



September - October 2025

No. 5

### Tradition and Innovation: Contemporary Korean Ceramics

On View through Dec. 1, 2025 in the Koret Korean Galleries

Don't miss the opportunity to see contemporary Korean ceramics in the museum's collection by four prominent 20th-century artists: Roe Kyung-Jo (b. 1951), Kim See-man (b.1958), Yoon Kwang-jo (b. 1946), and Cho Chung-Hyun (b. 1940). Their varied approaches demonstrate innovations deeply rooted in Korea's rich legacy of ceramics production.



Left photo from left to right: Vase, 1998, by Roe Kyung-Jo (Korean, b. 1951). Porcelain with marbled decoration. *Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Gift of the artist, 2004.97.* © Roe Kyung-Jo. Bottle, approx. 1980–2000, by Kim See-man (Korean, b. 1958). Stoneware decorated with white slip. *Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Gift of the artist, F1999.72.10.* Vase, 1998, by Yoon Kwang-jo (Korean, b. 1946). Stoneware with incised and brushed decoration on white slip. *Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Gift of Yoon Kwang-jo, 2004.17.* © Yoon Kwang-cho. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, photo by Kevin Candland.

Right photo: *Songs of Onggi 1-3, 2006*, by Chung-Hyun Cho (Korean, b. 1940). Fired onggi clay. *Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Acquisition made possible by Dennis Marino, F2007.2.1-3.a-c.* © Chung-Hyun Cho. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

### Out-of-Region Membership

Good news! The Society for Asian Art has a new discounted membership category for people whose primary residence is more than 100 miles from the museum. Out-of-region members enjoy the same core member benefits. In addition, out-of-region members will no longer be required to be Asian Art Museum members.

Please help us spread the word about this new membership category to your family and friends who may be interested in our programs, especially those programs that are available to attend via Zoom.

Remember, we have some events that are reserved exclusively for Society members, including our very popular trips to international and domestic destinations.

Please check out the membership benefits on our website, <https://www.societyforasianart.org/membership>.



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**Saturday, Oct. 4**

Member Event - SF Opera's Dazzling New Work *The Monkey King* with Kip Cranna

**Sunday, Oct. 26**

Fall 2025 Literature Course - *Journey to the West: The Monkey King* with Ling Hon Lam



## UPCOMING EVENTS (Subject to Change)

**Save the Date**

**June 22 - 26, 2026 Honolulu Trip**

Registration will open the first week of February.



## 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!

Melissa Cardenas

Dixie Mohan



## SOCIAL MEDIA

The Publicity/Social Media Committee wants to thank everyone who visits our Instagram and Facebook pages and "like" our posts. Please send photos to [candacezks@gmail.com](mailto:candacezks@gmail.com).

### 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.

## Society for Asian Art

September - October 2025, No. 5

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## ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2025 LECTURE SERIES

### It's Magic: Art and the Power of Transformation



Left: *Towering to Cloudy Sky*, 1776, by Luo Pin (Chinese, 1733–1799), Qing dynasty (1644–1911). Ink on paper. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, *Museum purchase*, B74D18. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Right: Theatrical headdress for the magical deer in the Ramayana (Epic of Rama) dance-drama, approx. 1950–1960. Central Thailand. Papier-mâché, glass, and mixed media. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, *Gift from Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's Southeast Asian Art Collection*, 2006.27.10.9. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

**When: Fridays Sept. 5 to Dec. 12, 2025 (No lecture on Nov. 28.)**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pacific Time**

**Place: Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum & Zoom 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.**

**Advance registration must be received by SAA by Aug. 29, 2025.**

**We 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: Jeff Durham**

From the beginnings of human existence, art has had the power to transform our understanding of the world; sometimes that power is called magic.

Join us for a 14-lecture series that delves into the mystical qualities of art across cultures and time. From ancient talismans to contemporary illusions, discover how artists harness symbolism, ritual, and innovation to alter perceptions, bridge worlds, and inspire change. Instructor of Record Jeff Durham, Associate Curator of Himalayan Art at the Asian Art Museum, has invited speakers who provide enlightening new perspectives on art.

