Society for Asian Art

Newsletter for Members

March–April 2015

Seduction: Japan’s Floating World

February 20 – May 10, 2015

Journey into the exotic world of the Yoshiwara as seen through the John C. Weber collection of prints, paintings, and robes. Visit the rarely seen ukiyo-e woodblock prints from the Asian Art Museum's Grashorn Collection.

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Thursday, April 16
Lecture: Chinese Minority Textiles — Exploring Techniques and Sources with Pam Najdowski

Sundays, April 19 and 26
Literature and Culture of Asia: Islam and the Visual World with Carel Bertram

Friday, April 24
Lecture: The Perfect Tea Thief with Pam Chun

Saturday, May 2
Lecture: Lost in Translation: Japan’s New Prints in Modern America with Kendall Brown

UPCOMING EVENTS (subject to change)

Thursday, May 14
SAA Annual Meeting and Reception

Saturday, May 30
Artist’s Studio Visit with Lee Middleman

Saturday, June 27
Talk on Jazz with Cory Combs

SAA Board Nominations

The Nominating Committee is looking for candidates to serve on the SAA Board of Directors for the 2015-2016 term. This is a working board with all members serving on at least one committee. If you would like to be considered or wish to recommend a potential candidate, please contact the Society office.
Islam and the Visual World  
With Carel Bertram

When:  Sunday, April 19 and Sunday, April 26  
Time:  10:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Place:  Education Studios  
Fee:  $40 Society members, $45 non-members (after Museum admission)

Over the centuries Muslim artists, architects, calligraphers, illuminators, and illustrators have given visual form to religious history, intellectual ideas, imperial goals, and human aspirations. Using both visual and literary sources, this class is an introduction to their aesthetic imagination. In part one we explore Qur’ans, religious history manuscripts, and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem as visualizations of the transcendent in Islam. In part two we focus on the imperial city of Istanbul as a visualization of Ottoman Turkish urban ideals in an Islamic context.

Carel Bertram is an Associate Professor in the Humanities Department at San Francisco State University, focusing on the richness and diversity of Islamic culture. She received her MA in Near Eastern Studies at UC Berkeley and her PhD in Art and Architectural History at UCLA. Her book, Imagining the Turkish House: Collective Visions of Home, was published by the University of Texas Press. Her current research interest is Armenians of the Anatolian Diaspora who pilgrimage to memory-places of their Ottoman pasts.

ANNUAL SOCIETY BOOK SALE

Friday, March 13 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Loggia, Asian Art Museum

Books on Asian Art, History, Literature, Religion, Culture, Travel, Cooking and more! Special interest books on textiles, beads, and jewelry.

- Book sale will feature 3,000 to 4,000 books, 95 percent of them on Asia from the Middle East to Japan.
- Some books priced as low as $1, the majority $10 to $30.
- Rare collector items at bargain prices, like a boxed 3-volume set on the Robert Hatfield Ellsworth collection of Later Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy: $500.
- All books are donated by Members of the Society or friends of the AAM. In the last eight years, the SAA book sale has raised more than $60,000 for the Museum’s C. Laan Chun Library Center.

Tell your friends about this only-book-sale-of-its-kind in San Francisco. All proceeds benefit the Asian Art Museum’s C. Laan Chun Library Center.
Masterpieces and Iconic Artworks of the Asian Art Museum

When: Fridays, January 23 - May 1
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)

Sign up for the Spring 2015 Arts of Asia lecture series, and learn why certain artworks in the Asian Art Museum’s collection are considered “masterpieces” or “iconic.” The series will begin with an overview of how the museum’s collection was assembled given by instructor of record, Dany Chan. Subsequent lectures will be delivered by AAM curators and preeminent scholars including Robert Mowry, Susan Huntington, and Samuel Morse. Each speaker will focus on a single object or pair of objects which has been designated a “masterpiece” or “iconic.” In addition to aesthetic qualities, other pertinent aspects will be discussed such as context (historical, cultural, and artistic), usage, and production technique. Bearing in mind the approach of the museum’s 50th Anniversary, the Spring series will not only showcase the AAM’s most celebrated artworks but also provide opportunities to familiarize the SAA audience with the museum’s exceptionally talented and knowledgeable curators.

