



ASIAN ART MUSEUM

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

General Information: (415) 581-3500 or www.asianart.org

Public Relations: (415) 581-3713 or pr@asianart.org

Photos/digital images are available

ASIAN ART MUSEUM AUGUST 2008 PROGRAM CALENDAR

ON VIEW IN THE GALLERIES

ONGOING

Power and Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty

June 27–September 21, 2008

For centuries, Ming porcelain vases have been regarded as the epitome of priceless beauty. This exhibition demonstrates why not just vases but Ming art of many types has earned such acclaim. This major groundbreaking exhibition explores the grandeur and opulence of one of the most important dynasties in Chinese history. *Power & Glory* also marks the Asian Art Museum's first collaboration with three of China's most prestigious institutions — The Palace Museum (Forbidden City) in Beijing, the Nanjing Municipal Museum, and the Shanghai Museum. Some of the most precious artworks from the Ming dynasty (1368–1644) from these museums, along with some of the finest items from this period owned by the Asian Art Museum, comprise *Power & Glory*, the first exhibition in the U. S. to focus on the full range of Ming court arts. Many of the more than 240 artworks — porcelain, paintings, textiles, lacquer, jade, jewelry, architectural elements, and more — will be on public view for the first time. The exhibition provides a rare opportunity to experience the breadth and depth of Ming achievement, through an unequalled collection of works from the Chinese dynasty most renowned for its refined aesthetic and standards of perfection. The exhibition will travel to the Indianapolis Museum of Art (October 26–January 11, 2009) and the St. Louis Museum of Art (February 21–May 17, 2009).

CLOSING

Later Chinese Jades: Ming Dynasty to Early Twentieth Century

November 10, 2007–August 17, 2008

The core of the museum's collection of Chinese jades was donated by Avery Brundage (1887–1975), an avid and discerning collector who formed most of his collection of approximately 1200 pieces between 1935 and 1960, a time when Western study of jade was in its infancy. In 1996 the Asian Art Museum began a systematic study of the jades in the Brundage collection with experts from China to survey the collection. Armed with a new understanding of Chinese jades, the museum has published a major catalogue focusing on the period from the beginning of the Ming dynasty (1368–1644) to the early 20th century. View 73 superb examples of these later Chinese jades, many of which are featured in the catalogue.

ONGOING***In a New Light: The Asian Art Museum Collection***

More than 2,500 extraordinary works from the museum's renowned collection are displayed in its new 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.

PERFORMANCES, DEMONSTRATIONS, & ACTIVITIES***AsiaAlive: Gu Embroidery Artists from China***

Tuesdays through Sundays, July 31 through August 10

Noon—4:00 pm

North Court

FREE with museum admission

Famous for its meticulous needlework and vivid representation, Gu embroidery originated from the present-day Shanghai area during the Ming dynasty. Gu embroidery is also known as “painting embroidery” for the subjects are generally based on the elegant paintings of previous dynasties. Renowned embroidery artists from China, Shao Xiao-Cheng, Chen Hong-Ying and Qian Yue-Fang, lead interactive demonstrations of various techniques and silk thread arrangements. This program is offered in conjunction with the special exhibition *Power and Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty*.

FAMILY AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Families explore the artwork in the collection, celebrate cultural and seasonal festivals, and move and are inspired at the Asian Art Museum. Kids ages 4-14 and their parents discover the wonders of Asian art and culture through hands-on activities, artist demonstrations, yoga, performances, storytelling, and tours. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Grandpa's Treasure Box

Sunday, August 3

Noon–1:30 pm

Education Studios

Part of the Target First Free Sunday program

Join local author and artist, Pauline Tsui, as she reads from her new book, *Grandpa's Treasure Box*. *Grandpa's Treasure Box* tells the delightful story of Bobo and Tashi's journey through distant lands and faraway with the help of a magical box. Along the way, Bobo and Tashi meet a wise old dragon and many special friends who teach them valuable lessons about loyalty, perseverance and trust. *Grandpa's Treasure Box* takes readers through the valleys of China to the ancient mountains of Tibet. Infused with symbolism and folklore, this is a story people of all ages will enjoy. After the reading, participants can stay and write their own story using images from the book. Copies of the book may be purchased in the Museum Store and signed by the author.

