



January - February 2021

No. 1

A Message from the SAA President

Dear SAA Members and Friends,

As this challenging year comes to a close, I wish all our members and their loved ones excellent health. I would also like to thank our dedicated board members for their strong support throughout this difficult time. May the year 2021 bring us back to a normal lifestyle, where we can socially interact with each other and meet our friends and teachers again in person.

Some of you have decided, for one reason or another, not to renew your SAA membership. I would like to ask you to reconsider your decision after reading this newsletter. Where else can you get such a variety of programs encompassing Asian art in all its glory, ancient or modern, and presented by such learned scholars? That is the mission of the Society for Asian Art! To those of you who have renewed your SAA membership during the past 12 months, thank you very much. We are looking forward to your further support in the coming year. I suggest you check out on our website the different levels of membership the SAA offers, and also consider making a donation.

While you are on the website, please sign up for the upcoming programs. Right after the new year is the mini-series, *Imagining Indochina*, and the deadline for registration is Dec. 30, 2020! Also, please read the newest issue of *Lotus Leaves*, which has a story from the Ramayana, "Amazing Tale of Kumbhakarna", written by Robert Goldman and Sally Sutherland Goldman, and a study on Roman Catholic ivories in India, authored by Robert Del Bontà. The latter is a must read if you plan to join the SAA on the New Orleans trip. You can find details for all these activities in the pages of this newsletter. For those on social media, please follow our new Facebook page.

Wishing you and your family a happy 2021 and a healthy Year of the Ox!

Ehler Spliedt
President

Save the Date for 2021 Trips to New Orleans and Korea

Asian Art and Heritage in NOLA
April 14 - April 18, 2021
Registration Opens on January 18, 2021!



Join the SAA for an exciting trip to New Orleans to see three special exhibitions at the New Orleans Museum of Art with Robert Del Bontà as our scholar. The primary exhibition, *Buddha and Shiva, Lotus and Dragon: Masterworks from the Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection at Asia Society*, will feature nearly seventy pieces from the Asia Society Museum. We will also view the exhibitions, *The Pursuit of Salvation: Jain Art from India*, and *Arte Sacra: Roman Catholic Art from Portuguese India* from the collection of Dr. Siddharth Bhansali, a New Orleans based physician. These exhibitions along with the other sights and sounds of New Orleans from the Garden District to historic cemeteries will make a memorable trip.

ARTful Korea: Contemporary Art Tour
October 23 - November 2, 2021
Registration Opens on February 1, 2021!



Join the SAA on a tour of contemporary Korean art lead by the Asian Art Museum's Department Head and Associate Curator of Korean Art, Hyonjeong Kim Han. The tour will feature a dynamic array of contemporary art museums, galleries, architecture, and artists' studio visits with the backdrop of Korea's beautiful autumn season. The SAA group will be granted special access to VIP only galleries and museums, including the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Seoul and Cheongju, Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Amore Pacific Museum of Art, Bonte Museum in Jeju and many more. The group will be treated to a diverse Korean cuisine ranging from a Buddhist temple food experience to fine dining on regional specialties.



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With Stephen Roddy

Wednesday, February 24 Online Webinar

Member Event - Out of the Shadows: Contemporary Chinese Photography
With Tiffany Wai-Ying Beres



UPCOMING EVENTS (subject to change)

March 16, 2021

Member Event - *The Island of Sea Women*, a story about the pearl divers of Jeju Island, with author Lisa See



INTRODUCING OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

We are pleased to announce that the Society for Asian Art now has its own page on Facebook. For our members, our intent is to provide more timely updates of what's on offer through SAA. Our Facebook page also allows us to reach a broader audience who may be interested in the wide-ranging programs we provide. We encourage you to check out our page, <https://www.facebook.com/societyforasianart/>. Please follow and like us and then tell your friends about how they can use this page to learn about our current activities. Below is the banner that adorns our page.



Society for Asian Art

January - February 2021, No. 1

Members' Newsletter
Edited by John Nelson
and Susan Lai

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The Power of Images in Asian Art: Making the Invisible Visible



Left: The historical Buddha Shakyamuni, approx. 1700–1800. Mongolia. Bronze with gilding. Asian Art Museum, Gift of the Asian Art Museum General Acquisitions Fund and an anonymous friend of the Asian Art Museum, 1994.21.a-c. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Right: *Black Enso*, 2014, by Masako Takahashi (American, b. 1944). Pigment inkjet print on paper. Asian Art Museum, Gift of the artist, 2017.13. © Masako Takahashi. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

When: Fridays, January 22 – April 30, 2021 (No lecture on April 2.)
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pacific Time
Place: Online Webinar
Fee: \$200 per person Society members; \$250 per person non-members for the series
Advance registration must be received by the SAA by January 15, 2021.
We will not be accepting drop ins for individual lectures.
Instructor of Record: **Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker**

Why do images have the power to inspire, give us access to the divine, show us the eternal, even guide the soul after death? Why are images so powerful that they are dangerous? This series of lectures explores the power of images in Asian art by looking at the intentions of the makers of the images and the specific roles the images were intended to play. Our journey crosses the breadth of Asia, from the abstract geometric designs in Islamic art to the sensuous figures of Khajuraho, from the Daoist paintings of the literati in China to the Thai amulets that ward off ghosts and disaster. We explore a variety of traditions to deepen our understanding of how images work.

