until the early 20th century when the renowned scholar A.K. Coomaraswamy produced the 1916 study, *Rajput Painting*, that opened Western eyes. Coomaraswamy's collecting formed the basis for the seminal collection in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Indian independence and partition generated still another wave of interest, leading to the creation of more public and private collections of great importance, contributing to a Golden Age whose like will not be seen again soon.

Dr. Daniel Ehnbohm is Associate Professor of South Asian Art at the University of Virginia and adjunct curator of South Asian art at UVA Art Museum. Among his numerous publications on Indian art and architecture is *Indian Miniatures: The Ehrenfeld Collection*.

### Save the Date: Minneapolis Trip: Saturday, May 19 - Thursday, May 24

Highlights Include:

- Minneapolis Institute of Art
  - Walker Museum and Sculpture Garden
- St. John's University to see the St. John's Bible, Pottery Studio and Kiln and meet Richard Bresnahan (master potter)
- The Weismann Collection at the University of Minnesota
- The Russian Museum

Further Details will follow in an upcoming newsletter. Itinerary Subject to Change.



## MEMBER EVENTS

### Curated Tour: The Matter Within: Contemporary Indian Art With Betti-Sue Hertz

When: **Sunday, January 22**  
Time: **2:00 pm – 3:00 pm**  
Place: **Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco)**  
Fee: **\$10 Society members, \$12 non-members, includes Yerba Buena Center admission**

The International Art Market is buzzing over new contemporary art from Asia and the ASIAN will open a major exhibit featuring examples of this art, *Phantoms of Asia*, next May. Why not jump ahead and start learning more about new Asian art now? Join the Society for a tour of the critically acclaimed exhibit, *The Matter Within: New Contemporary Art of India*, at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Led by Yerba Buena curator Betti-Sue Hertz this tour will examine exciting examples of photography and sculpture as well as video art coming out of India today.



Yog Raj Chitrakar: *Memory Drawing VI*

Participants are encouraged to rendezvous at nearby restaurants before or after the tour (e.g. Amber India and the Mexican restaurant, Tropisueno) and/or to take advantage of other cultural institutions and galleries in the area such as SFMOMA, the Folk and Craft Museum, the Contemporary Jewish Museum, and the Frey Norris Gallery. The SAA office will send out a list of tour participants to everyone in time to plan other activities together.

*Betti-Sue Hertz is director of visual arts at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. She was curator of contemporary art at the San Diego Museum of Art for many years, has published major exhibition and catalog projects with a focus on Asian art and has contributed to many periodicals.*

### Play Like a Lion Screening With Joshua Mellars and Alam Khan

When: **Sunday, February 19**  
Time: **2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
Place: **Samsung Hall**  
Fee: **\$15, after Museum admission**



Ali Akbar Kahn

*Play Like A Lion* is a thought provoking documentary accompanied by a stunning soundtrack of Indian classical music. Ali Akbar Khan, legendary Indian musician, teacher, and founder of the Ali Akbar School of Music in San Rafael, was the last of the great court musicians employed by the Maharaja of Jodhpur. The film depicts the journey of his American born son, Alam Khan, to India on his first concert tour without his father. The film examines Ali Akbar Khan's remarkable achievements through his son's eyes and interviews with famous musicians like Carlos Santana and The Grateful Dead's Mickey Hart. The film premiered at the Mill Valley Film Festival recently and is currently making the rounds of international film festivals.

The screening will be followed by a question and answer session with its director, the award winning documentary filmmaker, Joshua Mellars, and Ali Akbar Khan's son, Alam, an accomplished sarode player who is featured in the film and will be performing in Samsung Hall at the ASIAN on February 26.

### Concert: Indian Classical Music With Alam Khan, sarode

When: **Sunday, February 26**  
Time: **2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
Place: **Samsung Hall**  
Fee: **\$25, after Museum admission**



Alam Khan

Alam Khan, internationally acclaimed musician and son of the legendary Ali Akbar Khan, will perform a concert of Indian classical music on sarode accompanied by tabla. Mr. Khan has given concerts in the United States, Canada, Europe and India and was featured in the documentary *Play Like A Lion* (see note on February 19 screening above). His CD, *Shades of Sarode*, was recently issued.

