

Society for Asian Art

Newsletter for Members



July - August 2018

No. 4



The Society for Asian Art celebrated its 60th anniversary on April 19th. Here are some photos from the event at the Asian Art Museum. Look for more photos throughout this issue of the newsletter.

SAA Treasurer, Ed Baer, presented a \$60,000 gift check to Jay Xu, Asian Art Museum Director and CEO, in honor of the SAA's 60th anniversary. Photograph © Society for Asian Art.



SAA President, Anne Adams Kahn, delivered a tribute to the Society's first 60 years. Photograph © Society for Asian Art.





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Desert Encounters: Arts, Cultures and Kingdoms of the Silk Roads

Saturday, August 18

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Friday, August 31

Lecture: Balinese Art and Its Connections to Temple Art with Adrian Vickers

Sundays, September 16, September 30, October 14, October 28, and November 18

Fall 2018 Literature and Culture
Basic Instinct: Nature vs. Nurture in the Japanese Mystery with Dr. Stephen Roddy



UPCOMING EVENTS (subject to change)

Monday, September 10 - Friday, September 14

Trip to New York City - See our website for details.

Saturday, September 15

Lecture: Painting is My Everything: Art from India's Mithila Region with Malini Bakshi



SAA Board Members with Asian Art Museum Director & CEO Jay Xu, and President of the Foundation Trustees, Tim Kahn.
Photograph © Society for Asian Art.

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Members' Newsletter
Edited by Trista Berkovitz,
John Nelson,
and Susan Lai

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

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*ex officio



WELCOME MESSAGE FROM OUR INCOMING PRESIDENT

I am excited and honored to take on the role of SAA President, and look forward to working with you, the members. This is a fabulous organization, with a rich history. SAA members share a love of learning and of Asian art and culture. My goal is to continue the excellent programming that SAA members have enjoyed over the years and to expand it in directions that you, the members, want. I will also focus on continuing the SAA's strong partnership with the Asian.

As many of our Board members end their term, and new members join the Board, I'd like to welcome the new members and thank the entire Board for their hard work, support, and friendship. I especially want to thank Anne Kahn for her outstanding leadership over the last two years. She has strengthened the organization and has been a wonderful mentor to me. I appreciate her generosity in sharing her insight and knowledge of the SAA and the Asian Art Museum.

My love of Asian art and culture began when my family lived in Okinawa, Japan in my high school years. This love has continued throughout my adult life, as I have travelled to various parts of Asia, take Japanese language lessons, practice Ikebana, and take advantage of many of SAA's programs. Asia is a fascinating part of the world, with so much to offer, and I can't think of a better organization in which to learn about it!

Sincerely,
Trista Berkovitz



Incoming SAA President, Trista Berkovitz



STUDY GROUP

Printmaking with a Master Artist With Toru Sugita

When: **Saturday, July 14**
Time: **10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**
Place: **Education Studios, Asian Art Museum**
Fee: **\$35 Society members; \$45 non-members (after museum admission), includes lunch**

We deal with printed images every day. Printing started as a method to make multiple copies from original artwork or manuscript. With invention of paper and ink, later invention of the printing press and movable types, printing took an important role in both Western and Eastern civilization. Toru Sugita will give a lecture on the brief history of print media and artists' commentary on social issues in prints, including historic master artists and contemporary Bay Area artists who chose printmaking for their response to globalization and current political problems. Then Toru will give simple technical demonstrations on various printmaking methods followed by presentation of his own work.



Photo by Toru Sugita

*Toru Sugita was born and raised in Japan. He received a MFA in printmaking from San Francisco State University. He illustrated the award-winning book, *Floating Lanterns and Golden Shrines*. His prints can be found in public collections including the Achenbach Foundation of Graphic Arts in the Fine Art Museum of San Francisco. In 2006 Toru moved to Grand Junction, Colorado, where he focused on teaching and multimedia collaborative works. In 2009 he returned to the Bay Area as a faculty member at Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, where he is developing printmaking programs.*



ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2018 LECTURE SERIES

Desert Encounters: Arts, Cultures and Kingdoms of the Silk Roads

When: **Fridays, August 17 – November 16**

Time: **10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Place: **August 17, Milton Marks Auditorium, State Building, 455 Golden Gate Avenue Lower Level**

November 2 – location TBD

All other lectures at UC Hastings Snodgrass Hall, 198 McAllister Street

Fee: **\$175 Society members, \$200 non-members for the series
\$20 per lecture drop-in, subject to availability**

'Steppe' into the past on a cultural journey covering half the globe and 2500 years, from the first millennium BCE to the Qing period. Explore the art styles, cultural legacies and religions of lost kingdoms and mercantile communities along the so-called silk road. The cultural encounters along the trading networks facilitated the spread of ideas and development of artistic expressions.

