

Society for Asian Art

Newsletter for Members



September - October 2018

No. 5

As we prepare for the fall programs to begin, here's a look at some of the SAA events that took place in late spring and summer. Look for photos throughout this newsletter.



SAA members in the Winterthur Museum's conservation labs with Dr. Joyce Hill Stoner during the May 2018 Phabulous Philly trip. Photo courtesy of Carole Harlow.



Dr. Felice Fischer, Curator of Japanese Art and Senior Curator of East Asian Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art met with SAA members during the Phabulous Philly Trip in May 2018. Photo courtesy of Gerrie Linn.





IN THIS ISSUE

Fridays, August 17 – November 16

Fall 2018 Arts of Asia Lecture Series

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

Friday, August 31

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

Saturday, September 15

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

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

Saturday, October 20

Visit to the Shiva-Vishnu Temple in Livermore

Saturday, November 10

Visit to the Theatre of Yugen to see The Mad Words of Kyōgen



UPCOMING EVENTS (subject to change)

Saturday, November 3

Study Group: The History of Tea with John Wallace

Sunday, December 9

Holiday Party



SAA members at Winterthur Museum and Gardens during the May 2018 Phabulous Philly trip. Photo courtesy of Debbie and Tadd Ottman.

Society for Asian Art

September - October 2018, No. 5

Members' Newsletter
Edited by John Nelson,
Trista Berkovitz,
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

Copyright © 2018 Society for Asian Art

Board of Directors 2018-2019

President	Trista Berkovitz
Past President	Anne Adams Kahn
Vice President	Margaret Edwards
Vice President	Ehler Spliedt
Secretary	Greg Potts
Treasurer	Ed Baer

Margaret Booker
 Agnes Brenneman
 Deborah Clearwaters*
 Sheila Dowell
 Phyllis Kempner
 Etsuko Kobata
 Myoung-Ja Lee Kwon
 Barbara Levinson
 Forrest McGill*
 Lawrence Mock
 Howard Moreland
 John Nelson
 Merrill Randol
 Pamela Royle
 Henny Tanudjaja
 Marsha Vargas Handley
 Diane Weber
 Kalim Winata
 Sylvia Wong
 Kasey Yang

*ex officio



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



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.

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

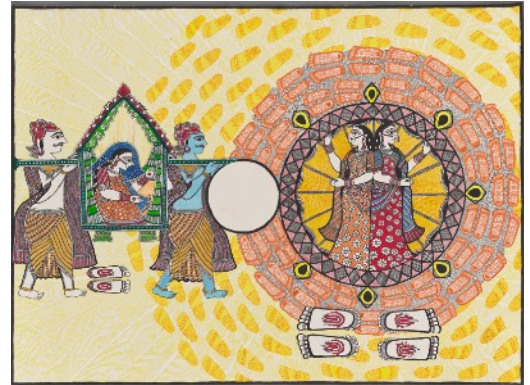
When: **Saturday, September 15**
Time: **10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
Place: **Resource Room, Asian Art Museum**
Fee: **\$15 Society members; \$20 non-members (after museum admission)**

This talk in conjunction with the current exhibition of Mithila paintings at the Asian will delve into the history and culture of this unique form of 'folk art' from the Mithila region of Bihar.

Since at least the 14th century, women of this region have painted gods, goddesses and icons of fertility on the walls of their homes. In the late 60's they began transferring them to paper.

They now include episodes from the ancient epics, famous narratives and folk tales, which demonstrates the vitality and growth of this art form in the 21st century.

Malini Bakhshi, a product designer, has taught design and typography at the Academy of Art University and has worked in the technology industry. She founded Pink Mango to encourage the appreciation of contemporary Indian art and has been involved in organizing exhibitions of Mithila paintings around northern California.



