



ASIAN ART MUSEUM

200 Larkin St • San Francisco • asianart.org • 415-581-3500

ASIAN ART MUSEUM OF SAN FRANCISCO EXHIBITION SCHEDULE 2010 THROUGH 2011

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Digital images are available at www.asianart.org/pressroom/images.htm

The Asian Art Museum is a public institution whose mission is to lead a diverse global audience in discovering the unique material, aesthetic and intellectual achievements of Asian art and culture. Holding more than 17,000 Asian art treasures spanning 6,000 years of history, the museum is one of the largest museums in the Western world devoted exclusively to Asian art. Once located in Golden Gate Park, the museum now resides at its new, expanded facility at Civic Center Plaza. An architectural gem featuring a dynamic blend of beaux arts and modern design elements, the museum's new home is the result of a dramatic transformation of San Francisco's former main library building by renowned architect Gae Aulenti (designer of Paris' Musée d'Orsay) into a showcase for the museum's acclaimed collection and exhibitions.

Shanghai

February 12–September 5, 2010



Nanjing Road – From Series of Views of Shanghai, after 1937. By Zhao Weimin (dates unknown). Chromolithograph on paper. Collection of the Shanghai History Museum.

Shanghai is the first exhibition of its kind to explore the unique flavor and identity of one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities. A study in cultural globalization, the exhibition investigates the internal and external influences that have helped to create the city's distinctive character. The exhibition includes over 130 artworks, among them trade oil paintings, Shanghai deco furniture and rugs, revolutionary poster art, fashion, movie clips, and contemporary art and video installations. *Shanghai* is the cornerstone of the San Francisco Bay Area Shanghai Celebration, a series of programs and exhibitions presented by local cultural organizations on the occasion of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo. *Co-organized by the Shanghai Museum and the Asian Art Museum with assistance from the Shanghai International Culture Association. Exclusive U.S. venue.*

Japan's Early Ambassadors to San Francisco, 1860–1927

May 4 – November 21, 2010



Timed to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the ship *Kanrin Maru* and the first Japanese embassy to the United States, this thematic exhibit located in the Japanese galleries features artworks and visual media associated with the 1860 mission, with early travel to the US, and with Japanese artists and cultural leaders active in San Francisco beginning around 1880. The show culminates with the presentation of two of the Friendship Dolls sent to San Francisco as “goodwill ambassadors” from Japan in 1927, part of a high-level orchestrated response to recent discriminatory legislation targeting Japanese immigrants. The more than 40 works evince both San Francisco's significance in the early years of Japan-US relations as well as the city's central role as a gateway and a destination for Japanese coming to America.

Japanese Friendship Doll *Miss Osaka Prefecture*, 1927. By Hirata Goyo II (1903–1981). Japan; Tokyo. *Collection of the Ohio Historical Society*. Photo by David Barker for the Ohio Historical Society.

Beyond Golden Clouds: Five Centuries of Japanese Screens

October 15, 2010–January 16, 2011

Providing an ideal combination of function and beauty, Japanese folding screens have inspired generations of artists to create career-defining masterpieces; indeed, screens represent some of the highest accomplishments of Japanese painting on a large scale. This exhibition celebrates the full potential of the screen format paintings on paper and silk to innovative

creations in new mediums such as stoneware and painted wood. Screens on view range in date from the late sixteenth century to daring works from the late twentieth century, demonstrating the longevity of this art form as well as its currency among modern-day artists. *Organized by the Art Institute of Chicago and the Saint Louis Art Museum.*



Willow Bridge and the Waterwheel, 1650. By Hasegawa Soya (Japanese, 1590-1667). Ink, color, gold, and silver on paper. Kate S. Buckingham and Frederick W Renshaw endowments.

Collectors' Choice / Collectors' Voice

October 15, 2010–March 13, 2011



Mountains and Rivers from the *Gundpowder Series*, 2009. By Cai Guoqiang (Chinese, born 1957). Gunpowder burns on canvas; single channel DVD. Lent by Rustic Studio on the Pine Mountain Collection. Photo by Kaz Tsuruta. © Asian Art Museum.

