



September - October 2021

No. 5

**Society for Asian Art Presents
Stunning Treasures from Asia in San Diego
November 9 - 12, 2021**



The LEED-certified Inamori Pavilion at Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park, designed by Kotaro Nakamura, offers views of a cascading waterfall and koi ponds. Photo by Dominic Nepomuceno, Oct. 6, 2016.

Join the Society for Asian Art for two full days in San Diego! Balboa Park is home to three institutions that boast significant collections from Japan, China, India and elsewhere in Asia: the Mingei International Museum, Japanese Friendship Garden, and San Diego Museum of Art. We will also visit the Chinese Historical Museum and a renowned private collection of Japanese ceramics. Our tour ends on a festive note in Old Town, where we will enjoy the best Mexican food north of the border. Our base for this tour will be the award-winning [Solamar San Diego](#), situated in the lively Gaslamp District, within walking distance to many restaurants.

Reservations will be accepted BY MAIL ONLY and must include the full payment for the trip by check or credit card (American Express, Visa, MasterCard or Discover). Please make checks payable to the tour operator, Travel Muse Inc., and not the Society for Asian Art. Mail the completed reservation form and payment to Meg MacDonald, Travel Muse Inc., 369 Montezuma Avenue, #319, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Contact Meg MacDonald of Travel Muse Inc. with any questions, [\(617\) 480-0250](tel:6174800250), meg@travelmuse.net.

Acceptance will be determined by the earliest postmark date. This trip is limited to a maximum of 20 SAA members.

Check out the [trip flyer/reservation form](#) on the SAA website, and send in your reservation today!



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Thursday, Oct. 14

Member Event - An Insider's Tour of Chinatown
With David Lei

Wednesday, Oct. 20 Online Webinar

Member Event - Asia to America: Children of the Diaspora
With Helen Zia



UPCOMING EVENTS (Subject to Change)

Wednesday, Nov. 10 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time Online Webinar

Member Event - Islam on the Maritime Silk Road with Larry Butler

Tuesday, November 16 10:30 a.m. Pacific Time Online Webinar

Member Event - Indonesian Textiles with Natasha Reichle

Sunday, Dec. 5 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Member Event - SAA Annual Holiday Party at Orientations



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members, who joined the Society from April through July. 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!

Nancy Boehm
Ethel Chang
Steven & Susan Davis
Thomas & Susan Gage
Gay & Robert Giarratano

Patricia & Albert Kong
Amotz & Orit Maimon
Shauna Mika
Mark Seielstad



SOCIAL MEDIA

SAA's Facebook page is an easy way to keep up with our many events. We encourage you to check out our page. We also post photos related to our events on Instagram. To see them, go to Instagram and put "societyforasianart" in the search box at the top of the page. In our efforts to reach as many people as possible, we sometimes post an event on both Facebook and Instagram. An example you can find is an announcement on Facebook of Jay Xu's August 10 webinar on Sanxingdui, and a photo of one of the discoveries from the excavations on Instagram.

Society for Asian Art

September - October 2021, No. 5

Members' Newsletter
Edited by John Nelson
and Susan Lai

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ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2021 LECTURE SERIES

Crossing Boundaries: Understanding Contemporary Asian Art



Left: *Ended Season* (detail), 2011, by Zheng Chongbin (American, b. China, 1961). Ink and acrylic on paper. Asian Art Museum, Museum purchase with exchange funds from the estate of K. Hart Smith with additional funds from the Clarence Shangraw Memorial, 2012.5.
Right: *Large Bowl with Celadon Glaze*, 2011, by Kawase Shinobu (Japanese, b. 1950). Celadon bowl with undulating rim. Asian Art Museum, Gift in honor of Dr. Laura W. Allen, 2013.48. © Kawase Shinobu. Photographs © Asian Art Museum.

When: Fridays, Aug. 27 – Dec. 3, 2021 (No lecture on Nov. 26.)

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pacific Time except as noted

Place: Online Webinars

Fee: \$200 per person Society members and \$250 per person non-members.