Daughters Are for Others, 2006, by Shalinee Kumari (Indian, b. 1985). Ink and colors on paper. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Museum purchase, Mortimer-Harvey Fund, 2018.7. © Shalinee Kumari. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Visit to the Shiva-Vishnu Temple in Livermore

When: **Saturday, October 20**
Time: **10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
Place: **1232 Arrowhead Avenue, Livermore**
Fee: **\$15 Society members; \$20 non-members**

Join us for a visit to the impressive Shiva-Vishnu Temple in Livermore. The Hindu Community and Cultural Center (HCCC) was established in 1977 with the goal of offering religious services to the Hindu community. In the last 41 years, the HCCC has evolved into an established religious institution with 12 priests from different regions of India. One of the founding fathers of the temple will take us on a guided tour of the temple complex at a time when the priests will be conducting prayers in its many shrines. From the moment you cross the threshold of the temple, you will be surrounded by the authentic color, fragrance, and sounds of Hinduism in India.



Shiva-Vishnu Temple in Livermore



MEMBER EVENTS

The Mad Words of Kyōgen With Nick Ishimaru and Lluís Valls

When: **Saturday, November 10**
Time: **2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**
Place: **Theatre of Yugen NOHspace, 2840 Mariposa Street, San Francisco**
Fee: **\$25 Society members; \$30 non-members**

Kyōgen ("mad words" or "wild speech") is a form of traditional Japanese comic theater which was historically performed as an intermission between Noh plays and is thought to have originated before the 14th century. Join us for a rare and hilarious day with the Theatre of Yugen, while we see two traditional Kyōgen plays performed in English. Learn about the history of Kyōgen, and observe a costume change on stage. The Theatre of Yugen is a San Francisco-based non-profit formed to present as genuine a Kyōgen experience as one can get while still seeing the plays in English. It is the only theater company in the world that performs Kyōgen in English.



Lluís Valls and Nick Ishimaru of the Theatre of Yugen, San Francisco

Nick Ishimaru is Artistic Director of the Theatre of Yugen. Nick received his B.A. in Performing Arts from Colorado State University and his Masters in Drama from San Francisco State University. He has trained in Noh and Kyōgen for over seven years, and has studied Kabuki, Jingju (Beijing Opera), and Nihon Buyo (traditional Japanese dance). Nick has also taught college-level master classes on Noh and Kyōgen. Lluís Valls has studied Noh, Kyōgen, Butoh, and clowning. He is a graduate of San Francisco State University and served as Joint Artistic Director at Theatre of Yugen from 2002 to 2008.



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**
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.



UPPER CATEGORY MEMBER EVENTS

Invitations will be sent separately to members at the appropriate membership levels. Please contact the SAA office if you wish to upgrade and join us!

Contributing Level and Above

One Conversation of your choice from the following:

Karen Fraser, USF, SAA Advisor, Saturday, September 22nd 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. in San Francisco

Judith Lerner, NYU, Arts of Asia Lecturer, Friday, October 19th 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. in San Francisco

Nile Green, UCLA, Arts of Asia Lecturer, Saturday, November 17th 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. in North Berkeley

Sponsor Level

An evening with Rob Mintz, Deputy Director of Art & Programs, Asian Art Museum, Sunday, November 4th 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. in Piedmont



TRAVEL

Save the Date!

Four Treasures: Taiwan, Shanghai, Suzhou and Hangzhou — April 7 — 21, 2019

Travel with the SAA as we explore four iconic areas famous for Chinese art, culture, history and diverse cuisines. Accompanying us on this memorable journey is retired UC Berkeley professor, Dr. Jeffrey Riegel, who led the much praised SAA 2013 China trip. Our planned itinerary starts in vibrant Taipei, continues to the beautiful mountainous northern area and then heads to the central part of the island. Highlights include visits to the National Palace Museum Taipei and Southern Branch, the Museum of the Institute of History and Philology, the Juming Museum and an afternoon at the studio of one of Taiwan's most celebrated ceramic artists, Ah Leon. From Taiwan, we fly to Shanghai, where we experience what makes the city so special including the Shanghai Museum, the Bund and the French Concession. Our stay also includes a visit to the studio of Liu Jianhua, the artist who created the Asian's amazing Collected Letters ceramic installation. We continue our journey with two nights in Suzhou, "the Venice of the East," home to the I.M. Pei designed Suzhou Museum and renowned for its gardens. We then go to Hangzhou with its beautiful West Lake and tour the extensive collections of the Zhejiang Provincial Museum and the Liangzhu Museum.