February 13
The Buddha Triumphant Over Mara: Form & Meaning in Buddhist Art
Susan Huntington, Ohio State University

February 20
The Divine Royal Couple: Shiva and Parvati from Angkor
Forrest McGill, AAM

February 27
Travelers among Valleys and Peaks
Stephen Little, LACMA

March 6
Kangxi Mallet Vase
Robert Mowry, Harvard University

March 13
First Under Heaven: Korean Celadons in the Goryeo Dynasty
Hyonjeong Kim Han, AAM

March 20
A Story of a Korean Scholar’s Accoutrement: Painting: Its Beginning and Evolution
Kumja Paik Kim, AAM

March 27
Portraits of Japanese Rulers: Hideyoshi and Emperor Meiji
Yuki Morishima, AAM

April 3
Royal Rides: AAM’s Silver Howdah and Its Virginia Relation
John Henry Rice, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

April 10
Timurid Jade Cup
Qamar Adamjee, AAM

April 17
Bonten and Taishakuten
Samuel Morse, Amherst College

April 24
338 Buddha
Michael Knight, AAM

May 1
Time Travel in Two Tibetan Thangka: The Magical Art of Riwoche Monastery
Jeff Durham, AAM

MEMBER EVENTS

Annual Spring Dinner
When: Wednesday, March 4
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Hong Kong Lounge, 5322 Geary Blvd, San Francisco
Fee: $55 Society members, $60 non-members

Enjoy a delicious Chinese banquet while welcoming in the Year of the Ram and the advent of Spring. Those born in this year are said to be artistic and travelers happy to meet new people and see the world – characteristics well represented by SAA members! Hong Kong Lounge restaurant is centrally located on Geary between 17th and 18th Avenues and has a paid parking lot on 18th Ave. This year we will savor traditional Chinese foods for longevity and good luck.

An Afternoon of Jade at Gump’s
With Marilu Klar
When: Friday, March 27
Time: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Place: Gump’s, 135 Post Street, San Francisco
Fee: $15 Society members, $20 non-members
with optional No-Host dinner after the event

Join us for a very special afternoon at Gump’s, the iconic San Francisco store. Ms Marilu Klar, buyer and creator of jewelry at Gump’s for over 50 years, will talk about jades and especially jade jewelry. She is a renowned expert on jade and pearls. We will also have an opportunity to handle some of the pieces she has collected. Participants will meet at the jewelry counter at Gump’s.

Ms Klar was trained at the Rudolph Schaeffer School of Design and at UC Berkeley and has been at Gump’s since 1960. She has lectured around the country on various collections of jade and pearls she created for Gump’s. Her admirers range from Barbara Hutton to Queen Sofia of Spain.

Guqin: Ancient Music of the Chinese Literati
With Master David Wong
When: Thursday, April 2
Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Place: Education Studios
Fee: $15 Society members, $20 non-members (after Museum admission)

David Wong will talk and perform on the Guqin, a seven-stringed instrument which is one of China’s oldest string instruments and has long been associated with scholars. The music of the Qin was played in Literati Studios, Buddhist monasteries, and Taoist temples, and inspired the listeners mentally and spiritually by expressing the inner thoughts and emotions of the musician. The music of the Guqin connects past and present and gives us a glimpse into the lives of the ancient Chinese scholars.

