



May - June 2023

No. 3

Beyond Bollywood: 2000 Years of Dance in Art



Left: Maharaja Sher Singh and companions watching a dance performance, approx. 1850. Pakistan; Lahore. Opaque watercolors and gold on paper. H. 36.1 cm x W. 45.9 cm. San Diego Museum of Art, Edwin Binney 3rd Collection, 1990.1348.

Right: Dancing Ganesha, approx. 1500–1700. India; Karnataka state. Copper alloy. H. 50.5 cm x W. 33 cm. Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Purchased with funds provided by Harry and Yvonne Lenart, M.86.126.

Don't miss the chance to see the special exhibition, *Beyond Bollywood: 2000 Years of Dance in Art*, on view now through July 10, 2023. Featuring more than 120 artworks from countries including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Tibet, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Indonesia, *Beyond Bollywood* immerses museum goers in a multimedia showcase of dance.

Come discover the power of dance in the visual arts of India, Southeast Asia, and the Himalayas, where dancing plays a significant role in religion, mythology, and ceremony.

Save the Date

The Society for Asian Art's Annual Meeting and Reception will be held on Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. in Samsung Hall. This will be an in-person only event.

Invitations will be sent to SAA members with RSVP instructions.

Keynote lecture, *Asian American Giants: Two Artists from San Francisco*, by Mark Johnson will focus on Carlos Villa and Martin Wong. Mark Johnson is a Professor of Art at San Francisco State University (SFSU) with areas of expertise in Asian American art history and California and Bay Area art history. He serves as the director of the Fine Arts Gallery on the SFSU campus.

Immediately following the meeting and lecture, there will be a reception.



IN THIS ISSUE

Wednesday, May 10

Member Event - Scentscapes of the Mughal World: Multisensory Engagement with Botanical Arts with Leslee Michelsen

Thursday, Jun. 1

Annual Meeting & Reception

Saturday, Jun. 17

Member Event - Perspectives from a Modern Indian Painter with Rupy C. Tut

Fridays, Aug. 25 - Dec. 8

Fall 2023 Arts of Asia - Views from the Other Side



UPCOMING EVENTS (Subject to Change)

Save the Date

Oct. 2 - 7, 2023

Washington, DC & Baltimore, MD Trip

This trip will be offered in June.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members, who joined the Society in February through March. We are thrilled that you have decided to join us, and hope you find our programs and events interesting and engaging. Please don't hesitate to ask questions and give us feedback. Welcome!

Alan Brickman
Alexander Chis & Claudette Begin
Anne Ewins
Scott & Debi Fitzgerald

Penelope Robinson
Eugenia Tam
William Vlach



SOCIAL MEDIA

Members of the SAA are about to travel again. For any members who are traveling to Kansas City or Japan in the next few months, please submit photos to candacezks@gmail.com. The most effective photos are the ones that you submit while you're on the SAA trips. The photos will be posted right away, and you will be credited as the photographer.

Our Facebook page now has more than 200 followers! Thank you.

Society for Asian Art

May - June 2023, No. 3

Members' Newsletter
Edited by 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

Copyright © 2023 Society for Asian Art

Board of Directors 2022-2023

President	Marsha Vargas Handley
Past President	Ehler Spliedt
Vice President	Edith Benay
Vice President	Gloria Garaventa
Secretary	Anne Katz
Treasurer	Ed Baer

Neera Baer
Margaret Booker
Lynne Brewer
Deborah Clearwaters*
Kalpana Desai
Pamela George
Kirk Gibson
Thomas Ihrig
Anne Adams Kahn
Candace Zander Kahn
Phyllis Kempner
John Kouletsis
Peggy Mathers
Forrest McGill*
Lawrence Mock
Howard Moreland
Debbie Wong Ottman
Sandra Pan
Sharon Roe
Kathleen Slobin
Nazneen Spliedt
Charita Thakkar

*ex officio



Views from the Other Side



Left: *Diversa Orbis Terræ*, 1706, by Pieter Schenk (Dutch, 1660–1711). Ink and colors on paper. Asian Art Museum, Gift of David Salman and Walter Jared Frost, 2016.283. Photograph © Asian Art Museum. Right: Arrival of a Portuguese ship (detail), approx. 1620–1640. Japan. Six panel folding screen, ink, colors, and gold on paper. The Avery Brundage Collection, B60D77+. Photograph © Asian Art Museum.