Our Instructor of Record is Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker, Carver Professor Emerita of East Asian Studies, Mills College, and our lecturers are experts from across the U.S.

See the next page for the full schedule of speakers and topics and sign up today.



ARTS OF ASIA SPRING 2021 LECTURE SERIES

Speakers & Topics (Subject to Change)

January 22, 2021

Rasa: The Theory of Aesthetics in Indian Iconology and *Rasa* and the Enigma of the Sculptures at Khajuraho
Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker, Carver Professor Emerita of East Asian Studies, Mills College

January 29, 2021

Traveling Between Worlds: The Afterlife of Art and Ritual in Indonesia
Kaja Maria McGowan, Associate Professor, Cornell University

February 5, 2021

The Widening Gyre: Rippling Connotations of Shiva's Cosmic Dance
Forrest McGill, Wattis Senior Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

February 12, 2021

Navigating the Afterlife through the Tibetan Book of the Dead
Jacob Dalton, Khyentse Professor and Chair, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley

February 19, 2021

The Visible and Invisible in the Art of Zanabazar
Uranchimeg Tsubtem, Assistant Professor, Edgar and Dorothy Fehnel Chair in International Studies, Herron School of Art + Design, Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

February 26, 2021

Images of Afterlives and Afterworlds in the Islamic Garden
Nerina Rustomji, Associate Professor of History, St. John's University

March 5, 2021

Mathematics and the Divine in Islamic Art
Carol Bier, Independent Scholar

March 12, 2021

Living Images and the Ephemeral in Medieval Northwestern India
Deborah Stein, Adjunct Professor, California College of Arts

March 19, 2021

Rajput Paintings: The Power of Seeing and Being Seen
Laura Weinstein, Curator, Boston Museum of Fine Arts and The Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard University

March 26, 2021

Beyond Life as We Know It: The Wondrous and the Monstrous in Japanese Notions of the Afterlife
Mark Blum, Professor and Shinjo Ito Distinguished Chair in Japanese Studies, University of California, Berkeley

April 9, 2021

On Corpses, Ghosts, and Amulets in the Funerary Culture of Thai Buddhism
Justin McDaniel, Professor of Religious Studies, Undergraduate Religious Studies Chair, University of Pennsylvania

April 16, 2021

Seeing Large in Small: The Power of Scale in Chinese Landscape Painting
Jun Hu, Assistant Professor of Chinese Art and Architecture, University of California, Berkeley

April 23, 2021

Colonial Representation in South Korean Cinema
Jinsoo An, Associate Professor of Korean Studies, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of California, Berkeley

April 30, 2021

Image and Reality in Contemporary Asian Art
Abby Chen, Head of Contemporary Art and Senior Associate Curator, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco



MEMBER EVENTS

Imagining Indochina

With Julian Brown

When: **Wednesdays, January 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2021**
Time: **2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pacific Time**
Place: **Online Webinars**
Fee: **\$50 per person Society members; \$70 per person non-members for the series**
Advance registration must be received by the SAA by December 30, 2020.



Temple in Luang Prabang

Are you weary of sheltering in place and longing to travel again? Do you regret not having traveled more to places like Southeast Asia? If so, join the SAA and escape to exotic Indochina with a four-part lecture series that will be offered on consecutive Wednesdays in January.

Led by acclaimed lecturer and tour guide, Julian Brown, our journey will begin with a discussion of the history and culture of the area formerly known as French Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos). Dr. Brown will present an overview of the region and investigate what, if anything, these countries have in common. During subsequent lectures, we will travel virtually to three famous locations: Hanoi, the fascinating millennial capital city of Vietnam; Angkor Wat, the “lost” temple city of Cambodia; and Luang Prabang, the World Heritage site of Laos. Dr. Brown’s examination of these areas will simulate the experience of actually being there via maps, visits to famous sites, discussion of contemporary issues and more. All with no passport required! Imagining Indochina will not only be invaluable for people considering a future trip, but also of interest to armchair travelers and people who have visited Southeast Asia in the past.

Born and educated in England, art historian Julian Brown commutes between his homes in Normandy and Paris. He has a PhD from University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). He spends most of his time leading tours in Europe and Southeast Asia, in addition to lecturing on his research at universities, museums, and international conferences.