Fourteen lectures by prominent scholars will dig into Achaemenid Persian and Bactrian golden hordes from the Oxus river valley, some of the oldest knotted carpets and embroidered silks from Pazyryk's Iron Age culture, early Buddhist images from Gandhara, as well as the Eurasian trade in incense, spice and everything nice, and Tocharian cave murals near Kucha by the Taklamakan desert. Speakers will also decode Central Asian textile designs and illuminated Uighur manuscripts of the Manicheans of northwest China and tantric murals of the Dalai Lama's private meditation chapel. They will also follow Sogdian merchants along their routes, the trade in jade boulders from the Kunlun Mountains, and more.



Head of a Buddhist deity, approx. 600–700. China; Kucha, Xinjiang Province, Tang dynasty (618–907). Mural fragment, tempera on plaster. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Gift of Dr. Richard P. Scherman in memory of Lucian and Christine Scherman, B79D2. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

August 17

Series Introduction: Imag(in)ing the Silk Roads
Sanjyot Mehendale, UC Berkeley

August 24

Transfers and Transformations along the Silk Road: Examples from Pazyryk and Tillya Tepe
Karen Rubinson, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University

August 31

Persia in Central Asia: The Oxus Treasure
Kim Codella, Cosumnes River College, Sacramento

September 7

Spread of Gandhara Art in Iranian and Central Asian Context
Osmund Boppearachchi, UC Berkeley

September 14

Silk and Spice, and Everything Nice: Trade in Luxuries and Commodities across Eurasia
Sanjyot Mehendale, UC Berkeley

September 21

Art of Kucha on the Northern Silk Road Along the Taklamakan Desert
Monika Zin, Ludwigs-Maximilians-University of Munich

September 28

Textiles along the Silk Road
Mariachiara Gasparini, Santa Francisco State University

October 5

Ming China and the Silk Roads
Craig Clunas, Oxford University

October 12

The Uygur Era of Manichaean Art: Three Centuries of Innovation and Splendor
Zsuzsanna Gulacsi, Northern Arizona University

October 19

Sogdian Traders and Others along the Silk Roads
Judith Lerner, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University

October 26

The Jade Road in the Qing Dynasty
Patricia Berger, UC Berkeley

November 2

Visions of Emptiness: Unpacking the Murals of the Dalai Lama's Nāga-House
Jacob Dalton, UC Berkeley

November 9

The Hero Rustam in Persian and Central Asian Art
Soroor Ghanimati, UC Berkeley

November 16

The Afghan Discovery of Buddha: Archeology and Art History in Pre-Taliban Afghanistan
Nile Green, UCLA



Buddhist Narrative Arts Across Asia With Rosaline Kyo

When: **Thursday, July 12**
Time: **11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**
Place: **Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, 2155 Center Street, Berkeley**
Fee: **\$15 Society members; \$20 non-members (includes museum admission)**

Since the time of the first great stupas at Sanchi and Amaravathi, narrative sculpture has played an immense role in disseminating and teaching Buddhist beliefs. Whether in sculpted or painted forms, specific tenets of Buddhism have been depicted across Asia in engaging, playful, and elegant ways.

Come explore how different cultures across Asia incorporated Buddhist ideas into local beliefs and artistic traditions. From 2nd century Gandharan sculptures to 19th and 20th century Thai temple banners, we will unpack the narrative strategies local artists used in their representational endeavors.

Rosaline Kyo is currently a Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow at the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. She earned her doctoral degree in the History of Art at UC Berkeley. She specializes in later Chinese and Tibetan art with a focus on intercultural artistic connections and depictions of ethnic others in Chinese visual culture.