David Wong is the Executive Director of The Tranquil Resonance Studio and brings his passion for this ancient tradition to modern audiences. David has studied with renowned Masters of this art in China and is also a Tea Master. He has performed, taught, and lectured to various audiences around the Bay area with whom he enthusiastically shares his passion for this deep-rooted tradition. He will demonstrate and play for us on the Guqin.
Chinese Minority Textiles – Exploring Techniques and Sources  
With Pam Najdowski

When: Thursday, April 16  
Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
Place: Education Studios  
Fee: $15 Society members, $20 non-members (after Museum admission)

This talk will focus on the unique textile traditions of the ethnic minority peoples living in the mountainous areas of Guizhou, Guangxi, and Yunnan Provinces of China. Exploring techniques and sources in South West China, we will explore the homes and villages of those continuing these amazing traditions as well as consider the impact of tourism on traditional craftsmanship. Pam will also talk about the government’s commitment to UNESCO’s program of Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage.

Pam Najdowski is an independent researcher and ethnographic expert from Santa Fe, New Mexico and a frequent participant at the San Francisco Tribal & Textile Arts Show. On her way to South West China to do further research she is stopping over in San Francisco to present this talk.

The Perfect Tea Thief  
With Pam Chun

When: Friday, April 24  
Time: 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
Place: Education Studios  
Fee: $15 Society members, $20 non-members (after Museum admission)

Under the guise of an inexperienced plant hunter for the British Horticultural Society, a dour Scotsman steals China’s secrets of tea production, a brazen act of industrial espionage that devastates China’s 5,000 year old civilization. Pam Chun shares her 10-year hunt through the legends and records in China and England to write her historical novel, The Perfect Tea Thief, about this little known episode. It is a tale of deceit and lies, in a country of tradition crumbling under the powers of industrialization and a clash of Empires.

Pam Chun is a veteran storyteller at the Asian and a published, award winning author. Her first novel, The Money Dragon, was named 2002’s Best Books of Hawaii. She has been featured on NPR, at the Smithsonian and the National Archives. See her website at www.pamchun.com.

Lost in Translation: Japan’s New Prints in Modern America  
With Kendall Brown

When: Saturday, May 2  
Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Place: Education Studios  
Fee: $15 Society members, $20 non-members (after Museum admission)

In the 1920’s and 1930’s the Japanese Shin Hanga (new prints) Movement swept across America. This talk will chart the art networks and dynamic human "agents" responsible for introducing shin hanga. Comparing this movement with the parallel explosion of Japanese gardens in America, it will examine the content of some of these prints that made them so compelling for audiences in America.

Kendall H. Brown is Professor of Asian Art History in the School of Art at California State University, Long Beach. He has published widely on various aspects of Japanese painting, prints and crafts, including the "Deco Japanese" exhibition currently touring the U.S., and is the founder of the North American Japanese Garden Association.
Still a Few Places Available!

**August 9-21, 2015:** Join SAA members, led by Professor Stanley Abe of Duke University, to visit unique collections of Asian art amassed in Northern European cities. We will tour some of the greatest collections — little known to Americans — and go behind the scenes in major museums in Stockholm, Cologne, Zurich, and Berlin. Details can be found on the SAA website under Programs, then Trips/Travel or follow this link: [https://www.societyforasianart.org/programs/tripstravel/asian-art-northern-europe](https://www.societyforasianart.org/programs/tripstravel/asian-art-northern-europe)

Save the Dates!

**January 20-February 6, 2016:** A Reflection on a Heritage — Cultural Traditions and Arts Tour when the Society travels to Sri Lanka. Details and opportunity for sign-ups will be available in the next issue of the newsletter.

**SAA Travel Policy Reminder**

Given the high demand for SAA trips, SAA policy is to accept checks for trips by mail only. All applications will be accepted on the basis of postmark dates. Interoffice mail and hand delivered checks are not accepted.

**The SAA Is a Vendor of CSA Travel Protector Insurance**

It is now quite easy to buy any travel protection insurance by using the CSA policies which are detailed in a brochure in the SAA office. Each time you use CSA the SAA earns a commission which goes into our general fund. Also you can sign up on-line at [www.csatravelpro.com](http://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.

