



November - December 2023

No. 6

### Trips/Travel

#### South India: Temples, Art, Architecture and Crafts January 17 - February 2, 2024

A few spaces are still available on this fabulous trip! SAA travelers will be accompanied by excellent scholars to explore exotic temples as well as visit beautiful coastal cities. This trip will not only explore the living heritage of temples but will visit bronze workshops and weaving studios. We will be traveling through the locations in the very popular New York Times best selling book and Oprah's Book Club pick, *The Covenant of Water*, by Bay Area author and Stanford University School of Medicine professor Abraham Verghese. Please check [Trips/Travel on our website](#) to see the trip itinerary.



Temple at Gangaikonda Cholapuram. SMITHOON V T, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

### Save the Date!

#### Meiji Modern and Asian Art in Chicago May 13 - 17, 2024



Watanabe Nobukazu (1872–1944), Bronze Statue of Saigō Takamori in Ueno Park, Tokyo, 1899. Ukiyo-e woodblock- printed vertical ōban triptych, ink and color on paper. Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University of Oregon, Eugene, Gift of Irwin Lavenberg, The Lavenberg Collection of Japanese Prints, 2021:36.453a–c.

Join us to see *Meiji Modern: 50 Years of New Japan*, a fresh look at the art of the Meiji era (1868-1912), four remarkable decades that propelled the country into the modern era. This special exhibition at the University of Chicago's Smart Museum of Art celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Japanese Art Society of America. We will enjoy a private tour with one of the co-curators, Associate Professor of Art History Chelsea Foxwell. Our visit to the Art Institute of Chicago features two curator-led tours including *Radical Clay: Contemporary Women Artists from Japan*. At Institute for Study of Ancient Cultures (formerly The Oriental Institute), a private tour with the director and chief curator will cover highlights of their collection. Our trip will include an architecture-focused river cruise and more. Enjoy a farewell dinner, a sumptuous French Vietnamese feast in a beautiful setting at Le Colonial. We will stay at the four-star Sofitel Chicago, footsteps from the Magnificent Mile and Riverwalk.

An email announcement with trip details and registration instructions will be sent on November 13 to all SAA members and newsletter subscribers. If you are not yet a member, please [join online](#).



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### Saturday, Dec. 2

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Member Event - Annual Holiday Party

### Saturday, Jan. 13

Member Event - The Rise of South Korean Cinema with Jinsoo An

### Fridays, Jan. 26 - May 17

Spring 2024 Arts of Asia - Echoes of the Past, Visions of the Future



## UPCOMING EVENTS (Subject to Change)

### Jan. 20, 2024

Study Group - The Hindu Divinities with Robert Goldman & Sally Goldman



## 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!

Adrian & Monica Arima  
Juliett Chun  
Barbara Holt

Diane LeVan  
Roy & Ruth Wong  
Hsiao-Yen & Raymond Yeh



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Our Facebook page is growing slowly, but surely. Our trip to Washington, DC and Baltimore provided another way for us to broaden our appeal. Two trip participants were former docents, who attend the Arts of Asia lectures on Zoom, even though one now lives in Indiana and the other one in Pennsylvania. Their story is now featured on our Facebook page.

## Society for Asian Art

November - December 2023, No. 6

Members' Newsletter  
Edited by Janet Constantinou  
and Susan Lai

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## Echoes of the Past, Visions of the Future



Left: *Past Continuous Tense* (detail), 2011, by Lam Tung Pang (Chinese, b. 1978, active Hong Kong and Vancouver). Charcoal, image transfer, and acrylic on plywood. Acquisition made possible by the Kao/Williams Foundation. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco. Right: Landscape in the style of Ni Zan and Huang Gongwang, dated 1708, by Wang Yuanqi (Chinese, 1642–1715). Qing dynasty (1644–1911). Ink and colors on paper. Asian Art Museum, Museum purchase, B69D7. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

- When:** Fridays from Jan. 26 to May 17, 2024 (No lecture on Mar. 29, Apr. 12 & May 10)  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pacific Time  
**Place:** Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum & Online Webinars  
Please see schedule on the next page for any exceptions.  
**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

No culture exists in a vacuum, without a context or a past. During this lecture series, we will examine the ways historical ideas, forms, and techniques continue to shape the arts and cultures of today. We will start with archeological explorations, move on to artists who continue ancient traditions, and bring in contemporary artists referencing and exploring the past.