Visit to Guillermina Asian Art and Antiques

When: **Saturday, August 4**
Time: **11:00 a.m., followed by a no-host lunch**
Place: **Guillermina's Showroom, 111 West Richmond Avenue, Point Richmond**
Fee: **\$15 Society members; \$20 non-members**

Calling all shoppers and browsers! Join us for a visit to Guillermina's showroom and warehouse full of interesting items. This charming place is a treasure trove of Asian art and antiques, situated in the old town of Point Richmond. If you have not been there, this is a good opportunity for a summer outing to explore a different part of the Bay Area with an added bonus to shop and look at some unique items.

A no-host lunch at a nearby restaurant will follow the visit.

Guillermina Emy LaFever has been collecting and selling Asian objects for over 35 years. She has items to suit all levels of interest and price ranges.

Ink Worlds: Contemporary Chinese Painting from the Collection of Akiko Yamazaki and Jerry Yang With Ellen Huang

When: **Saturday, August 18**
Time: **11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**
Place: **Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford University**
Fee: **\$15 Society members; \$20 non-members (includes museum admission)**

Ink Worlds explores the diversity of contemporary Chinese ink painting and calligraphy with more than 50 examples from the collection of Akiko Yamazaki and Jerry Yang as well as some examples from the Cantor Arts Center and Stanford University Art Museum. The exhibition encompasses the era from the pioneers of ink abstraction in the late 1960's to the current decade, addressing contemporary concerns as well as historical material, themes and techniques.

Ellen Huang is a Curatorial Fellow in Asian Art at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University where she has organized various exhibitions. She received her B.A. from Yale and Ph.D from UC San Diego. She was previously a postdoctoral teaching fellow at UC Berkeley.



Figure of Vajravidarna, Eastern Tibet or Southwest China, 11th–12th century; yellow silt stone; on long-term loan to BAMPFA from a private collection.



Exterior of Guillermina Asian Art and Antiques. Photograph © Guillermina.



MEMBER EVENTS

Balinese Art and Its Connections to Temple Art With Adrian Vickers

When: **Friday, August 31**
Time: **1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
Place: **Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum**
Fee: **\$15 Society members; \$20 non-members (after museum admission)**

This talk will focus on the connections between Balinese Art and the wider world of Hindu and Buddhist art. With his wide experience and expertise in Balinese paintings and art, Adrian Vickers will attempt to enlighten us to better appreciate the wide range of the world of Balinese art and culture.

Professor Adrian Vickers, Chair of Southeast Asian Studies and Acting Chair of Indonesian Studies at the University of Sydney, Australia, is on a brief visit to the Bay Area, as a Wilbur Fellow doing research at the Museum. His most recent work has been to set up The Virtual Museum of Balinese Painting.



Adiparwa: Garuda amerta/nawasanga, 1992, by I Nyoman Mandra (Indonesia, 1946–2018). Photograph © Idda Bagu Putra Adyana. Photo Gustra, courtesy of the artist and Gunarsa Museum.



LITERATURE AND CULTURE OF ASIA

Basic Instinct: Nature vs. Nurture in the Japanese Mystery With Dr. Stephen Roddy

When: **Sundays, September 16, September 30, October 14, October 28 and November 18**
Time: **10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**
Where: **Resource Room, Asian Art Museum *New Location***
Fee: **\$110 Society members, \$135 non-members (after museum admission)**

Inspired in part by the Naturalist works of Émile Zola, Guy de Maupassant, and Stephen Crane, Japanese fiction after 1900 began to incorporate scientific ideas like evolution into the treatment of human fallibility. Wrestling with questions of culpability and motive, writers produced some of the most complex, enigmatic psychological thrillers ever written anywhere.

In this course we will read four short stories and four novels by some of the greatest masters of this form, and also discuss the films based on them. As we ponder the “Japanese-ness” of these examples of a quintessentially modern genre, we will try to relate these works to some of the features of traditional Japanese literature such as autobiography, confession, and Buddhist notions of karma and transcendence.

Texts:

Four short stories by Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, Edogawa Ranpo, Tanizaki Jun'ichirō, & Tayama Katai will be provided as PDF files.
Kiuchi Kazuhiro, *Shield of Straw*. 978-1941220559. Vertical, 2016.
Matsumoto Seichō, *Inspector Imanishi Investigates*. 978-1569470190. Soho Crime, 2003.
Miyabe Miyuki, *All She Was Worth*. 978-0395966587. Mariner, 1999.
Higashino Keigo, *The Devotion of Suspect X*. 978-1250002693. Minotaur, 2012.