Photo courtesy of Julian Brown.

Creative Transformation: Coffee Filters to Kimonos

With Lucia Matzger

When: **Wednesday, February 17, 2021**
Time: **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time**
Place: **Online Webinar**
Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members**
Advance registration must be received by SAA by Feb. 10, 2021.

We all know a kimono as a traditional Japanese garment. We also know a kimono can be a decorative art form that draws attention when displayed on a living room wall. People admire the craftsmanship, the decoration, the pattern, the color, and the fabric, be it silk or cotton or coffee filters. Yes, coffee filters! Come hear and see as Lucia Matzger explains how she uses coffee filters as a collage material to create a kimono. For many years, Ms. Matzger has been intrigued by the organic quality of used coffee filters; their naturally subdued and earth-toned colors, the arbitrary patterns of the coffee stains and their recyclable elements. With an artistic eye and her creative talent, she transforms mundane coffee filters using a paint brush, needle and thread, and a photocopy machine. The result is a stunning kimono; each one different with a unique shape, style and tone.



Photo by Sibila Savage.

Lucia Matzger is a textile artist who grew up in the Netherlands and now resides in Berkeley. Her art reflects her interests in textile and design. It has been shown in galleries throughout the Bay Area. She has shared the story of her kimonos with art groups, including the Textile Arts Council at the DeYoung.

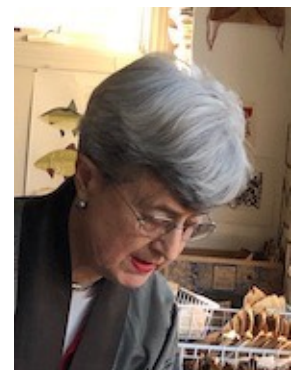


Photo courtesy of Lucia Matzger.



MEMBER EVENTS

Out of the Shadows: Contemporary Chinese Photography With Tiffany Wai-Ying Beres

When: **Wednesday, February 24, 2021**
 Time: **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time**
 Place: **Online Webinar**
 Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members**
Advance registration must be received by SAA by Feb. 17, 2021.

What is “Chinese” photography? China boasts a history of art stretching over five thousand years, which embraces a vast array of forms, from carved jade stones to ink paintings on silk or paper. The Chinese experience of photography also stands apart from that of other countries. Since the introduction of the photographic medium to China in the late 1840s, Chinese photographers have adapted this foreign technology and grafted it onto more traditional Chinese forms of artistic expression. Ms. Beres will present an introduction to the history of Chinese photography, focusing on the innovations of the early Chinese photographer Lang Jingshan 郎靜山 and introducing eight contemporary neo-traditionalist artists explore the possibility of transformation of the Chinese aesthetic tradition within a postmodern context. The lecture will coincide with the concurrent exhibition of 9 artists who have established individual styles to define an identity that is both Chinese and global at the Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA) in San Diego, curated by Ms. Beres.

Tiffany Wai-Ying Beres is an Asian contemporary art specialist and Asian art historian. She has worked as an independent curator and exhibition planner with museums and institutions around the world. Previously, Ms. Beres was based in Beijing, where for ten years she worked with artists and published extensively on topics about Asian contemporary art for publications such as Orientations, The Asian Art Newspaper, Art AsiaPacific and The Wall Street Journal. She is also involved with the local California arts and culture community.



Hong Lei: Memory Series
Memory of Five Needle Pine



Photo courtesy of Tiffany
Wai-Ying Beres.



LITERATURE & CULTURE SPRING 2021 COURSE

Jin Ping Mei 金瓶梅: A Tale for Our Times

When: **Sundays, February 21, March 7, March 21 & April 4, 2021**
 Time: **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time**
 Place: **Online Webinars**
 Fee: **\$115 per person Society members; \$140 per person non-members for the course.**
Advance registration must be received by the SAA by Feb. 14, 2021.
Attendance is limited to allow discussions during class.

Instructor: **Stephen Roddy, University of San Francisco**

Text: *The Plum in the Golden Vase, or Chin P'ing Mei, Vol. 1: The Gathering.* Translated by David Roy. Princeton University Press, 1993. ISBN 9780691016146

Repeatedly banned, burned, and (verbally) blasted by authorities from its first printing around 1609 through to the present day, *Jin Ping Mei* is a transgressive text par excellence. Even today its circulation remains controversial: two recent scholarly editions (of 1985 and 2008) expurgate approximately 4300 words (helpfully showing the size and location of each offending passage). Although the novel's scandalous reputation rests largely on its explicit descriptions of sexual acts, these erotic interludes are interspersed with other unseemly behavior, including gluttony, drunkenness, political and moral corruption, physical violence, and perhaps most memorably, extended fits of vituperative rage. It is, in short, an utterly captivating portrait of a society in crisis and (as subsequent history proved) on the verge of collapse. The work is also treasured for its detailed descriptions of the material culture of the late-Ming period, a time of nearly unequalled creativity in the fine arts but also cuisine, clothing, theater, popular songs, games, horticulture, and many other domains.