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Welcome the Year of the Ram!

Join the SAA for the Annual Spring Dinner and partake of a fabulous Chinese feast.

**How to Register**

To Register you may:

1. Go to our website, sign up and pay on-line: www.societyforasianart.org

   **OR**

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

   **OR**

3. 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.

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<th>Paid Programs</th>
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Name____________________________  E-Mail ________________________                   Total ________________

Address __________________________________________________ Zip Code ___________________

❑ Visa  ❑ MC  ❑ Discover

Card Number _______-_______-_______-_______  Expiration Date __\____  ____-

CCV# (3-digit # on back)

__________________________________________  Signature

Paid Programs
THE SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART PRESENTS

ASIAN ART IN NORTHERN EUROPE
AUGUST 9 – 21, 2015
WITH OPTIONAL EXTENSION IN BERLIN
LED BY DR. STANLEY ABE

Enjoy this extraordinary opportunity to explore the vast Asian art collection of museums in Stockholm, Cologne, Zurich, and Berlin. Through our connections we will have the opportunity to go behind the scenes and admire masterpieces not open to the public. Meet with curators, friends, and others who share our affinity for Asian art. In addition to the museums, we have planned carefully designed sightseeing programs in each location, highlighting the beauty of these European cities. We expect this program to sell out and we encourage you to register as soon as you receive this information.

Synopsis of the Tour

STOCKHOLM – 3 nights
Radisson Blu Waterfront Hotel
- Visit the storage collections at the Museum for Far Eastern Antiquities
- Enjoy a private art handling opportunity with the museum’s curators
- Meet members of the Friends Ostasiatiska museet
- Explore the narrow streets to the Royal Palace and the Royal Chapel to admire the beautiful baroque architecture.

COLOGNE – 2 nights
Excelsior Hotel Ernst
- Two visits to the Museum of East Asian Art – known for its fascinating collection of Buddhist paintings, Japanese woodblock prints, and Korean ceramics
- Enjoy a lunch with friends of the museum
- Admire Cologne’s magnificent stained glass at the city’s cathedral

ZURICH – 2 nights
Swissotel Zurich
- Two visits to the museum and storage of the Rietberg Museum, situated on the 17-acre Rieterpark
- Guided tour of art storage at the Museum of East Asian Art.
- Explore the city Zurich, surrounded by captivating snowcapped Alps in the distance

BERLIN – 4 nights
Adina Apartment Hotel
- Enjoy two visits to the Museum of Asian Art to witness one of the most important Asian Art collections worldwide
- Meet with the Society for East Asian Art
- Participate in a private guided tour of the Reichstag Building and its gorgeous glass dome
- Free time to explore Museum Island and numerous galleries

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: STRENUOUS
There will be extensive walking on uneven surfaces, stair climbing, and extended periods of standing. This trip is not suitable for those who have mobility problems.

SAA is now a vendor of CSA Travel Protection Insurance 800.348.9505 www.csatravelprotection.com, Producer code: 20100719. You are able to purchase 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.
A acompanied by Dr. Stanley Abe, begin the trip in Stockholm where, surrounded by grand public buildings, we will explore, on two visits, the Museum for Far Eastern Antiquities, a vivid meeting place for Asian cultures. We have arranged a private art handling opportunity with museum curators. Time has been set aside for independent exploration of Old Town whose famous labyrinth of cobbled streets, alleyways, colored town houses and meeting squares reflect the city’s beauty.

Fly to Dusseldorf and drive to Cologne for two nights where we have scheduled two visits to the Museum of East Asian Art. The museum hosts an outstanding collection of Japanese antiques, Buddhist paintings and sculptures, Japanese screen paintings and Korean ceramics. The museum, with its Japanese garden, is also known for its beautiful modern design by architect Kunio Maekawa. Admire the beautiful stained glass windows of the Cologne Cathedral and stroll through the lovely Botanical Gardens along the Rhine River.