Film:

Links to online sites will be provided for *Rashōmon*, *Castle of Sand*, *Helpless*, *Shield of Straw*, *Tattoo*, and *The Devotion of Suspect X*.

Dr. Stephen Roddy is a professor of Modern & Classical Languages, 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. His current interests focus on the influences of Chinese fiction on late-Tokugawa writers, and Meiji-period thinkers on essayists of the late-Qing. He teaches courses in Japanese and Chinese literature, culture, and language.



Articulated praying mantis, approx. 1880–1940. Japan. Copper alloy. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection, B76M38. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Spring 2018 Issue is Now Available

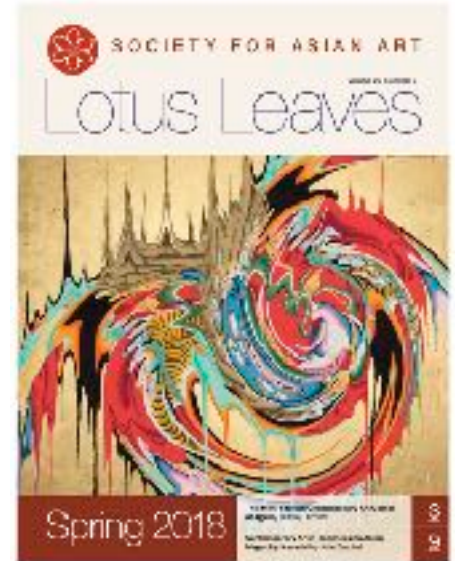
The Spring 2018 issue features an article by Jeff Durham, Assistant Curator of Himalayan Art at the Asian Art Museum, on the gorgeous contemporary Tibetan painting, *The Melt*, currently on view in the Museum's The Himalayas and the Tibetan Buddhist World Gallery. Also, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Director of International Studies at the University of San Francisco, John Zarobell takes a fascinating look at the art scene in Karachi, Pakistan, where contemporary artists are interpreting the challenges of living in their megacity.

To access Lotus Leaves:

- Go to the SAA website, <https://www.societyforasianart.org>
- Click on the "Lotus Leaves" button on the banner along the top of the screen. This will open the *Lotus Leaves* page.
- Click on "View PDF" of the issue you would like to read

To print a copy of Lotus Leaves:

- Press "Ctrl and P" on your keyboard at the same time
- Follow the commands your computer gives you to print a copy



Cover of Spring 2018 Issue of *Lotus Leaves*.
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Book Sale

We are pleased to announce that the Society's 2018 Book Sale made over \$9,175 for the Museum's C. Laan Chun Library. Thank you to everyone who participated.

We are collecting books for the 2019 Book Sale and are accepting books now! So if you move, downsize or are tired of all the books collecting dust, please donate them to the SAA Book Sale. If you have a lot of books, we are happy to pick them up from your home, within the Bay Area. We are accepting books with Asian subjects only, be it art, novels, history, exhibition catalogues or others.

Please contact us at the SAA office at 415-581-3701 for details.



SAA members enjoying the Annual Meeting buffet.
Photograph © Society for Asian Art.



SAA members enjoying the Annual Meeting reception.
Photograph © Society for Asian Art.



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. Requests for refunds are granted for cancellations received by the SAA office no later than one business week before the start of the event.

Paid Programs	Fee	Quantity	Sub-Total
<input type="checkbox"/> July 12 Visit to Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive: Buddhist Narrative Arts Across Asia with Rosaline Kyo	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> July 14 Study Group: Printmaking with a Master Artist with Toru Sugita	\$35 Members \$45 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> August 4 Visit to Guillermina Asian Art and Antiques in Point Richmond	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> August 17—November 16 Fall Arts of Asia Lecture Series: Desert Encounters: Arts, Cultures and Kingdoms of the Silk Roads	\$175 Members \$200 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> August 18 Visit to Cantor Arts Center: <i>Ink Worlds: Contemporary Chinese Painting from the Collection of Akiko Yamazaki and Jerry Yang</i> with Ellen Huang	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> August 31 Lecture: Balinese Art and Its Connections with Temple Art with Adrian Vickers	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 16, Sept. 30, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, and Nov. 18 Fall Literature and Culture of Asia: Basic Instinct: Nature vs. Nurture in the Japanese Mystery	\$110 Members \$135 Non-Members		

Total Amount _____

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