Advance registration must be received by the SAA office no later than Aug. 20, 2021.

We will not be accepting drop ins for individual lectures.

Instructor of Record: Abby Chen

What is going on with contemporary Asian art? What are its messages? Who is the audience? What are the concerns of the artists? How are they using new and traditional media? What are the ideas about art in these works? How might we understand new works?

Contemporary art is all around us. It may attract or repel us. Its messages and means may be new, but the imperative to communicate successfully is more urgent than ever in a global market of ideas. Contemporary art is often deliberately transgressive — it crosses boundaries between media, genres, geographic regions, traditions, gender identities, national identities, politics, ideals of beauty, and ideas of permanence. Many of the artists are émigrés, who must cross boundaries to make their art.

Join us for an adventurous journey into the realms of contemporary Asian art. Led by Abby Chen, Asian Art Museum's Head of Contemporary Art and Senior Associate Curator, this lecture series features 14 scholars, curators and artists from around the world, who will address contemporary art practices and concerns across Asia and the Asian diaspora.

See the next page for the full schedule of speakers and topics and [sign up today](#).



ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2021 LECTURE SERIES

Speakers & Topics (Subject to Change)

August 27, 2021

Finding Your Way in the Wide World of Contemporary Asian Art

Abby Chen, Head of Contemporary Art and Senior Associate Curator, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

September 3, 2021

The Mercurial Moments in Contemporary Asian Video Art

Laura U. Marks, Grant Strate Professor, School for the Contemporary Arts, Simon Fraser University

September 10, 2021

Pursuing Justice Through Cinema

Ohm Phanphiroj, Artist and Visiting Professor, University of Idaho

September 17, 2021

My Body is a Canvas for My Art

Chaw Ei Thein, Conceptual and Performance Artist

September 24, 2021

Off the Wheel and Breaking the Mold: Japan's Ceramic Art Today

Laura Allen, Chief Curator, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

October 1, 2021

Voyage/Safar: Contemporary Works by Arab, Iranian, and Turkish Artists

Fereshteh Daftari, Independent Scholar and Curator

October 8, 2021

Ala Ebtekar Artist Talk

Ala Ebtekar, Artist

October 15, 2021 (*Note: Lecture will be from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time.*)

Building a New Tradition: Contemporary Architecture in China

Li Xiangning, Professor and Assistant Dean, Tongji University College of Architecture and Urban Planning

October 22, 2021

Summoning Ghosts

Hung Liu, Artist and Professor Emerita, Mills College

October 29, 2021

Messages, Materials and Meaning in My Art

Jean Shin, Artist and Adjunct Professor, Pratt Institute

November 5, 2021

On the Art of Timelessness in Contemporary Japanese Cinema

Akira Mizuta Lippit, Professor and Vice Dean of Faculty, Division of Cinema and Media Studies, University of Southern California

November 12, 2021

Transformations of Tradition in Mongolian Contemporary Art

Uranchimeg Tsultem, Assistant Professor and Edgar and Dorothy Fehnel Chair in International Studies, Herron School of Art + Design, Indiana University—Purdue University Indianapolis

November 19, 2021

Re-Telling Tales: Five Contemporary Women Artists from India (1997-2021)

Arshiya Mansoor Lokhandwala, Art Historian, Curator and Founder of Lakeeren - The Contemporary Art Gallery

December 3, 2021

Boundaries Crossed: Asian American Artists at Work

Marci Kwon, Assistant Professor, Department of Art History, Stanford University



An Insider's Tour of Chinatown With David Lei

When: **Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021**

Time: **10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Pacific Time**

Place: **Meet at Portsmouth Square, Plaza Level, Chinatown, San Francisco**

Fee: **\$50 per person Society members only. Limited to 20 participants.**
Advance registration must be received by the SAA by Oct. 7, 2021.

