



September - October 2023

No. 5

Trips/Travel

There is still space available on the following trips. Please check [Trips/Travel on our website](#) to see the trip itineraries.

Asian Art and Heritage in Washington, DC & Baltimore October 2 - 7, 2023

Trip participants will visit an exceptional private collection of early Japanese paintings and screens as well as contemporary ceramics. The group will also have a private session at the Textile Museum to view their Asian collection before continuing to Baltimore where they will visit the Evergreen House and Library set in 26 acres of gardens and woods. Please see the trip brochure for a full list of the museums and exhibitions that will be visited.



Photo courtesy of the Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art.

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

If you are looking for an unforgettable trip where you will be accompanied by excellent scholars to explore exotic temples as well as visit beautiful coastal cities in South India, please visit our website. The Society for Asian Art is offering a trip that will not only explore the living heritage of temples but will visit bronze workshops, weaving studios and beautiful seaside cities.



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

Friday at the Museum

Get the weekend started early by coming to our August 25 Kickoff for the Fall 2023 Arts of Asia Views from the Other Side. Bring a friend, meet old friends and make new friends over **complimentary coffee, tea and tasty bites**. This is an opportunity you do not want to miss!!! Refreshments will be available before the lecture and during the 10-minute break.

Doors open at 10:00 a.m. and the lecture will begin at 10:30 a.m. Our very popular Asian Art Museum Curator Forrest McGill will be speaking on *A Curious Affair - Toward an Understanding of Art and Globalization*. We are sure that you will enjoy the lecture and we invite you to [sign up for the entire series](#), if you haven't yet.

After the lecture, continue your conversations with friends over lunch at the museum's new restaurant, Asian Box. Then stay for the just added SAA Member Event, [Vietnam Now](#) with Suzanne Lecht, in the Koret Education Center from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Afterwards, you can tour the special exhibition, *Hell: Arts of Asian Underworlds*, a rollicking romp through the many ways that Asian visual cultures have imagined the afterlife of the condemned. Cap off the day by finding a treasure to take home from the Cha May Ching Museum Boutique.

Now that's a Friday well spent! See you at the museum!



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UPCOMING EVENTS (Subject to Change)

Dec. 17, 2023

Member Event - Annual Holiday Party sponsored by Orientations



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members, who joined the Society in June and 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!

Helen Stroud



SOCIAL MEDIA

On our Facebook page, we are now promoting the Fall 2023 Arts of Asia lecture series and have received positive responses. In another posting, we share a picture taken during a Member Events visit to Qualia Contemporary Art Gallery in Palo Alto. Keep checking our page for new postings!

Society for Asian Art

September - October 2023, No. 5

Members' Newsletter
Edited by Janet Constantinou
and Susan Lai

Published bimonthly by
Society for Asian Art
200 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
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Views from the Other Side



Left: *Diversa Orbis Terræ*, 1706, by Pieter Schenk (Dutch, 1660–1711). Ink and colors on paper. Asian Art Museum, Gift of David Salman and Walter Jared Frost, 2016.283. Photograph © Asian Art Museum. Right: *Arrival of a Portuguese ship (detail)*, approx. 1620–1640. Japan. Six panel folding screen, ink, colors, and gold on paper. *The Avery Brundage Collection*, B60D77+. Photograph © Asian Art Museum.

When: Repeats Weekly on Fridays from Aug. 25 to Dec. 8, 2023, except Nov. 3 & Nov. 24
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

Precious objects from far-away places have always been treasured and collected, prompting great curiosity about their origins and the identities of their makers. Advances in maritime technology at the beginning of the 15th century led to a veritable explosion of material and information exchange between distant nations. Christian Jesuit priests traveled to all parts of Asia, leaving behind visible legacies; at the same time, China emerged as the springboard for ideas and cultures that spread throughout Asia and beyond, while the Ottoman empire created artwork reflecting its intermediary position between East and West.

At the dawn of the 20th century, countries debated the meaning of national identities and modern society. Meanwhile, European military power and colonial policies drastically altered the course of history. As their world changed, how did Asian countries react? Join us as we explore in 14 lectures, the art and ideas that resulted from these interactions, conflicts, and exchanges.

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



ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2023 LECTURE SERIES

Speakers & Topics (Subject to Change)

Aug. 25, 2023

A Curious Affair – Toward an Understanding of Art and Globalization
Forrest McGill, Wattis Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Sept. 1, 2023

Timurid-Mongol Influence on the Mughal Empire in India
Lisa Balabanlilar, Joseph and Joanna Nazro Mullen Professor in the Humanities, Rice University

Sept. 8, 2023

'Like a Virgin': Mughal Repurposing of Christian and Renaissance Art
Mika Natif, Associate Professor of Art History, Corcoran School of the Arts & Design, George Washington University

Sept. 15, 2023

Dialogues between Photography and Ink Painting in Modern Chinese Art
Mia Yinxing Liu, Assistant Professor, Department of the History of Art, Johns Hopkins University

Sept. 22, 2023 *This lecture will be presented in Koret Education Center on the 1st floor of the museum.*

Art and Power in Southeast Asia
Paul Lavy, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Sept. 29, 2023

