



November - December 2020

No. 6

A Message from the SAA President

Dear SAA Members and Friends,

Have you noticed that time seems to be passing much faster, even though we are staying at home? Is it the lack of excitement, the lack of travels, or the shorter time between SAA Zoom Meetings and Webinars? I am happy to inform you that our events are so well attended that we are confident for the future and are going ahead enthusiastically with planning events to keep your mind and your interest in Asian art at full capacity. That is, after all, the mission of the SAA!

November and December may have fewer events because of the many holidays and celebrations, but just look at the Spring 2021 Arts of Asia Lecture Series starting on January 22. Congratulations to the Arts of Asia Committee and our Instructor of Record, Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker, for getting this together with such a thrilling list of scholars. The other committees have also been busy. Please sign up for our exciting programs in November and December, and be sure to save the dates for the 2021 trips.



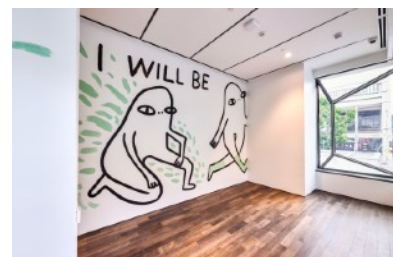
By now, many of you may have visited the Asian Art Museum since the re-opening on October 1, 2020, and contemplated your most loved works of art in person. We are fortunate to have this partial access to the special exhibitions and the collection galleries. While we await the opening of the new Akiko Yamazaki and Jerry Yang Pavilion and the East West Bank Art Terrace, we are also waiting for access to Samsung Hall, the Loggia and Koret Education Center, spaces where we love to meet you in person, have live lectures and events, or even sell books. Please be patient as it is not going to happen in 2020.

I hope that you and your family will celebrate the upcoming holidays, be it Halloween, Diwali, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or Christmas, in peace and good health!

With best regards,
Ehler Spliedt
President

I was, I am, I will be

Next time you visit the museum, do not miss the mural by Chanel Miller, currently viewable only from Hyde Street facing the museum.



I was, I am, I will be, 2020, by Chanel Miller (American, b. 1992). Process color print on vinyl. Installation view at Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, 2020. Commissioned by the Asian Art Museum; courtesy of the artist. © Chanel Miller. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.



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Study Group - Photography and Modernism in Japan with Karen Fraser

Fridays, January 22 – April 30 Online Webinars

Spring 2021 Arts of Asia Lecture Series

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

Instructor of Record: Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker



UPCOMING EVENTS (subject to change)

Sundays, February 21, March 7, March 21 & April 4 Online Meetings

Spring 2021 Literature Course

The Plum in the Golden Vase or Chin P'ing Mei Vol. 1 The Gathering

With Stephen Roddy

April 14 - April 18, 2021

Asian Art and Heritage in NOLA

Registration will open in January.

October 23 - November 2, 2021

ARTful Korea: Contemporary Art Tour

Registration will open in January.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members, who joined the Society in August and September. 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!

Erlinda Etcubanas
Paula Des Jardins
Barbara Klein

Margaret Kuckuck
Marguerite Lee & Martha Richards
Ann & Gregory Wingren

Society for Asian Art

November - December 2020, No. 6

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

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

Pure Land, Hell, or Extinction? Buddhist Visions of the Hereafter on the Silk Road
Michelle McCoy, Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh

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

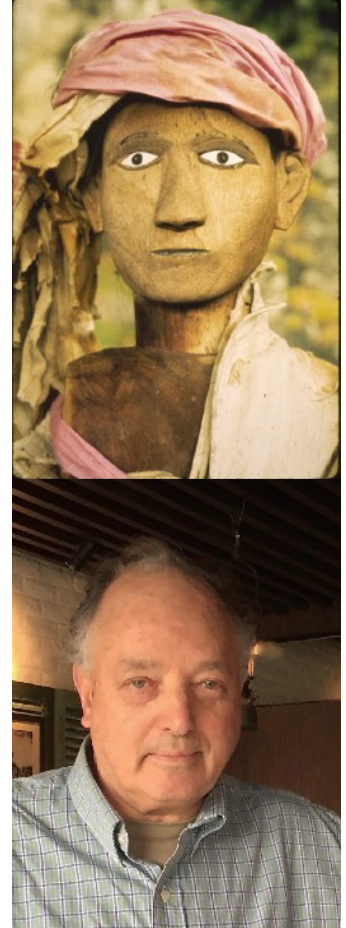


The Soul That Is Seen: Exploring Toraja Funerary Art With Eric Crystal

When: **Thursday, November 5, 2020**
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 the SAA by Oct. 29, 2020.

The elaborate funeral ceremonies of many Austronesian peoples display their traditional arts in the form of song, dance, textile arts and representative statuary. The tau tau statues erected by the Toraja of Sulawesi in Indonesia, dramatically exemplify the representation of the deceased with statues of either cloth and bamboo or hardwood. This lecture will discuss the symbolic significance of these statues, linking them with the journey of the life-soul to the netherworld. The presentation will also confront the issue of Western appropriation of indigenous art and the decline of traditional belief and practice in contemporary society.