Put on your walking shoes and join David Lei on a not-to-be-missed culinary tour of San Francisco's famous Chinatown. The primary focus of the tour will be an introduction to many of the neighborhood restaurants and tea shops, with stops at several places to sample their unique dishes. This walking tour will also include visits to temples, food emporiums and various cultural landmarks. And, of course, throughout the tour, David will be sharing historical background and his insider's knowledge of what is one of San Francisco's most fascinating and historic neighborhoods. (Please note the price does not include drinks at the restaurants.)

David Lei is a leader in San Francisco's Chinese American community as well as a longtime supporter and friend of the Asian Art Museum and the Society. He has served on multiple nonprofit Boards, such as the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) and many others, in addition to having helped curate exhibitions and develop documentaries relating to the Chinese American community.



Photo by Kae Ng on Unsplash



David Lei

Asia to America: Children of the Diaspora With Helen Zia

When: **Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021**

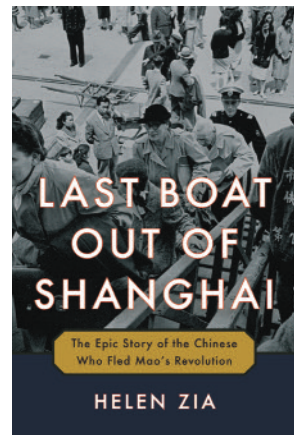
Time: **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time**

Place: **Online Webinar**

Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members.**
Advance registration must be received by SAA by Oct. 13, 2021.

Helen Zia, a writer and activist, will discuss a common theme in her books: how immigrants, refugees and exiles from widely divergent countries and cultures of Asia come together to form an improbable confluence in America, known as the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Helen will speak on the challenges, context and prospects facing Asians and Asian Americans at this time. Her latest book, *Last Boat Out of Shanghai*, chronicles the exodus from Shanghai in the late 1940's to Hong Kong, Taiwan, the U.S. and elsewhere.

Helen Zia is a well-known writer and Fulbright Scholar and author of many books, including Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People, and My Country versus Me. The daughter of Chinese immigrants, she was raised in New Jersey and graduated from Princeton University. She is a longtime journalist and was Executive Editor of Ms. Magazine. Her activism in the 1980's landmark civil rights case of anti-Asian violence is featured in the Oscar-nominated documentary "Who Killed Vincent Chin?"



Published January 22, 2019
by Ballantine Books.



Helen Zia. Photo credit: Bob Hsiang BHP San Francisco.



UPPER CATEGORY MEMBER EVENTS

Each year, the Upper Category Committee brings together a roster of special events for SAA members in the Contributor, Donor and Sponsor levels. We kick off the fall program on Sept. 2, 2021 with Dr. Rudolf Frieling, Curator of Media Arts at SFMOMA, who will introduce us to a groundbreaking exhibition, *Nam June Paik*, the first-ever West Coast retrospective of this Korean American artist, on view at SFMOMA through Oct. 3. Sign up now, so you will not miss this rare opportunity!

If you are not yet an Upper Category member, we invite your participation. Please [contact the SAA Office Manager](#), Susan Lai, to upgrade your membership. We also hope to bring back our popular in-home conversations and collection viewing offerings in the spring as the pandemic comes under control.



Left: Magnet TV, 1965. Photo courtesy of the Whitney Museum of American Art. Center: SFMOMA Nam June Paik exhibition catalogue. Right: Dr. Rudolf Frieling.



LITERATURE & CULTURE FALL 2021 COURSE

Jin Ping Mei 金瓶梅: The Rivalry Intensifies With Stephen Roddy

When: **Mondays, Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11 and Oct. 25, 2021**

Time: **2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time**

Place: **Online Webinars**

Fee: **\$115 per person Society members; \$140 per person non-members.**

Advance registration must be received by the SAA by Sept. 6, 2021.

Attendance is limited to allow for class discussions.

Text: *The Plum in the Golden Vase, or Chin P'ing Mei, Vol. 2: The Rivals*. Translated by David Roy. Princeton University Press, 2006. ISBN 9780691126197.