The Arts of Asia committee welcomes comments about our lecture series. Please email comments to [info@societyforasianart.org](mailto:info@societyforasianart.org).

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



# ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2025 LECTURE SERIES

## Speakers & Topics (Subject to Change)

### Sept. 5, 2025

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

### Sept. 12, 2025

The Magic of the Floating World: How A.A.Murakami Make Fantasy Reality and Reality Fantasy

Bradley Bailey, Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Curator of Asian Art, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

### Sept. 19, 2025

Magic in Thai Buddhism

Justin McDaniel, Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Endowed Professor of the Humanities, Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania

### Sept. 26, 2025

Creating the Self, Creating the Other: Representations of Tibetan Ethnic People in the Early Decades of the People's Republic of China

Rosaline Kyo, Assistant Professor, Department of History of Art and Visual Culture, University of California, Santa Cruz

### Oct. 3, 2025

The Animated Image In Asia: Image Consecration and Desecration

James Robson, James C. Kralik and Yunli Lou Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University

### Oct. 10, 2025

TBD

Richard Vinograd, Christensen Fund Professor in Asian Art, Department of Art & Art History, Stanford University

### Oct. 17, 2025

Meditation Without a Meditator: How to Make a Stone Come Alive?

Eugene Wang, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Professor of Asian Art, Department of History of Art + Architecture, Harvard University

### Oct. 24, 2025 - *In Koret Education Center*

Transformation in Okinawan Rituals

Tze M. Loo, Associate Professor of History and Global Studies, Department of History, University of Richmond

### Oct. 31, 2025

Falnama: The Book of Omens

Massumeh Farhad, Senior Associate Director for Research and The Ebrahimi Family Curator of Persian, Arab, and Turkish Art, Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art

### Nov. 7, 2025

Ghosts in Japanese Art and in Kabuki Theatre

Kirk Kanesaka, Assistant Professor of Japanese and Asian Studies, California State University, San Bernardino

### Nov. 14, 2025

The Art of Terrestrial Diagrams in Early China

Michelle H. Wang, Associate Professor of Art History and Humanities, Reed College

### Nov. 21, 2025

Woven Silk and the Transformation of Imperial Bodies at the Mongol Court

Yong Cho, Assistant Professor, Department of the History of Art, University of California, Riverside

### Dec. 5, 2025

Transformation: From Magic Mirrors to Tea Bowls to Dancing Cats and Other Magical Creatures

Laura Allen, Independent Scholar and Emeritus Senior Curator for Japanese Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

### Dec. 12, 2025 - *New Speaker & Topic*

Enchanting Images: Magic and Transformation in the Arts from Thailand

Nicolas Revire, Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Research Fellow, The Art Institute of Chicago





## MEMBER EVENTS

### Back Alleys, Secrets and Stories of Chinatown with David Lei

When: **Thursday, September 11, 2025**

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

Place: **Portsmouth Square Park, Plaza Level, 745 Kearny St., San Francisco**

Fee: **\$20 per person Society members only**

Step back in time with David Lei, who will share more stories and unknown lore of Chinatown. We will meander through this densely populated and bustling neighborhood on foot, and stop at various intriguing and lesser-known locations.

This is David's third tour of Chinatown for the Society. He knows all the stories, history and culture of this intriguing place. He is a leader in San Francisco's Chinese American community as well as a longtime supporter of the Asian Art Museum and the Society for Asian Art. He has helped curate exhibitions and develop documentaries relating to the Chinese American community of San Francisco.

A no-host lunch will follow the tour. Details will be sent to registered participants.



Photo by [AURELIEN CHATEAUDON](#) on [Unsplash](#)

### SF Opera's Dazzling New Work *The Monkey King* with Kip Cranna



Left: *The Monkey King*. Photo courtesy of San Francisco Opera.  
Right: Kip Cranna.