Yogi Kids

First Sunday of every month

2:00–3:00 pm

Samsung Hall

Part of the Target First Free Sunday program

Yoga guru Lorna Reed brings the sculptures in the South Asian galleries to life through active movement, mudras, and gestures. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat.

Storytelling

Every Sunday, 1:00 pm

FREE with museum admission

The Asian Art Museum Storytellers bring the galleries to life with the myths and folktales of Asia.

The “Forbidden” Discovery Room

Tuesdays through Sundays, June 27 through September 21

10:00 am–5:00 pm (until 9:00 pm on Thursdays)

Education Resource Center

FREE with museum admission

Participants can explore the magic and mystery of Ming dynasty imperial culture through costume, hands-on objects, and art activities in this interactive discovery room for visitors of all ages inspired by life in China’s Forbidden City. *Created, implemented, and led by members of the museum’s Art Speak teen program. Co-sponsored by KTSF.*

Family Activity Brochure: Li Meets the Emperor

Tuesdays through Sundays, June 27 through September 21

10:00 am–5:00 pm (until 9:00 pm on Thursdays)

FREE with museum admission

With the assistance of this fun and educational activity brochure, kids and their adults follow a dragon named Li on a journey back in time to the Ming dynasty. Learn about court life and mythical animals with games and activities focusing on artworks. Visit the Forbidden Discovery Room or the Information Desk to pick up your guide.

The Brilliant Dynasty

Saturdays & Sundays, June 28 through August 17

1:00–4:00 pm

North Court & “Forbidden” Discovery Room.

FREE with museum admission

In the “Forbidden” Discovery Room, learn about the Ming Dynasty’s emperors and the symbolism that identifies them as royalty through in-depth hands-on activities and games led by the museum’s Art Speak teen program participants.

MATCHA

1st Thursday of the month, June through November, 2008

5:00–9:00 pm

FREE with museum admission (\$5 after 5pm)

MATCHA—the museum's monthly Thursday evening mixer series—is back for an exciting third season. Experience live performances, browse through the museum's galleries, mingle with friends over cocktails, create art, embark on special tours, or simply chill to the hip beats of DJs and musicians. Enter our MATCHA drawings for a chance to win fabulous prizes each month, including a pair of roundtrip tickets for two, courtesy of Southwest Airlines.

August 7: Drunken Fist

Former champion US World Team Member, Philip Wong and former Beijing Wushu Team champion Zhang Hong Mei lead members of Bay Area martial arts school Pacific Wushu in a special demonstration at the Asian Art Museum. Participants can jump on a special docent tours of samurai warrior arts and daggers of South East Asia, or try out a hands-on activity, tune-in to a special in-depth talk on shaolin martial arts, or "kick it" with DJ Phatrick, a drink, and some friends.

LECTURES, CLASSES, & WORKSHOPS

Chinese Brushpainting Class with Aiqin Zhou

Saturdays, July 12 through August 16

10:30 am–1:30 pm

Education Studios

\$150 for museum members, \$210 for general (includes museum admission and art supplies, please bring your own bag lunch)

Pre-registration required. Inquiries: (415) 581-3665 or publicprograms@asianart.org.

Participants will learn the basic vocabulary of brushstrokes and techniques for painting traditional Chinese landscapes with artist Aiqin Zhou. Participants learn watercolor methods and processes and then create artworks using natural hair brush and mulberry paper. Artworks created in the class will be on display in Samsung Hall during the last session (August 16). Space is limited.

Two-Day Workshop: Gu Embroidery

Saturday and Sunday, August 9 and 10

10:30 am– 2:30 pm, Education Seminar Room

\$160 members; \$184 general (includes museum admission and art supplies; bring your own bag lunch)

Space limited, pre-registration required: publicprograms@asianart.org or (415) 581-3665.

Master embroidery artists from China, Shao Xiao-Cheng, Chen Hong-Ying, and Qian Yue-Fang, lead this two-day intensive embroidery workshop. Chinese embroidery history and styles and Gu embroidery masterpieces are discussed. Work on your own embroidery project directed by the artists, focusing on needle techniques and color arrangements. *Presented in conjunction with the special exhibition Power and Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty.*

Two-Day Workshop: Chinese Calligraphy Class with Aiqin Zhou

Saturday and Sunday, August 23 and 24

10:30 am– 2:30 pm, Education Studios

\$80 members; \$104 general (includes museum admission and art supplies; bring your own bag lunch)

Space limited, pre-registration required: publicprograms@asianart.org or (415) 581-3665.