Stephen Roddy, a professor at the University of San Francisco, received his PhD in East Asian Studies from Princeton University, and specializes in the fiction and other prose genres of 18th and 19th century China and Japan. He teaches courses in Japanese and Chinese literature, culture, and language.



Hermit in landscape, approx. 1618–1652, by Chen Hongshou (Chinese, 1598–1652). Ming dynasty (1368–1644) or Qing dynasty (1644–1911). Ink and colors on silk. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Museum purchase, B79D8. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.



REGISTRATION FORM

How to Register

1. Go to our website, www.societyforasianart.org, sign up and pay online; OR
2. Print and fill out this registration form, and send it with a check or the credit card information to:
Society for Asian Art, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

SAA does not issue tickets or confirmations. You will be contacted ONLY if your registration cannot be completed. A valid email address for each registrant must be provided for online programs.

The Society for Asian Art's cancellation policy requires at least one week's advance written notice in order to receive a refund of registration fees. Requests must be received by the SAA office no later than one week before the start of the event, lecture series, or literature course. This excludes our travel programs, which have separate cancellation policies, as well as any programs where a specific refund policy is stated on the event page or description.

Please note that by registering for a program, you are giving consent to the SAA to be photographed or videoed as a participant.

Programs	Fee Per Person	Quantity	Subtotal
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2021 Member Event - Imagining Indochina <i>Mini Series Online Webinars (Advance registration must be received by SAA by December 30, 2020.)</i>	\$50 Members \$70 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 22 - Apr. 30, 2021 Spring 2021 Arts of Asia Lecture Series - The Power of Images in Asian Art: Making the Invisible Visible <i>Online Webinars (Advance registration must be received by SAA by Jan. 15, 2021.)</i>	\$200 Members \$250 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 17, 2021 Member Event - Creative Transformation: Coffee Filters to Kimonos <i>Online Webinar (Advance registration must be received by SAA by Feb. 10, 2021.)</i>	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 21, Mar. 7, Mar. 21 & Apr. 4, 2021 Spring 2021 Literature Course <i>The Plum in the Golden Vase or Chin P'ing Mei Vol. 1 The Gathering Online Webinars (Advance registration must be received by SAA by Feb. 14, 2021.)</i>	\$115 Members \$140 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 24, 2021 Member Event Out of the Shadows: Contemporary Chinese Photography <i>Online Webinar (Advance registration must be received by SAA by Feb. 17, 2021.)</i>	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		

Total Amount _____

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

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Charge registration fees to my credit card (CHECK ONE): Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

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LOTUS LEAVES

Read the Fall 2020 Issue Online Now!

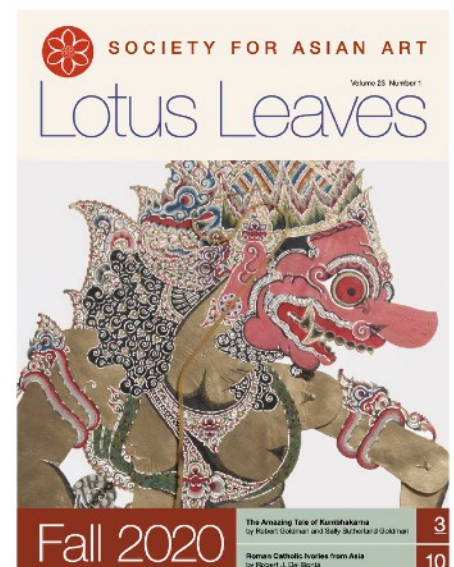
The Fall 2020 *Lotus Leaves* explores two very different facets of Asian culture. Robert Goldman and Sally Sutherland Goldman tell "The Amazing Tale of Kumbhakarna," the giant who was Ravana's brother in the Ramayana. Robert J. Del Bontà explores collections of early Christian art from India and Sri Lanka in "Roman Catholic Ivories from Asia."

To access online issues of *Lotus Leaves*:

- Go to the SAA website, www.societyforasianart.org.
- Click on the "Lotus Leaves" tab on the banner along the top of the homepage. This will open the *Lotus Leaves* webpage.
- Click on "View PDF" of the issue you would like to read.

To print a copy of *Lotus Leaves*:

- Open the PDF file of the issue that you want to print.
- Press at the same time "Ctrl" and "P" on pc's or "Command" and "P" on Mac's.
- Follow the commands on your computer to print a copy.



Cover of Fall 2020 Issue of *Lotus Leaves*.
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