When: Fridays, Aug. 25 – Dec. 8, 2023 (No lecture on Nov. 3 & Nov. 24)
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pacific Time
Place: Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum & Online Webinars
Fee: \$200 per person Society members; \$250 per person non-members for the series.
We will only accept drop-ins for individual lectures in Samsung Hall on a space available basis. Drop-in fee is \$20 per person per lecture.
All in-person fees are after Museum admission.
Instructor of Record: Sanjyot Mehendale

Precious objects from far-away places have always been treasured and collected, prompting great curiosity about their origins and the identities of their makers. Advances in maritime technology at the beginning of the 15th century led to a veritable explosion of material and information exchange between distant nations. Christian Jesuit priests traveled to all parts of Asia, leaving behind visible legacies; at the same time, China emerged as the springboard for ideas and cultures that spread throughout Asia and beyond, while the Ottoman empire created artwork reflecting its intermediary position between East and West.

At the dawn of the 20th century, countries debated the meaning of national identities and modern society. Meanwhile, European military power and colonial policies drastically altered the course of history. As their world changed, how did Asian countries react? Join us as we explore in 14 lectures, the art and ideas that resulted from these interactions, conflicts, and exchanges.

Please check our website for the most up-to-date information about this lecture series.



ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2023 LECTURE SERIES

Speakers & Topics (Subject to Change)

Aug. 25, 2023

A Curious Affair – Toward an Understanding of Art and Globalization
Forrest McGill, Wattis Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Sept. 1, 2023

Timurid-Mongol Influence on the Mughal Empire in India
Lisa Balabanlilar, Joseph and Joanna Nazro Mullen Professor in the Humanities, Rice University

Sept. 8, 2023

The importance of Cross-Cultural Exchange in the 16th/17th Century Mughal Empire
Mika Natif, Associate Professor of Art History, Corcoran School of the Arts & Design, George Washington University

Sept. 15, 2023

Dialogues between Photography and Ink Painting in Modern Chinese Art
Mia Yinxiang Liu, Assistant Professor, Department of the History of Art, Johns Hopkins University

Sept. 22, 2023 *This lecture will be presented in Koret Education Center on the 1st floor of the museum.*

Art and Power in Southeast Asia
Paul Lavy, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Sept. 29, 2023

Architecture of 18th Century Pondicherry
Gauvin Alexander Bailey, Professor and Bader Chair in Southern Baroque Art, Department of Art History and Art Conservation, Queen's University

Oct. 6, 2023

Early Twentieth Century Influence of Japanese Art on Indian Artists and on Indian Modernism
Aida Yuen Wong, Professor of Fine Arts and East Asian Studies, Brandeis University

Oct. 13, 2023

Sinophile Painters and Patrons in 18th Century Japan
Robert Mintz, Deputy Director, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Oct. 20, 2023 *The speaker will present this lecture on Zoom. We will broadcast the Zoom webinar in Samsung Hall.*

The Influence of Japonisme on Western European Art and Scandinavian Art, 1854-1918
Gabriel P. Weisberg, Professor Emeritus, Department of Art History, University of Minnesota

Oct. 27, 2023

Ottoman Art between Europe and Asia
Walter B. Denny, Professor Emeritus, Department of Art and Architecture, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Nov. 10, 2023

The Dutch Mission to China of 1795 and the Forgotten History of Western Encounters with China, as Explored through Maps and Art
Tonio Andrade, Professor, Department of History, Emory University