Chinese painter and calligrapher Aiqin Zhou teaches the basic styles and techniques of Chinese calligraphy, including the proper selection and use of equipment, body and hand posture, character strokes, and proportions.

Community Speakers Program

Fourth Sunday of every month
 2:30 pm
 Education Studios
 FREE with museum admission

Sunday, August 24

Power & Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty

TOURS**Architectural Tours**

FREE with museum admission

Learn about the transformation of San Francisco's former main public library building into the new Asian Art Museum. All tours assemble at the information desk on the ground floor.

Gallery Tours

FREE with museum admission

Throughout the day, the museum's highly trained docents offer two types of tours: a general introduction to the museum's collection and tours that highlight specific areas of the collection or special exhibitions. All tours assemble at the information desk on the ground floor.

Tour Times (Tuesday–Sunday, except where noted)

10:30 am	<i>Power & Glory</i> (June 27 – September 21)
11:00 am	Museum Masterpieces
11:30 am	Architectural Tour (Only on Target First Free Sundays)
Noon	China
12:30 pm	<i>Power & Glory</i> (June 27 – September 21)
1:00 pm	Korea & Japan
1:30 pm	<i>Power & Glory</i> (June 27 – September 21)
2:00 pm	South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Himalayas
2:30 pm	Architectural Tour (Only on Target First Free Sundays)

Private guided tours are available for the permanent galleries, special exhibitions, the building's architecture, and customized themes. Fees apply and reservations must be made at least one month in advance. For more information, call (415) 581-3624, or email groupvisits@asianart.org.

**** *Power & Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty*** private guided tours are available in Cantonese and Mandarin. These special tours are available from July 1 through September 21, 2008, with the exception of the first Sunday of each month. Reservations must be made at least one month in advance. For more information, call (415) 581-3624, or email groupvisits@asianart.org. Regular group tour rates apply.

All programs are subject to change without notice. (415) 581-3500 or www.asianart.org

GENERAL VISITOR INFORMATION

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 Asian Art 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 public library building by renowned architect Gae Aulenti (designer of Paris's Musée d'Orsay) into a showcase for the museum's celebrated collection and exhibitions.

- **Information:** (415) 581-3500 or www.asianart.org
- **Location:** 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
- **Hours:** The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with extended hours Thursdays until 9:00 PM. Closed Mondays.
- **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). Admission includes a complimentary audiotour of the museum's collection galleries (offered in English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, and Cantonese). **Target First Free Sundays:** The museum offers FREE admission to all on the **first Sunday** of every month, courtesy of Target.
- **Access:** The Asian Art Museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information regarding access, please call (415) 581-3598; TDD: (415) 861-2035.

August–December 2008 Program Highlights continue on next page

ASIAN ART MUSEUM
SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER 2008 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ON VIEW IN THE GALLERIES

CLOSING

Power & Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty

June 27- September 21, 2008

For centuries, Ming porcelain vases have been regarded as the epitome of priceless beauty. The Asian Art Museum's special exhibition, *Power & Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty* demonstrates why not just vases but Ming art of many types has earned such acclaim. On view from June 27–September 21, 2008, and timed to coincide with the summer Olympics in Beijing, this major groundbreaking exhibition explores the grandeur and opulence of one of the most important dynasties in Chinese history. *Power & Glory* also marks the Asian Art Museum's first collaboration with three of China's most prestigious institutions — The Palace Museum (Forbidden City) in Beijing, the Nanjing Municipal Museum, and the Shanghai Museum. Some of the most precious artworks from the Ming dynasty (1368–1644) from these museums, along with some of the finest items from this period owned by the Asian Art Museum, make up *Power & Glory*, the first exhibition in the U. S. to focus on the full range of Ming court arts. Many of the more than 240 artworks — porcelain, paintings, textiles, lacquer, jade, jewelry, architectural elements, and more — will be on public view for the first time. The exhibition provides a rare opportunity to experience the breadth and depth of Ming achievement, through an unequalled collection of works from the Chinese dynasty most renowned for its refined aesthetic and standards of perfection. The exhibition will travel to the Indianapolis Museum of Art (October 26–January 18, 2009 tentative) and the St. Louis Museum of Art (February 21–May 17, 2009).