Architecture of 18th Century Pondicherry
Gauvin Alexander Bailey, Professor and Bader Chair in Southern Baroque Art, Department of Art History and Art Conservation, Queen's University

Oct. 6, 2023

Early Twentieth Century Influence of Japanese Art on Indian Artists and on Indian Modernism
Aida Yuen Wong, Professor of Fine Arts and East Asian Studies, Brandeis University

Oct. 13, 2023

Sinophile Painters and Patrons in 18th Century Japan
Robert Mintz, Deputy Director, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Oct. 20, 2023

The Art of Meiji Japan: History, Industry, and Invention
Bradley Bailey, Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Curator Asian Art, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Oct. 27, 2023

Ottoman Art between Europe and Asia
Walter B. Denny, Professor Emeritus, Department of Art and Architecture, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Nov. 10, 2023

The Dutch Mission to China of 1795 and the Forgotten History of Western Encounters with China, as Explored through Maps and Art
Tonio Andrade, Professor, Department of History, Emory University

Nov. 17, 2023

The Importance of Early Printed Painting and Drawing Books
Chelsea Foxwell, Associate Professor of Art History, Department of Art History, University of Chicago

Dec. 1, 2023

Muslim Art and Architecture, Designed and Created in China for Use by Chinese Muslims
Qamar Adamjee, Provenance Researcher South and Southeast Asian Art, Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art

Dec. 8, 2023

Shifting Perspectives: Asian and European Art in a Global Context
Deborah Hutton, Professor of Art History, Department of Art and Art History, The College of New Jersey



MEMBER EVENTS

Vietnam Now with Suzanne Lecht

When: **Friday, Aug. 25, 2023**

Time: **1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Place: **Koret Education Center, Asian Art Museum**

Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members after museum admission**

Suzanne Lecht, Director & Owner of Art Vietnam Gallery in Hanoi, will share the story of the rapid rise of contemporary Vietnamese art in the last 15 years. She will explore the transformation of the city of Hanoi through the photo reliefs of Nguyen The Son, the beauty of the spirit interacting with nature in the works of ethnic minority artist Dinh Thi Tham Poong, as well as woodcuts expressing the power of women by Ly Tran Quynh Giang. She will also discuss other up-and-coming contemporary works by new and established artists working in Vietnam today.

Many of these artists are also involved in collective collaborations with international artists, transforming the art of Vietnam from the classic Beaux-Arts style of romantic landscapes and portraiture to a vibrant innovative expression uniting them with the global art community. Suzanne will also show us some highlights from her own personal collection as she brings the art scene in Vietnam into better focus for our audience.

Suzanne Lecht has lived in Vietnam since 1994 and has always been involved in the arts. She was captivated by the works of Hanoi's Gang of Five, early pioneers of contemporary art in Vietnam. She has continued to promote the works of contemporary artists in Vietnam.



Time is the King III 2022 by Dinh Thi Tham Poong. Watercolor on handmade Do paper, gold leaf. © Art Vietnam Gallery.



Suzanne Lecht

Architecture and Conviviality: The Emergence and Spread of Coffeehouse Culture with Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh

When: **Wednesday, Sept. 6, 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 Aug. 30, 2023.

The coffeehouse emerged as a new urban institution in the Islamic realm by the 15th century. It accompanied the spread of the beverage coffee, from the shores of the Red Sea to the Mediterranean, carried by transnational networks of trade, religion, and taste. Once transplanted into Europe, the coffeehouse emerged in the 18th and 19th centuries as the forum central to the rise of the “bourgeois public sphere” and the development of modern political culture. This lecture introduces the emergence of coffeehouse culture through architecture, urban context and as a social gathering place in the early modern period.

Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh is Professor of Art & Architecture at the University of California, Davis. She teaches and researches the visual cultures of the Middle East, including architectural preservation and history of cultural heritage. Her scholarly publications have won many awards and accolades. She was recently a speaker for the spring Arts of Asia lecture series.



Ottoman coffeehouse. Dublin, Chester Beatty Library T 439.9.



Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh



MEMBER EVENTS

The Jaipur Trilogy: Passion, Patience and Perseverance with Alka Joshi

When: **Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023**

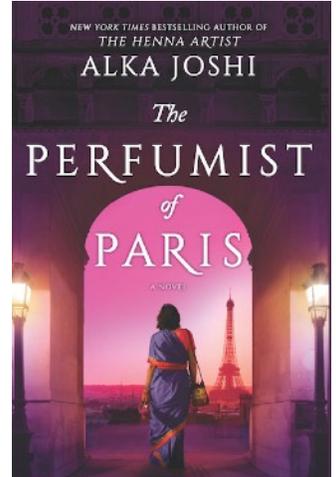
Time: **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Place: **Koret Education Center, Asian Art Museum**

Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members after museum admission**

Alka Joshi never dreamed of becoming an author. What started as a desire to re-invent her mother’s life, giving her more independence than she had been allowed as a young Indian woman, blossomed into the writing of the 3 novels, *The Henna Artist*, *The Secret Keeper of Jaipur*, and *The Perfumist of Paris*, known collectively as the ‘Jaipur Trilogy’. It took her 10 years and 30 drafts to bring her debut novel, *The Henna Artist*, to life!