The opportunity to sign up for this very special trip will be available in the early fall.



SAA ADVISORS

Newly-Appointed SAA Advisors

The SAA Advisory Council consists of scholars who advise the SAA on its programs and publications. This includes recommending speakers, giving lectures, leading travel groups, and assisting with workshops.

Three superb academic advisors have been recently added to the roster: Dr. Karen Fraser of the University of San Francisco, Dr. Munir Jiwa of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, and Dr. Sugata Ray of UC Berkeley.

Dr. Karen Fraser is an Assistant Professor of Asian Art in the Art History/Arts Management program at USF. Dr. Fraser earned her PhD from Stanford, where she studied both traditional Japanese art and the history of photography. She has a special interest in Japanese visual culture, photography, and impact of gender, and has taught both modern and traditional Asian art survey courses.

Dr. Munir Jiwa is the Founding Director of the Center for Islamic Studies and Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and Anthropology at the Graduate Theological Union. Dr. Jiwa teaches classes on Islam and Muslims in the West, anthropology and ethnographic methods, and art aesthetics and cultural production. He is an excellent speaker as you can see from his two video lectures on YouTube, one on "Religion and Politics" and the other on "Islam and Muslims in Academia."

Dr. Sugata Ray is an Assistant Professor of South Asian Art in the History of Art Department at UC Berkeley. Dr. Ray has already received accolades for his recent Arts of Asia lecture, "A Turkey in Jahangir's Court." His interests have focused on early modern and colonial artistic cultures as well as a contemporary research topic addressing the intersections between the environment and aesthetics. His current book project is *Geoaesthetics in the Little Ice Age (ca. 1550 - 1850)*.

Spring 2018 Issue is Available Online

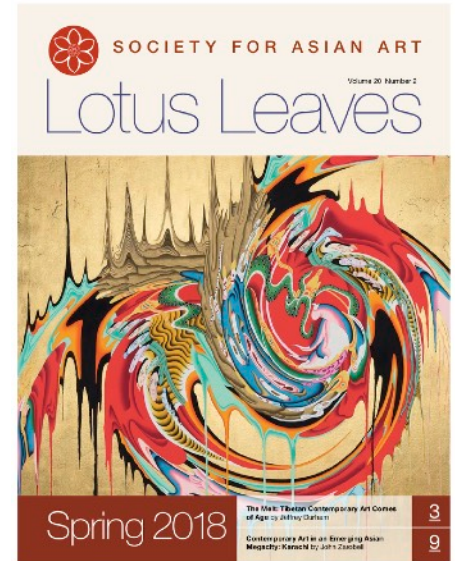
The Spring 2018 issue features an article by Jeff Durham, Assistant Curator of Himalayan Art at the Asian Art Museum, on the gorgeous contemporary Tibetan painting, *The Melt*, currently on view in the Museum's The Himalayas and the Tibetan Buddhist World Gallery. Also, Associate Professor and Undergraduate 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.
© Society for Asian Art.

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 the SAA office at 415-581-3701 for details.



Toru Sugita demonstrating Japanese printmaking techniques.
Photo courtesy of Trista Berkovitz.



Master artist Toru Sugita surrounded by participants during printmaking workshop.
Photo courtesy of Trista Berkovitz.



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"/> 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 31 Lecture: Balinese Art and Its Connections with Temple Art with Adrian Vickers	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> September 15 Lecture: Painting is My Everything: Art from India's Mithila Region with Malini Bakshi	\$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		
<input type="checkbox"/> October 20 Visit to the Shiva-Vishnu Temple in Livermore	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> November 10 Visit to the Theatre of Yugen to see The Mad Words of Kyōgen	\$25 Members \$30 Non-Members		

Total Amount _____

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Visa MC Discover _____ - _____ - _____ / _____
Card Number Expiration (MM/YY) CCV# (3-digit # on back)

Signature _____ Date _____

Check Number _____ Check Date _____