In Chapters 21-40, the life of the Ximen family compound continues to be punctuated by episodes of jealousy and other eruptions of turbulence. No longer adding permanent members to his harem, Ximen Qing engages in fleeting sexual trysts with servants and other minor characters, sowing the seeds of current and future conflict. Just when this debauchery seems unsustainable, or his multiple misdeeds threaten legal consequences, Ximen Qing not only manages to escape but even discovers new luxuries. Cuisine, couture, horticulture, and especially jewelry and other accessories—we will explore the material richness of fin-de-siècle Ming society portrayed in the magnificent David Roy translation of this novel, this volume of which is subtitled *The Rivals*.



Orchid, approx. 1700–1800.
China. Qing dynasty (1644–1911).
Ink on paper. Asian Art Museum,
Transfer from the Fine Arts Museums
of San Francisco, Gift of an
anonymous donor, B69D51.
Photograph © Asian Art Museum of
San Francisco.

Stephen Roddy, a professor at the University of San Francisco, 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. He teaches courses in Japanese and Chinese literature, culture, and language.



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"/> Aug. 27 - Dec. 3, 2021 Fall 2021 Arts of Asia Lecture Series Crossing Boundaries: Understanding Contemporary Asian Art Online Webinars. Advance registration must be received by SAA by Aug. 20, 2021.	\$200 Members \$250 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11 & Oct. 25, 2021 Fall 2021 Literature & Culture Course Jin Ping Mei 金瓶梅: The Rivalry Intensifies Online Webinars. Advance registration must be received by SAA by Sept. 6, 2021.	\$115 Members \$140 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 14, 2021 Member Event - An Insider's Tour of Chinatown Advance registration must be received by SAA by Oct. 7, 2021. Limit of 20 participants. SAA members only.	\$50 Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 20, 2021 Member Event - Asia to America: Children of the Diaspora Online Webinar. Advance registration must be received by SAA by Oct. 13, 2021.	\$15 Members \$20 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

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 Book Sale has been postponed. We ask that you hold onto your book donations. If you are moving or downsizing 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 catalogues 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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Spring 2021 Issue Now Online

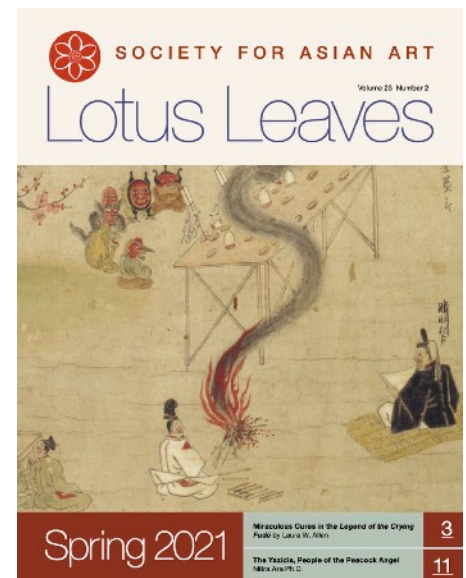
The Spring 2021 *Lotus Leaves* features an analysis by Chief Curator and Curator of Japanese Art, Laura Allen, of a hanging scroll in the AAM's collection, "Legend of the Crying Fudō". This marvelous artwork depicts a miraculous cure in an age long before vaccines. The other article by Professor Mitra Ara answers your questions about the Yazidis, the People of the Peacock Angel. Their history and beliefs have been lost in tragic news stories about their persecution in Iraq and Syria.

To access online issues of *Lotus Leaves*:

- Go to the SAA website, www.societyforasianart.org.
- Click on the "Lotus Leaves" tab on the banner along the top of the homepage. This will open the *Lotus Leaves* webpage.
- Click on "View PDF" of the issue you would like to read.

To print a copy of *Lotus Leaves*:

- Open the PDF file of the issue that you want to print.
- Press at the same time "Ctrl" and "P" on pc's or "Command" and "P" on Mac's.



Cover of Spring 2021 Issue of *Lotus Leaves*.
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