We will see how exchanges east and west led Chinese calligraphers to enliven an ancient art, and how Bay Area artist Ala Ebtakar explored the cosmos and the idea of time for a piece now on view on the museum's newly opened East West Bank Art Terrace. After we travel to Central Asia, South Asia, the Himalayas, China, Korea, and Japan, our concluding lecture will feature the Barbara Bass Bakar Director & CEO of the Asian Art Museum, Dr. Jay Xu, speaking on the unique contribution and relationship between archeology and art. This lecture will have special significance to the spring special exhibition, *Phoenix Kingdoms*, exploring new discoveries of an ancient Chinese 3,000-year-old Bronze Culture.

Art will help us illuminate what one of our speakers, Arnold Chang, describes as “The Past is Always Present”.

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



# ARTS OF ASIA SPRING 2024 LECTURE SERIES

## Speakers & Topics (Subject to Change)

### Jan. 26, 2024

Medieval Central Asia in Depth: Archaeological Explorations and Mapping of Newly Discovered High Elevation Cities of the 6th-12th Centuries

Michael Frachetti, Professor of Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis

### Feb. 2, 2024

Ani: 10th Century Capital City of Armenia and UNESCO World Heritage Archeological Site

Heghnar Watenpaugh, Professor of Art & Architectural History, University of California, Davis

### Feb. 9, 2024

Living Traditions: Architecture of Japan in a World Context

Ken Tadashi Oshima, Professor/Director of History Theory, Department of Architecture, University of Washington, Seattle

### Feb. 16, 2024

Zarina's Art: Mapping a South Asian Life

Mary-Ann Milford, Professor Emerita, Department of Art and Art History, Mills College

### Feb. 23, 2024

Tradition as an Echo in My Art

Shahzia Sikander, Artist, Studio SS Sikander

### Mar. 1, 2024

The Past is Always Present

Arnold Chang, Artist, Curator, and Art Historian

### Mar. 8, 2024

Making the Desert Bloom: The Art, Architecture, and Archaeology of the Nabataeans Past and Present

Sarah Wenner, Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Research Fellow, Cincinnati Art Museum

### Mar. 15, 2024

Echoes in Luminous Ground

Ala Ebtakar, Artist and Lecturer, Department of Art & Art History, Stanford University

### Mar. 22, 2024

New Buddhist Art and Architecture in India

Padma Dorje Maitland, Malavalli Family Foundation Associate Curator of the Art of the Indian Subcontinent, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

### Apr. 5, 2024

Wang Dongling and Calligraphic Practice in Contemporary Art

Julia Andrews, Distinguished University Professor Emeritus, Department of History of Art, The Ohio State University

### Apr. 19, 2024

Tsherin Sherpa: Art from the Himalayas Today

Tsherin Sherpa, Artist

### Apr. 26, 2024

Japanese Aesthetics of Subversion: Basara, Wabi-Sabi and Kabuki Mono

Akiko Walley, Maude I. Kerns Associate Professor of Japanese Art, University of Oregon

### May 3, 2024

The Early History of Goryeo Celadon Collecting in North America

Yoon-Jee Choi, Assistant Curator for Korean Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

### May 17, 2024

The Lost Kingdoms of Ancient China: The Relationship Between Archeology and Art History

Dr. Jay Xu, The Barbara Bass Bakar Director & CEO, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco



## MEMBER EVENTS

### The Menagerie of Fantasy and the Red Pagoda: The Lives of Clemence d’Ennery & C. T. Loo with Julian Brown

When: **Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023**

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

Place: **Zoom Webinar**

Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members**  
**Advance registration must be received by SAA by Oct. 19, 2023.**

One of the SAA’s favorite speakers, Dr. Julian Brown will examine the lives of two remarkable collectors of Asian art in Paris – the colorful and controversial dealer C.T. Loo and the formidable collector Clemence d’Ennery. Hear how C.T. Loo, despite being born poor in rural China, became the 20th century’s most famous dealer of Chinese antiquities and Mme d’Ennery, the inquisitive wife of a well-known French writer, assembled an impressive 7000 piece collection of Asian ceramics and decorative arts.

The newly restored Red Pagoda (C.T. Loo’s headquarters in Paris) and the Musée d’Ennery (closed for many years and now open by appointment) will also be a topic of Julian’s discussion.