Anthropologist Eric Crystal has been researching contemporary Southeast Asia for over four decades. The focus of his research has been in minority communities of highland areas specially in Torajaland on the island of Sulawesi. His work has included publications on traditional ceremony and religion, depiction of traditional arts in film, audio and video media, and analysis of traditional agro-economic systems. He received his PhD in anthropology from UC Berkeley. Dr. Crystal served as Vice-Chair of the Berkeley Center for Southeast Asia Studies. He has taught at Berkeley, the Claremont Colleges and the Art Institute of San Francisco.



Photos courtesy of Eric Crystal.

Back by Popular Demand! Rhythms of India With Jim Santi Owen and Friends

When: **Wednesday, December 2, 2020**
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 the SAA by Nov. 25, 2020.

Come take a virtual tour of the rhythms of North and South Indian classical percussion, music and dance. This time, Jim Santi Owen teams up with a fellow musician/dancer to explore the poetic compositions of the North Indian Tabla and Kathak dance and experience the mathematical syncopations of the South Indian Mridangam, Kanjira, Ghatam, Morsing, Thavil, and Konnakol. Your tour guide, percussionist Jim Santi Owen, has devoted 30 years to the study of these traditions with some of India's greatest artists, like Pandit Swapan Chaughuri and Ali Akbar. Instead of our usual holiday party, we will instead enjoy a holiday concert.

Jim Santi Owen is a percussionist, educator, performer, and composer. A Fellow of the American Institute of Indian Studies, he is on the faculty of the Ali Akbar College of Music, the California Jazz Conservatory, and Dominican University. His work as a composer/producer is featured in Facebook's Sound Collection.



Photos courtesy of Jim Santi Owen.



STUDY GROUP

Photography and Modernism in Japan With Karen Fraser

When: **Thursday, December 10, 2020**
 Time: **11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Pacific Time**
 Place: **Online Meeting**
 Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members**
Advance registration must be received by the SAA by Dec. 3, 2020.

This presentation will focus primarily on the development of photography during the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Japan as Japan increasingly “opened up” to the West during the Meiji period. We’ll look at the ways in which photography was used by foreign (Western) viewers to help shape their understandings of Japanese culture. Then we will consider how the native Japanese uses of photography compared. The session will conclude with a brief look at later developments in modern photography and will touch on some highlights of contemporary Japanese photography as well.

Karen Fraser earned her PhD from Stanford University, where she studied both traditional Japanese art and the history of photography. Her research focuses on modern Japanese visual culture, with particular interests in Japanese photography from ca. 1860 through the 1930s, cross-cultural interactions and influences between Asia and the West, gender issues, and museum and exhibition history. She is currently Associate Professor and Program Director for Art History & Museum Studies at the University of San Francisco.



Portrait of Fukuroku, Geisha, late 19th century, by Tomishige Rihei. Japan. Gelatin silver print.



Photos courtesy of Kaaren Fraser.



TRAVEL

Save the Date for 2021 Trips to New Orleans and Korea!

The Society for Asian Art’s Travel Committee has been busy planning both international and domestic trips for 2021, when we expect travel restrictions to ease. Registration for these trips will open in January 2021.

Asian Art and Heritage in NOLA April 14 - 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

The Society for Asian Art is pleased to offer a tour of contemporary Korean art lead by the Asian Art Museum’s Department Head and Associate Curator of Korean Art, Hyonjeong (HJ) 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 Society for Asian Art 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.



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.

Programs	Fee Per Person	Quantity	Subtotal
<input type="checkbox"/> November 5 Member Event - The Soul That Is Seen: Exploring Toraja Funerary Art <i>Online Webinar (Advance registration must be received by the SAA by Oct. 29, 2020.)</i>	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> December 2 Member Event - Rhythms of India <i>Online Webinar (Advance registration must be received by the SAA by Nov. 25, 2020.)</i>	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> December 10 Study Group - Photography and Modernism in Japan <i>Online Meeting (Advance registration must be received by the SAA by Dec. 3, 2020.)</i>	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> January 22 - April 30 Spring 2021 Arts of Asia Lecture Series - The Power of Images in Asian Art: Making the Invisible Visible <i>Online Webinar (Advance registration must be received by the SAA by Jan. 15, 2021.)</i>	\$200 Members \$250 Non-Members		

Total Amount _____

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Check Number _____ Check Amount _____ Check Date _____

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

_____-_____-_____-_____/_____/_____
Credit Card Number Expiration (MM/YY) CVV (3 digit # on back of Visa, MC or D; 4 digit # on front of AmEx)

Signature Date

Donations for Book Sale

We ask that you hold onto your book donations for now, due to COVID-19 restrictions. If you are moving or downsizing at this time and have a lot of books, we are happy to pick them up from your home within the San Francisco Bay Area.

We accept books with Asian subjects only, be it art, culture, novels, history, travel, cooking, exhibition catalogs or others. If you have any questions, please contact the SAA office at (415) 581-3701 or info@societyforasianart.org. Thank you.

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Save the Date for 2021 Trips to New Orleans and Korea

Registration will open in January for both trips. See page 6 of this newsletter for more details.

Asian Art and Heritage in NOLA
April 14 - April 18, 2021



New Orleans Museum of Art

ARTful Korea: Contemporary Art Tour
October 23 - November 2, 2021



Genius Loci, Jeju Island