



November - December 2021

No. 6

A Message from the SAA President

Dear SAA Members and Friends,

The social aspect of SAA has suffered in the last 18 months without in-person events, but I am happy to report that our first in-person gathering took place last month, strangely enough in Morocco. A small group of our intrepid travelers finally made the twice-postponed trip and, as you can see from the photo, they had a great time!

In October our second in person event, a walking tour of Chinatown, was fully booked!

We now invite you to join our Holiday Party in December, an outdoor event on the covered and blocked off space in front of one of our favorite galleries, Orientations on Tillman Place in San Francisco. It is not only a welcome back to San Francisco party after several years in Monterey, but also a get-together for all of us to celebrate the season with its multiple holidays.

We hope this party will be the beginning of many more in person events. However, the advantages of zoom webinars and meetings will not be disregarded. Look for details in this newsletter about the hybrid Arts of Asia lecture series. It is ironic that after a great series on contemporary art on Zoom, we go back thousands of years to the very early civilizations along the banks of the major rivers in Asia. Did they experience water shortages like we do?

I hope that you will spend the holidays in good health and in good company. On behalf of all the Board Members of the Society for Asian Art, we thank you for your support and wish you all the best for the year 2022.

May we meet again soon in person!

Ehler Spliedt
President

P.S. As Chair of the SAA Library Committee, I have some breaking news. There will be an Annual Book Sale on Nov. 11 and 12, 2021 in Samsung Hall. Please see details on page 8 of this newsletter.



SAA President Ehler Spliedt



Photo courtesy of Marsha Vargas Handley.



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Member Event - Islam and China on the Maritime Trade Routes
With Lawrence Butler

Thurs. Nov. 11 & Fri. Nov. 12

Annual Book Sale

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Member Event - Weaving Stories: Identity, Faith and Status in Island Southeast Asia
With Natasha Reichle

Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021

Member Event - Annual Holiday Party

Fridays, Jan. 28 – May 6

Spring 2022 Arts of Asia Lecture Series
Gifts of Rivers and Resources: Art and Power in Ancient Asia



UPCOMING EVENTS (Subject to Change)

Mar. 23 - 27, 2022 Asian Art and Heritage in NOLA

An email announcement will be sent in October with trip details.

May 16 - 21, 2022 Treasures of Asian Art in Detroit & Ann Arbor

An email announcement will be sent in October with trip details.

Jul. 2 - 15, 2022 Mongolia Unveiled

Optional Pre-Trip Extension Jun. 27 - Jul. 1, 2022 Exploring the Mongolian Gobi

An email announcement will be sent in November with trip details.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members, who joined the Society from August through 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!

Rowena Chow
Rosemarie Cheung
Patrice Fusillo
Regis Kelly
Daniel Raybin & Caroline Sue Magruder-Raybin

Mina & John Shea
Russell Wadbrook
Mary Ann Wenger
Henry Whiting



SOCIAL MEDIA

If you are joining the SAA on a trip, such as the November trip to San Diego, please remember to bring your camera. There will be lots of photo ops that will look wonderful on our Facebook and Instagram feeds. Please email your photos and a note on how you want to be credited to candacezks@gmail.com.

Society for Asian Art

November - December 2021, No. 6

Members' Newsletter
Edited by John Nelson
and Susan Lai

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saa@societyforasianart.org

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ARTS OF ASIA SPRING 2022 LECTURE SERIES

Gifts of Rivers and Resources: Art and Power in Ancient Asia



Left: Beak spouted jug with handle, approx. 900–700 BCE. Iran; Tepe Sialk, Kashan. Iron Age III (800–600 BCE). Painted earthenware. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection, B60P2009. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.
Right: Ritual vessel (he) with lid, China. Warring States period (approx. 475–221 BCE). Bronze. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection, B60B907. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

When: Fridays, Jan. 28 – May 6, 2022 (No lecture on Apr. 15.)
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pacific Time except as noted
Place: Samsung Hall & Online Webinars
Fee: \$200 per person Society members and \$250 per person non-members for the series.
Advance registration must be received by the SAA office no later than Jan. 21, 2022.
We will only accept drop ins for individual lectures in Samsung Hall on a space available basis.
Drop in fee is \$25 per person per lecture.

Instructor of Record: Sanjyot Mehendale

The artistic productions of a society are a function of the society's geography, climate, environmental conditions, natural resources, technology, trade, and culture. This series examines the foundations of Asian artistic traditions with attention to how their natural environments shaped the cultures. It is no accident that complex cultures first arose on rivers, near fertile croplands, close to deposits of valuable minerals, or at nodes of trade routes. Join us for a journey across ancient Asia to see how the formative traditions arose from their natural settings. This series will explore the ancient societies that arose along the great river systems of the Indus, Tigris and Euphrates, Oxus, Yellow River, Yangtze, Ganges, and Mekong, and survey the earliest complex cultures of Mesopotamia, Iran, Central Asia, India, the Himalayas, China, Southeast Asia, Korea, and Japan.