Born and educated in England, art historian Julian Brown commutes between his homes in Normandy and Paris. He earned a PhD from the 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. He recently led a very popular SAA trip to Indochina and will be leading the Springtime in Paris with the SAA trip next April.

### Tour of Art+Process+Ideas with Artist Ranu Mukherjee

When: **Friday, Nov. 3, 2023**

Time: **11:00 a.m.**

Place: **Mills College Art Museum, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland**

Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members**  
**Limited to 20 participants.**

The award-winning artist Ranu Mukherjee will lead us through the exhibition, Art+Process+Ideas, which features the works of three Bay Area artists, Ranu Mukherjee, Heesoo Kwon and Liat Berdugo. The exhibition features various approaches to art making, the use of technology and how ideas are brought to practical application. Ranu will also speak on the evolution of her artwork. Her signature additions to the canvas is sari fabrics as an inherent element of her work, interwoven with her cultural heritage.

Ranu Mukherjee was born in Massachusetts and now resides and works in San Francisco. Her collage-based paintings and film installations cultivate ecological, somatic, feminist and multidimensional perspectives on time, energy and power emerging from ruptured colonial legacies. Solo exhibitions and commissioned projects have been presented by many art institutions and by Singapore Biennale 2022 and Karachi Biennale 2019. Her work is held in the permanent collections of the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, de Young Museum, the JP Morgan Chase Collection, New York, the Kadist Foundation, the Oakland Museum of California, the San Jose Museum of Art, and San Francisco Arts Commission, among others.



Red Pagoda. Siren-Com, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons



Julian Brown



Bitter Skin, 2023, by Ranu Mukherjee. Pigment, ink, crystalina, and UV inkjet print on silk and cotton sari fabric on linen, 72 x 72 inches. Photo courtesy of Ranu Mukherjee.



Ranu Mukherjee



# MEMBER EVENTS

## The Birth of Anime with Joshua Frydman

When: **Thursday, Nov. 16, 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 Nov. 9, 2023.**

Where did Anime come from and why did it stick around? These are some of the ideas and thoughts that Joshua Frydman will talk about as he explains the birth and rise of Japanese manga art. The talk will focus on the first few decades of the anime industry from the 1940's to the 1970's and how and why it grew to what it has become today. A timely presentation for us, as we view the current exhibition, Murakami Monsterized at the Asian, that may help us understand the history of this art form.

Joshua Frydman is an Associate Professor of Japanese at the University of Oklahoma. SAA members may remember his well-received talk on Japanese myths and folk tales last April. A scholar on ancient Japan, his interests include the development of writing systems in East Asia and the role of global cultural interactions in the development of pre-modern societies as viewed through literature and art.



Anime poster courtesy of Joshua Frydman.



Joshua Frydman

## Annual Holiday Party

When: **Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023**  
 Time: **4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**  
 Place: **Peterson Room & Garden, Asian Art Museum**  
 Fee: **\$75 per person Society members; \$85 per person non-members after museum admission**  
**Advance registration must be received by SAA by Dec. 8, 2023.**

Once more this year, we are delighted to have Orientations Gallery host the Society's Annual Holiday Party to be held in the newly restored Peterson Room and Garden, which were recently refurbished and spruced up by Jerry Janssen. Some baskets from the museum's Lloyd Cotsen Japanese Bamboo Basket Collection will be on view, and we will have a short talk on some of the baskets.

We will also be treated to a dedication ceremony in the Garden of the Bell tower as well as a short presentation on the history of the Garden while we enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres and dim sum catered by Yank Sing.

This event is limited to 50 people, so be sure to register now!



Peterson Room and Garden.  
Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.



Whirlpool (Naruto), 1998, by Matsuzawa Kazuyoshi (Japanese, b. 1931). Heisei period (1989–2019). Rattan and bamboo pounded flat and bent with "insect" stitching. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Lloyd Cotsen Japanese Bamboo Basket Collection, 2006.3.33. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.



## MEMBER EVENTS

### The Rise of South Korean Cinema with Jinsoo An

When: **Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024**

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**

South Korean cinema has emerged as one of the most dynamic and commercially successful national cinemas in the past twenty years. This rise is particularly impressive given that Korean cinema was nearly on the brink of collapse in the early 1990's due to its struggle against the encroachment of Hollywood films. What happened to South Korean cinema? How did it turn the situation around and regain domestic market and international recognition? This lecture will answer those questions and also reflect on South Korean cinema's new challenges in the changing media landscape – especially from the spread of streaming platforms and alternative viewing practices.