Born in India, internationally best-selling author Alka Joshi has a BA from Stanford and an MFA from the California College of the Arts. Her book, *The Henna Artist*, was a New York Times bestseller and has been translated into 29 languages. It is currently in development as a Netflix TV series.



Cover of *The Perfumist of Paris*. Photo courtesy of the author.

Visit to the Shiva-Vishnu Temple

When: **Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023**

Time: **10:15 a.m.**

Place: **1232 Arrowhead Avenue, Livermore**

Fee: **\$20 per person Society members; \$25 per person non-members Limited to 20 participants.**

Join us for a visit to the impressive Shiva-Vishnu Hindu Temple in Livermore. The Hindu Community and Cultural Center (HCCC) was established in 1977 with the goal of offering religious services to the local Hindu community. In the last 25 years the HCCC has evolved into an established religious institution with priests from different regions of India.

We will have a guided tour of the temple with one of the HCCC board members. We will also have a chance to meet some of the priests and experience the sights, sounds and smells of the temple.

Immediately following our visit, we will have an optional no-host lunch at a nearby restaurant.



Alka Joshi



Shiva-Vishnu Temple



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**

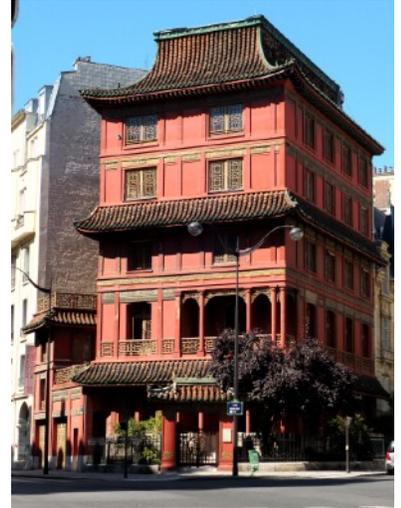
Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members.**

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.



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



Julian Brown

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 for details.



LITERATURE & CULTURE

Fall 2023 Literature Course The Old Testament as Literature with Ronald Hendel

When: **Sundays, Sept. 10, Sept. 24, Oct. 8, Oct. 22 & Nov. 5, 2023**

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

Place: **Opera Plaza Community Room, 601 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco**

Fee: **\$150 per person Society members; \$175 per person non-members for the course.**

Advance registration must be received by SAA by Sept. 3, 2023.

We are excited to be able to offer a literature course with Dr. Ronald Hendel, Norma and Sam Dabby Professor of Hebrew Bible and Jewish Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Hendel will explore the literary features and resonances of the various genres of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, including history (the David story), myth (Genesis), prophecy (Isaiah and Jeremiah), love poetry (Song of Songs), and wisdom (Job and Ecclesiastes). Topics will include the beginning and end of the world, the complex psychology of biblical characters (including God), and the techniques of biblical literary style in poetry and prose. All readings are in English translation.

Dr. Hendel has been a member of the Berkeley faculty since 1999 and has served as chair of Jewish Studies, the Department of Near Eastern Studies, and the Graduate Program in Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology. Dr. Hendel approaches the Hebrew Bible from a variety of angles – history of religions, textual criticism, linguistics, comparative mythology, literature, and cultural memory. He is the author of many books and articles, including *The Book of Genesis: A Biography*.



By Unknown author - Il popolo ebraico: le origini tra Bibbia e storia di Mireille Hadas-Label, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=58856373>



Ronald Hendel



UPPER CATEGORY MEMBER EVENTS

Special Viewing of *Out of Place* with Artist Rupy C. Tut

When: **Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023**

Time: **12:00 p.m.**

Place: **Institute of Contemporary Art San Francisco (ICA SF)
901 Minnesota Street, San Francisco**

Fee: **\$20 per person Society Upper Category members & guests**

Advance registration must be received by the SAA by Sept. 20, 2023.



Join us for a special viewing of contemporary art led by dynamic Bay Area artist, Rupy C. Tut. *Out of Place*, a solo exhibition of Tut's paintings, dives into experimenting with new surfaces, materials and scale. Through her practice, the artist preserves historic methods of making pigments and paper, creating delicate works inspired by traditional Indian painting – also known as miniature painting. Rupy includes personal meditations on the nuances of hybrid identity, belonging, and cyclical time. Engaging with the histories embedded in her forms and materials, she weaves contemporary images and references into a centuries-old visual language, guiding viewers to see connections between past and present. Rupy's immersive environments are filled with beauty and natural wonders, drawing the viewer in. A closer examination reveals more complex narratives. Invitations were emailed to Upper Category members on Aug. 2, 2023. Please register through the link in the invitation.

Caption: *Heroine*, 2022, by Rupy C. Tut (American, b. 1985). Natural pigments on handmade paper. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Museum purchase, Mortimer-Harvey Fund; with additional funding from the Sikh Women's Organization of Central California and the Sikh Foundation, 2022.124. © Rupy C. Tut. Photograph © Asian Art Museum.