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



ARTS OF ASIA SPRING 2022 LECTURE SERIES

Speakers & Topics (Subject to Change)

January 28, 2022

The Indus Tradition of Ancient South Asia: New Perspectives on Crafts, Trade, Ideology and Power

J. Mark Kenoyer, George F. Dales Jr. and Barbara A. Dales Professor of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

February 4, 2022

Climate, Environment, and the Development of Complex Societies in the Ancient Near East

Hervé Reculeau, Associate Professor of Assyriology, Oriental Institute, The University of Chicago

February 11, 2022

The Yellow River: A Natural and Unnatural History

Ruth Mostern, Professor and World History Center Director, University of Pittsburgh

February 18, 2022

Goddess, Serpent and River: The Ganges in South Asian Art and History

Robert D. DeCaroli, Professor and Director of the MA Program, Department of History and Art History, George Mason University

February 25, 2022

Southern Bronzes and the Creation of Ritual Landscape in Early China

Li Min, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles

March 4, 2022

The Ancestors of Angkor: Early Civilizations in Mainland Southeast Asia

Alison Carter, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon

March 11, 2022

China First Unifies: Art of the Qin and Han Periods

Jun Hu, Mr. and Mrs. Pai Ruchu Presidential Professor in the Arts and Humanities, University of California, Berkeley

March 18, 2022

Regimes of Mobilities: Culture, Economy and the Early Central Asian Powers

Bryan K. Miller, Lecturer, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan

March 25, 2022

Motif and Material Culture: Trans-Himalayan Connections as Viewed from Upper Mustang, Nepal

Mark Aldenderfer, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, University of California, Merced

April 1, 2022

Ancient Empires and Art of South Asia Beyond the Ganges

Jinah Kim, George P. Bickford Professor of Indian and South Asian Art, Harvard University

April 8, 2022

The Role of Space and Geography in the Formation of Early Korean States

Mark E. Byington, Research Associate, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University

April 22, 2022

Japanese Material Culture, Ecology and Landscape Practice from the Prehistoric Jomon to the Early Historic Period

Junko Habu, Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley

April 29, 2022

The Landscapes and Materiality of Power in Persia and the Ancient Iranian World

Matthew Canepa, Professor and Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Presidential Chair in Art History and Archaeology of Ancient Iran, University of California, Irvine

May 6, 2022

All Greek to Us: The Kushans and "Hellenism"

Sanjyot Mehendale, Chair, Tang Center for Silk Road Studies, University of California, Berkeley



Islam and China on the Maritime Trade Routes With Lawrence Butler

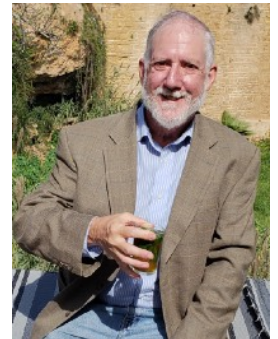
When: **Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021**
Time: **2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pacific Time**
Place: **Online Webinar**
Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members.**
Advance registration must be received by the SAA by Nov. 3, 2021.

The Straits of Malacca, a narrow passage between Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore that links the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea, has been one of the world's great trade routes from prehistory through the present day. In this illustrated talk, Lawrence Butler will highlight the medieval and early modern periods when the worlds of Islam and the Chinese diaspora met and mixed all along this strategic waterway. He will consider ancient sculptures and recent shipwreck archeology to understand the trade in luxury goods between Tang China, medieval India, and Abbasid Islam. Zheng He, a Chinese Muslim admiral, led his great treasure fleets through the Straits in the early Ming, promoting the spread of both Chinese culture and Islam along the way. We will explore the communities, luxury arts, mosques and temples of Malaysia and Indonesia that have resulted from these encounters, shaped in later centuries by Portuguese, Dutch and English colonialism and modern nationalism.

Dr. Lawrence Butler is Associate Professor of Art History Emeritus at George Mason University in Virginia. His training and research have focused on medieval, Islamic, Chinese and Silk Road art. He has taught a broad range of courses on global art and cultural history and encounters. His interest in Asia's maritime trade routes comes from teaching in the Semester at Sea program, while circling the globe. He has taught four summers in Shanghai, China, as well as lectured frequently at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, where he serves as an expert with Smithsonian Journeys. Currently he is active with the East Hawaii Cultural Center in Hilo, Hawaii and has just started an experimental coffee farm on the Big Island of Hawaii.



Zanji Merchants on a Mtepe Ship, 13th C. Bibliotheque Nationale de France MS Arabe 5847.



Lawrence Butler

Weaving Stories: Identity, Faith and Status in Island Southeast Asia With Natasha Reichle

When: **Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021**
Time: **10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.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 Nov. 9, 2021.

Simultaneously very intimate and highly public, textiles play important roles in people's lives from birth to death. In Southeast Asia, clothing can indicate age, gender, marital status, wealth, or membership in an ethnic or social group. This talk, based on the upcoming exhibition of textiles from Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, will delve into these and other questions of ethnicity, women as artistic innovators, and the rich diversity and complexity of dyes, styles and patterns developed by women across Southeast Asia. *Weaving Stories* will showcase textiles from the Asian Art Museum's own rich collection of textile arts.