When: **Saturday, October 4, 2025 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**

The music world is eagerly anticipating the premiere for the new opera *The Monkey King*. Based on the famous 16th-century Chinese novel, this opera features fabulous costumes, puppetry and dance as well as exciting music by Chinese American composer Huang Ruo and a libretto by the famous playwright David Henry Hwang.

As an Asian culture enthusiast, you can learn more about this captivating production and the speaker, Kip Cranna is the perfect person to explain the historical and literary background as well as the plot, music, and libretto of this production with video and audio examples.

Kip Cranna worked for thirty years as the Director of Music Administration at the San Francisco Opera. He holds a PhD from Stanford in musicology and taught at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. His entertaining opera lectures are hugely popular. He serves on the faculty of Stanford Continuing Studies, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes at San Francisco State University, UC Berkeley and the Dominican University.



### *Journey to the West: The Monkey King* with Ling Hon Lam

When: **Sunday, October 26, 2025**

Time: **10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (One-hour lunch break from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.)**

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

Fee: **\$75 per person Society members; \$100 per person non-members after museum admission**

**Advance registration must be received by SAA by Oct. 19, 2025.**

Join us as Ling Hon Lam, Associate Professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at UC Berkeley, gives a presentation entitled *Journey to the West: The Monkey King*, on the 16th century Chinese novel that is the basis for the upcoming San Francisco Opera world premiere of *The Monkey King*.

The novel is a fictional account of the pilgrimage of the Chinese Buddhist monk Xuanzang, who traveled to India in the 7th century to find and collect Buddhist scriptures. The story focuses on the exploits of Sun Wukong, a monkey born on Flower Fruit Mountain from a stone egg that forms from an ancient rock created by the coupling of Heaven and Earth. Sun Wukong, the Monkey King, was tasked by Bodhisattva Guanyin and the Buddha to become Xuanzang's first disciple. Along with 3 other disciples, Zhu Bajie, Sha Wujing and White Dragon Horse, Sanzang and his disciples journeyed to a mythical version of India and find enlightenment.

*Journey to the West* has strong roots in Chinese folk religion, mythology, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoist and Buddhist folklore. The novel is a comic adventure story, a humorous satire of Chinese bureaucracy, and a source of spiritual insight. The Monkey King and his quest for immortality have influenced pop culture for generations with countless modern manhua, manga and anime series as well as numerous movies and television series.

This presentation will consist of two two-hour sessions with a one-hour lunch break. Please note that lunch is not included in the registration fee. Attendees can purchase lunch in the museum café, and are welcome to bring food into the Koret Education Center.

#### 1st Lecture Syllabus:

- 1) *Journey to the West*, revised edition, trans. Anthony C. Yu (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013), Introduction, Chapters 27-31, 56-58.
- 2) Ling Hon Lam, "Allegory and 'World' Formation in *The Journey to the West*," in *A Wiley-Blackwell Companion to World Literature*, vol. 2, ed. Christine Chism. (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2020), pp. 1013-25.

#### 2nd Lecture Syllabus:

- 1) *Journey to the West*, revised edition, trans. Anthony C. Yu (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013), Chapters 1-7, 14, 32-35, 64-66.
- 2) *The Dhammapada: Verses and Stories*, trans. Daw Mya Tin (Sarnath: Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, 1990), pp. 146-47, 438.
- 3) *Dhammapada with Accompanying Narratives*, trans. Samuel Beal (Varansi: Indological Book House, 1971), pp. 20-21.
- 4) Zachary Horton, *The Cosmic Zoom* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021), pp. 1-12.

Reading materials will be provided to registered attendees.



*The Monkey King*, 1977, by Guan Liang (Chinese, 1900 – 1986). Ink and colors on paper. *Asian Art Museum, Gift of the Jack Anderson Collection, 1994.116.* Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.