Nov. 17, 2023

The Importance of Early Printed Painting and Drawing Books
Chelsea Foxwell, Associate Professor of Art History, Department of Art History, University of Chicago

Dec. 1, 2023

Muslim Art and Architecture, Designed and Created in China for Use by Chinese Muslims
Qamar Adamjee, Provenance Researcher South and Southeast Asian Art, Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art

Dec. 8, 2023

Visual Systems of Representation in Asia and Europe
Deborah Hutton, Professor of Art History, Department of Art and Art History, The College of New Jersey



MEMBER EVENTS

Scentscapes of the Mughal World: Multi-Sensory Engagement with Botanical Arts With Leslee Michelsen

When: **Wednesday, May 10, 2023**

Time: **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Place: **Zoom Webinar**

Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members.**
Advance registration must be received by SAA by May 3, 2023.

In preparation for a long-planned exhibition on the multi-sensory explorations of scent in the botanical arts of the Mughal world, this talk highlights the current research into the depiction, abstraction and extraction of plants and flowers in several key artworks held in the collection of the Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design, a center of the Doris Duke Foundation. The talk will examine textiles, carved stones, manuscripts, and metalwork by unpacking the myriad “scentscapes” of these objects and how those sensorial observations are a key to their contextualization and understanding.

Leslee Michelsen is the Curator of Collections and Exhibitions at the Shangri La Museum in Honolulu. She is responsible for the exhibition, research, and conservation of the museum’s collection of historic and contemporary art of the Islamic world. She earned her PhD in Islamic art history and archaeology from the University of Pennsylvania, and has worked in Qatar, Afghanistan and throughout greater Central Asia on numerous museum, archaeological and academic projects.



Carved Marble Wall Panel with Parchin Kari (Semi Precious Stone Inlay) of Botanical Motifs, 1935-1938. Agra and Delhi, India. Object Number 41.49y. Photograph courtesy of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.



Leslee Michelsen. Photo © Elyse Butler 2022.

Perspectives from a Modern Indian Painter With Rupy C. Tut

When: **Saturday, Jun. 17, 2023**

Time: **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Place: **Koret Education Center, Asian Art Museum**

Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members after museum admission.**

Advance registration must be received by SAA by Jun. 10, 2023.

Artist Rupy Tut creates paintings on paper with handmade pigments, using traditional Indian painting techniques from the 18th century while also utilizing her own creative approaches which are rooted in her and her family’s personal history and her relationship to that world. An occurring theme is the importance of being a woman and a mother. Her ability to express her feelings and emotions in her work draws the viewer completely into her world. Rupy will discuss her journey trying to build a contemporary portfolio with her traditional Indian training, which puts her on a challenging path as well as her goals for the present and future.

Some of her current work will also be on view for participants to look at and admire. Her paintings are in the collections of the Asian Art Museum, the De Young and the Institute of Contemporary Art in San Francisco and other galleries around the Bay area.



Umbee, the mongo child. Photo courtesy of Rupy C. Tut.



Photo courtesy of Rupy C. Tut.

Society for Asian Art
200 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 581-3701

info@societyforasianart.org

www.societyforasianart.org



UPPER CATEGORY MEMBER EVENTS

Each year, the Upper Category Member Event Committee brings together a roster of special events for SAA members in the Contributor, Donor and Sponsor levels.

As the pandemic gradually comes under control, we have recently re-launched our popular in-home Society Conversations as well as collection viewing gatherings.

Since the beginning of 2023, we have organized a variety of special events, including a virtual studio visit with artist Ala Ebtekar; a Society Conversation in a private home with LACMA Curator and Head of Art of the Middle East, Linda Komaroff; a Sponsor member event in a private home with the Asian Art Museum's Barbara Bass Bakar Director and CEO, Jay Xu; and a Sponsor and Donor member event at Iwasawa Oriental Art on the art of incense and calligraphy.

If you are not yet an Upper Category member, we invite your participation. Please [contact the SAA Office Manager](#) to upgrade your membership, or [join as an Upper Category member](#).