From Cologne fly to Zurich, the vibrant heart of Switzerland situated on the Northwest tip of Lake Zurich and surrounded by the captivating snow-capped Alps in the distance. Explore the Rietberg Museum the only art museum for non-European cultures in Switzerland exhibiting an internationally renowned collection of art from Asia, Africa and Ancient America. After a guided tour of the art storage at the Museum of East Asian Art, enjoy a half-day tour with a walk down Bahnhofstrasse, Zurich’s most popular boulevard for fashion and art. Stop at the Opera House and Grossmünster en route to see the beautiful Lake Zurich. End the trip with four nights in Berlin where two visits to the Museum of Asian Art have been arranged. The museum houses one of the most important collections of art from the Indo-Asian cultural region dating from the 4th millennium BC to the present day. Discover the arts of China, Japan and Korea which are exhibited in individual galleries surrounding a central room dedicated to items of Buddhist art common to all three cultures. A city tour is included with a private tour of the Reichstag building ending in Norman Foster’s gorgeous glass cupola on its terrace roof. Helical ramps allow people to ascend to the cupola’s top and enjoy a 360-degree view of the city — while symbolically standing above the heads of their elected representatives in the chamber below.

A two–day extension to Berlin will be offered at the end of the program.

The trip will be led by Dr. Stanley Abe, a leading expert on Asian Art. Dr. Abe, who received his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley, has published on Chinese Buddhist art, contemporary Chinese art, Asian American art, Abstract Expressionism, and the construction of art historical knowledge. He is currently Associate Professor, Department of Art, Art History & Visual Studies and Director, Program in the Arts of the Moving Image. Dr. Abe will deliver four lectures in the course of the program.

**Berlin Extension**

Enjoy two additional days in Berlin exploring the many museums and sites the city has to offer. Visit Berlin’s contemporary art museum, and tour Berlin’s historical sites. We will have a guided program of Gallery visits on Friday, followed by joining the locals for an evening “Gallery Crawl”.

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**Asian Art in Northern Europe**

$6,270 PER PERSON • SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT $1,340

**TRIP IS LIMITED TO 20 PERSONS**

**The tour cost includes:**

- Accommodations in double occupancy in hotels as listed
- Flights in economy (Stockholm/Dusseldorf/Zurich/Berlin)
- Meals as listed in the program
- All sightseeing and entrances listed
- Transportation in a private air-conditioned bus
- A Distant Horizons tour manager who will accompany group
- Bottled water at all included lunches & dinners
- All gratuities and portage at hotels
- A $400 donation to the Society for Asian Art

**Not Included are:**

- International airfares to and from Europe
- Visa and passport fees
- Drinks other than water with meals
- Excess luggage charges
- Personal insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation
- Any items not listed

*For more information or a detailed itinerary, call Distant Horizons at (800) 333-1240; or the Society for Asian Art at (415) 581-3701.*

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**THE SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART PRESENTS: ASIAN ART IN NORTHERN EUROPE**

**RESERVATION FORM**

I would like to reserve ______ space(s) for the **Asian Art in Northern Europe** tour.

Enclosed is a deposit of $500 per person, in the total amount of $________.

Please make checks payable to Distant Horizons.

Your deposit is refundable up to 90 days prior to departure less a $250 per person administration fee.

**Trip Arrangements**

☐ I/we would like to join the main program.

☐ I/we would like to join the two-day extension in Berlin

**Room Arrangements**

☐ Single Supplement

☐ Double Occuancy, 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**

Last Name _______________________________  First Name _______________________________

Address _______________________________  City, State, Zip _______________________________

Daytime Phone (________)  Email Address _______________________________

Send application to: the Society for Asian Art, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Applications will be accepted by mail only and your inclusion will be based on the postmark date.

A confirmation letter, a declaration & waiver form and a travel insurance application will be mailed to you upon receipt of your deposit.

CST: 2046776-10