This Tateuchi Gallery exhibition presents works collected by members of Nexus, a collectors' group associated with the Asian Art Museum. Each member has been asked to select one or more works that has special significance (collector's choice) and to provide in his/her own words the story behind the works (collector's voice). Art included in the exhibition ranges from early Buddhist sculpture to cutting-edge contemporary pieces commissioned by Nexus members.

Organized by the Asian Art Museum.

Bali: Art, Ritual, Performance

February 25–September 11, 2011



Famed for its rituals and performing arts, Bali is home to one of the most vibrant cultures in Asia. *Bali: Art, Ritual, Performance* will be the first large-scale exhibition of Balinese art in the United States. A wide range of objects will be on display: from simple plaited palm images of the rice goddess to terrifying statues of Hindu deities; from painted palanquins for the gods to gilt thrones for the rulers; from offerings made for a family shrine to masks carved for foreign tourists. Accompanying performances, videos, and demonstrations will reveal how many of these objects are still used in contemporary practice. *Organized by the Asian Art Museum. Exclusive U.S. venue.*

The witch Rangda, 1800-1900. Indonesia, Bali. Painted Wood. Gift of Thomas Murray in memory of his father Eugene T. Murray. Photo by Kaz Tsuruta. © Asian Art Museum.

Maharaja: The Splendor of India's Royal Courts

October 21, 2011 – April 8, 2012



Procession of Maharao Ram Singh II of Kota, about 1850.

© V&A Images.

The word *maharaja* (literally “great king”) conjures up images of spectacle. The heyday of the maharajas began in earnest after the collapse of the Mughal empire in the early eighteenth century. The exhibition opens with this period of chaos and adventure and closes with the end of British rule in 1947, when the Indian princes’ territories were incorporated into the modern states of India and Pakistan. The show will explore the extraordinary culture of princely India, showcasing rich and varied objects that reflect different aspects of royal life. On display will be both Indian and Western works, featuring paintings, photography, textiles and dress, jewelry, jeweled objects, metalwork and furniture. These sensational works will be explored within a broader historical context of princely life and ideals, patronage, court culture, and alliances. *Exhibition organized in collaboration with the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.*

The Asian Art Museum Collection

Ongoing



More than 2,500 extraordinary works from the museum’s renowned collection are displayed in the second- and third-floor galleries. Together these works constitute a comprehensive introduction to the major cultures of Asia. Immense Indian stone sculptures, intricately carved Chinese jades, vibrant Korean paintings, mystical Tibetan *thangkas* (ritual paintings on cloth), serene Cambodian Buddhas, richly decorated Islamic manuscripts, and colorful Japanese kimonos are just a few of the treasures on view. Every six months, the museum refreshes dozens of artworks from each geographic region—especially light-sensitive materials—with new selections from storage, providing visitors a unique perspective on each visit. These items are indicated with “Newly on View” tags on the labels.

Elephant throne (howdah), 1870-1920. India, Chhattisgarh, state, former princely state of Surguja. Partially gilded and painted silver over wood, with velvet and wicker, 2001.12. Acquisition made possible by Nancy B. Hamon in honor of Johnson S. Bogart. Photo by Kaz Tsuruta. © Asian Art Museum.

Dates and exhibitions are subject to change. Please visit www.asianart.org to confirm information

- **Information:** (415) 581-3500 or www.asianart.org
- **Location:** 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
- **Hours:** The museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. From February through September, hours are extended on Thursdays until 9:00 PM. Closed Mondays, as well as New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.
- **General Admission:** \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors (65 and older), \$7 for college students with ID, \$7 for youth 13–17, and FREE for children under 12 and SFUSD students with ID. Admission on Thursdays after 5 pm is just \$5 for all visitors (except those under 12, SFUSD students, and members, who are always admitted FREE). General admission includes a complimentary audio tour of the museum's collection galleries (offered in English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Cantonese and Korean) as well as many other free activities and events. In some cases, a surcharge may apply for admission into special exhibitions.
- **Target First Free Sundays:** FREE admission on the first Sunday of every month is made possible by Target. Due to capacity restrictions, FREE admission Target First Free Sundays is granted on a first-come, first-served basis; admission is not guaranteed.
- **Access:** The Asian Art Museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information regarding access, please call (415) 581-3598; TDD: (415) 861-2035.