Dr. Jinsoo An is an associate professor at UC Berkeley, where he holds the Chancellor's Chair in Korean Language and Culture and also chairs the Center for Korean Studies. He has a special interest in Korean films and has published numerous articles and books relating to Korean film aesthetics and representation. He is currently working on a manuscript relating to the Korean filmmaker Kim Ki-young, known for his edgy, psychosexual films from the 1960's and 1970's.



Theatrical poster of *The Housemaid* (1960), produced, written and directed by Kim Ki-young. Kuk Dong, Seki Trading Co., Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Jinsoo An

### Donations for Book Sale

We now accept books throughout the year for our annual Book Sale. So if you move, downsize or are tired of all the books collecting dust in your home, please donate them to our Book Sale. We are accepting books with Asian subjects only, be it art, culture, novels, history, travel, cooking, exhibition catalogs or others.

Due to space constraints, we are unable to accept book donations at the SAA office. You can drop off books on Fridays when the Arts of Asia lectures are in session. If you have a lot of books, we are happy to pick them up from your home within the Bay Area. Please contact the SAA office at 415-581-3701 or [info@societyforasianart.org](mailto:info@societyforasianart.org) for details.



# UPPER CATEGORY MEMBER EVENTS

## A Presentation on East Asian Water Droppers By Marsha Vargas Handley, Society for Asian Art President

When: **Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023**  
Time: **2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**  
Place: **Marsha Vargas Handley's Residence in San Francisco**  
Fee: **For Sponsor members only. This event is complimentary.**  
**Please RSVP no later than Oct. 31, 2023.**

Marsha will speak for approximately 30 minutes on the use and history of water droppers in East Asia and show us some examples from her collection. Water droppers are small containers used in calligraphy to make ink. The calligrapher uses the water dropper to place a few drops of water onto an inkstone and grinds an ink stick in the water to form ink. Water droppers are often made of bronze, ceramic, and jade or other stones. Although made for practical use, they are considered a thing of beauty themselves.

We hope you will join us for this special program and the opportunity to view the exquisite collection of our friend and esteemed Asian art expert. Participants will have a chance to ask questions and to engage in conversation, and to view Marsha's well-curated collection of water droppers and other Asian art.

- Please note:
- Light refreshments will be served.
  - Exact address will be provided to participants closer to the event.
  - Participation is limited to 20 people on a first come first serve basis.

An invitation was sent via email to all Sponsor members on Sept. 30.

## Society Conversation with Qamar Adamjee

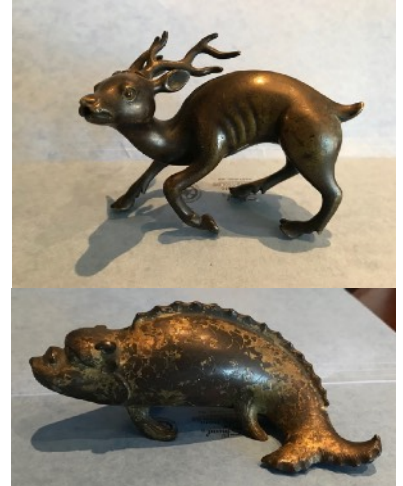
When: **Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023**  
Time: **2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**  
Place: **Private Residence in San Francisco**  
Fee: **\$20 per person Society Upper Category members & guests**  
**Advance registration must be received by the SAA by Nov. 22, 2023.**

SAA Upper Category members are invited to join a Society Conversation with Qamar Adamjee, former Asian Art Museum Associate Curator of South Asian and Islamic art.

Qamar will be speaking on Indian antiquities and social networks – a subject that draws on the provenance research she is currently working on for the Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art in Washington, DC. One of the objects that she will discuss will be a Sivapuram Nataraja sculpture that was formerly in the Norton Simon Museum of Art but was returned to India in 1986.

- Please note:
- Light refreshments will be served.
  - Exact address will be provided to participants closer to the event.
  - Participation is limited to 20 people on a first come first serve basis.

An invitation will be sent via email to all Upper Category members on Oct. 16.



Photographs courtesy of Marsha Vargas Handley.



Marsha Vargas Handley



Qamar Adamjee