Natasha Reichle is Curator of Southeast Asian Art at the Asian Art Museum and well known to our audience. She has curated many exhibitions on a wide range of subjects, including Javanese puppets, Batik textiles and Southeast Asian Jewelry. She also curated the first major U.S. exhibition on the arts of Bali. Her most recent exhibition was Lost at Sea: Art Recovered from Shipwrecks. She has authored many articles and catalogues and is author of Violence and Serenity: Late Buddhist Sculpture from Indonesia.



Shoulder or waist cloth (ija sawa) (detail), approx. 1850-1900. Indonesia; Aceh province, Sumatra. Silk and gold wrapped thread. Asian Art Museum, Gift of Joan and M. Glenn Vinson, Jr., 2018.120. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.



Natasha Reichle



MEMBER EVENTS

Annual Holiday Party

When: **Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021**
 Time: **4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time**
 Place: **Patio of Orientations Gallery, 12 Tillman Place, San Francisco**
Proof of vaccination and mask required for entry.
 Fee: **\$75 per person Society members; \$85 per person non-members.**
Advance registration must be received by SAA by Nov. 28, 2021.

After a hiatus of 2 years, SAA members are once again invited to attend our Annual Holiday Party, generously hosted by Jerry Janssen and Russ Young at their well-known gallery, Orientations, now in its new location in San Francisco. Parking is available in nearby Union Square parking garages or on the street.

Come and enjoy the wine and hors d'oeuvres, while looking at some of the wonderful Asian antiques and objects on view. Jerry will specially feature pieces of 19th century Bizen pottery plus treasurers from the late Edo and Meiji periods. Enjoy browsing the many other treasures that will be on view.

Please note that due to space limitations, this event will be a standing cocktail party.

Attendance is limited, so please sign up early!



Bizen and Bronze Treasures of 19th Century Japan. Photo courtesy of Orientations.



TRAVEL

Stunning Treasures from Asia in San Diego Nov. 9 - 12, 2021

A few spaces are still available for this trip. Since we have met the minimum participant requirement, Travel Muse is now accepting reservations online on a first-come first-serve basis. Please check out the details in the [trip flyer](#), and sign up online at <https://tri.ps/gTiNg>.

Please look for email announcements on 2022 trips to New Orleans, Detroit and Ann Arbor, and Mongolia.

Here are some photos shared by Morocco trip participant, Tracy Barsotti. Enjoy!





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"/> Nov. 10, 2021 Member Event - Islam and China on the Maritime Trade Routes <i>Online Webinar. Advance registration must be received by SAA by Nov. 3, 2021.</i>	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 16, 2021 Member Event - Weaving Stories: Identity, Faith and Status in Island Southeast Asia <i>Online Webinar. Advance registration must be received by SAA by Nov. 9, 2021.</i>	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 5, 2021 Member Event - Annual Holiday Party <i>Advance registration must be received by SAA by Nov. 28, 2021.</i>	\$75 Members \$85 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 28 - May 6, 2022 Spring 2022 Arts of Asia Lecture Series Gifts of Rivers and Resources: Art and Power in Ancient Asia <i>Advance registration must be received by SAA by Jan. 21, 2022.</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

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

(415) 581-3701

info@societyforasianart.org

www.societyforasianart.org



ANNUAL BOOK SALE

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. & Friday, Nov. 12, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum

Proof of vaccination and mask required for entry and social distancing will be enforced. No cash transactions.

Books on Asian Art, History, Literature, Culture, Travel, Cooking

Thousands of books, including collector's items, will be available at bargain prices. Selections include books on Asian art, history, literature, religion, culture, cooking, travel, textiles, jewelry and more.

All books are donated by members and friends of the Society for Asian Art or the Asian Art Museum. All proceeds will benefit the Asian Art Museum's C. Laan Chun Library.

Over the past decade, the sale of donated books has raised more than \$100,000 for the Museum's library, one of the most extensive art libraries in the country.

This is a perfect way to obtain early presents for the holidays and get reading materials for the long winter evenings. Tell your friends about this one-of-a-kind book sale in San Francisco.

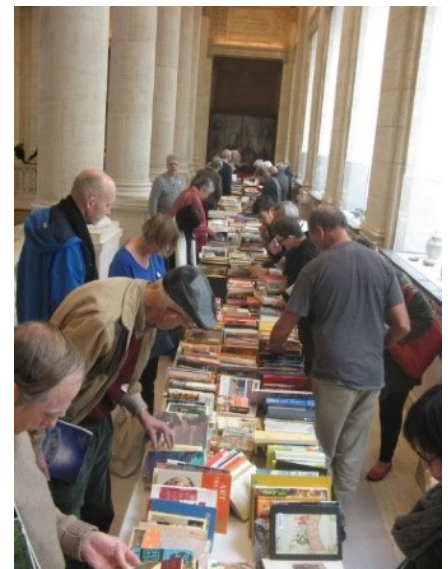


Photo courtesy of Ehler Spliedt.