*Alam Khan teaches advanced instrumental and vocal classes at the Ali Akbar College of Music in San Rafael.*



## Member Events

### Overnight Trip to Monterey, Home Visit, Dinner, Exhibition and Sale at Orientations and a Lacquerware Demonstration

When: **Saturday, March 3 and Sunday, March 4**  
Place: **Addresses TBA to participants**  
Fee: **\$65 Society members, \$80 non-members**

We begin our visit at 4:00 pm at the home of one of the ASIAN's most generous benefactors where we will enjoy viewing a superb collection of paintings by Monterey area artists, sculpture by renowned Korean artist Cho Duck Hyun, and a traditional Hanoak house on our host's property, among other delights.

At 5:30 pm we will adjourn to the spectacular Orientations Gallery for a one-time only West Coast show and sale of contemporary Japanese lacquer works by internationally acclaimed father and son, Yugi and Yoshio Okada, both of whom will be in attendance. These award-winning creations represent the pinnacle of contemporary lacquer art and are in major museum collections around the world. They are, quite simply, stunning. Our hosts Jerry Janssen and Russ Young will feed and water us this evening with their usual flair and finesse. On Sunday morning at 11:00 am we will rendezvous again at Orientations for coffee, tea and breakfast treats and for a demonstration by the Okadas of their medium. Participants are on their own for transportation and hotel accommodations. The Society will help connect those who wish to carpool. Register early – space is limited, and this is a very special opportunity!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends,

The long winter evenings invite us to reflect over the past year, but I'd like you to look at the coming year; while you plan your upcoming Holidays with your families, our Board members are busy organizing an exciting program for you in 2012.

We start in the first week of January with a lecture by Dan Ehnbohm and, after six weeks of vacation, our ever-popular Arts of Asia series starts its Spring Semester covering Southeast Asia and the roof of the world, the Himalayas. We are organizing a one-day symposium for the end of January titled Maharajas: Political Theatre and the Romance of the East with a group of great lecturers. Please read the details in this newsletter.

An overnight trip to the Monterey Peninsula is planned for early March as well as a trip to Minneapolis later in the spring. We are working on home visits with great collections and travel to Myanmar (Burma) plus our usual lineup of lectures and events in the Museum.

All this information will be made available on our website, which has been totally redesigned to be more user-friendly and informative; you can even sign up and pay online for all our events. Go to: [societyforasianart.org](http://societyforasianart.org) to view the new site.

We are also going to celebrate the New Year, which, with our diverse membership, is rather adventurous as it not only covers January 1, but also Chinese New Year, Vietnam's Tet, Korean New Year and Nowruz for the Iranians and Zoroastrians. So in the spirit of the Society for Asian Art, we wish all of you a heartfelt Happy New Year!

Ehler and the entire Board

### Contact Information

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Web: [www.societyforasianart.org](http://www.societyforasianart.org)



# How to Register

To Register you May:

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

OR

2. Print this registration form and fax it with your credit card information to: 415-861-2358

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.



## REGISTRATION FORM

Paid Programs	Fee	Quantity	Sub-Total
<input type="checkbox"/> January 7: Collecting Indian Painting in the West w/ Daniel Ehnbohm	\$15 Members \$25 Non-members		
<input type="checkbox"/> January 20 - April 27: Spring Arts of Asia Lecture Series	\$135 Members \$160 Non-members		
<input type="checkbox"/> January 22: Contemporary Indian Art Exhibit w/ Betti-Sue Hertz	\$10 Members \$12 Non-members		
<input type="checkbox"/> January 28: Symposium: Political Theater and the Romance of the East	\$40		
<input type="checkbox"/> February 19: <i>Play Like a Lion</i> w/ Joshua Mellars and Alam Khan	\$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> February 25: Burmese Crafts w/ Sylvia Fraser-Lu	\$45 Members \$55 Non-members		
<input type="checkbox"/> February 26: Classical Indian Music w/ Alam Khan	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> March 3 and 4: Overnight Trip to Monterey and Orientations Gallery	\$65 Members \$80 Non-members		
<input type="checkbox"/> March & April: Literature and Culture of Asia, Krishna Tales	\$100 Members \$125 Non-members		

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

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 Signature