OPENING

Arts from the Islamic World from Turkey to Indonesia

September 5, 2008 – March 1, 2009

The Islamic cultures of Asia are varied, rich and complex. This exhibition of approximately sixty paintings, manuscripts, ceramics, textiles, metal wares, historic photographs, and even puppets highlights their superb artistic traditions. The art objects shown come from Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, China, and the Philippines, and range in date from the tenth to the twenty-first century. Among the featured art objects, many of which have not been exhibited before, are a stunning mid-seventeenth-century blue-and-white ceramic dish from the Safavid empire of Iran and a huge early seventeenth-century carpet from the Mughal empire of India and Pakistan. The exhibition will address misconceptions about Islamic art and emphasize the diversity and cosmopolitanism of the Islamic art traditions of Asia.

Afghanistan: Hidden Treasure from the National Museum, Kabul

October 24, 2008 – January 25, 2009

This unique exhibition will explore the rich cultural heritage of ancient Afghanistan at the height of Silk Road trade (from the third century BCE through the first century CE). The exhibition will highlight important and beautiful objects saved from the National Museum of Afghanistan (known as the Kabul Museum) which was severely damaged in the fighting in Kabul from 1982–1986, and most, if not all, of its collections were considered lost or stolen until their recent re-discovery in 2003. The roughly 200 artifacts, which document ancient cultural influences from as far away as China and the Mediterranean, as

well as unique and sophisticated local artistic and cultural traditions, constitute an exemplary collection for understanding the history of this region. The exhibition will also chronicle the heroic story of how individual Afghan citizens hid their country's most precious treasures and artifacts from invading forces. Through interpretive materials including text panels and film, *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul* will illustrate how Afghans see their history, and how historical artifacts can become elements of competing historical world views. *Organized by the Asian Art Museum in partnership with the National Geographic Society.*

ONGOING

In a New Light: The Asian Art Museum Collection

More than 2,500 extraordinary works from the museum's renowned collection are displayed in its new 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.

FAMILY AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Families celebrate cultural and seasonal festivals, and are inspired by the artworks on view at the Asian Art Museum. Kids ages 4-14 and their parents discover the wonders of Asian art and culture through hands-on activities, artist demonstrations, yoga, performances, storytelling, and tours. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Yogi Kids

First Sunday of every month

2:00–3:00 pm

Samsung Hall

Part of the Target First Free Sunday program

Yoga guru Lorna Reed brings the sculptures in the South Asian galleries to life through active movement, mudras, and gestures. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat.

Storytelling

Every Sunday, 1:00 pm

FREE with museum admission

The Asian Art Museum Storytellers bring the galleries to life with the myths and folktales of Asia. Please meet at the information desk in South Court.

The "Forbidden" Discovery Room

Tuesdays through Sundays, June 27 through September 21

10:00 am–5:00 pm (until 9:00 pm on Thursdays)

Education Resource Center

FREE with museum admission

Participants can explore the magic and mystery of Ming dynasty imperial culture through costume, hands-on objects, and art activities in this interactive discovery room for visitors of all ages inspired by life in China's Forbidden City. *Created, implemented, and led by members of the museum's Art Speak teen program. Co-sponsored by KTSF.*

Family Activity Brochure: Li Meets the Emperor

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The Brilliant Dynasty

Saturdays and Sundays, June 28 through August 17
 1:00–4:00 pm
 North Court and “Forbidden” Discovery Room.
 FREE with museum admission

In the “Forbidden” Discovery Room, participants can learn about the Ming Dynasty’s emperors and the symbolism that identifies them as royalty through in-depth hands-on activities and games led by the museum’s Art Speak teen program participants.

Adventures of the Treasure Fleet

Sunday, September 7
 Noon–2:00 pm
 Education Studios
 Part of the Target First Free Sunday program

The Adventures of the Treasure Fleet is the true tale of seven epic voyages and their larger-than-life commander, Admiral Zheng He. Zheng He and his crew of 27,000 men battled pirates and survived a raging storm. They befriended kings, charted unknown oceans and were awestruck by Africa’s exotic animals. At each port, China’s best porcelains and silks were traded for pearls, precious stones, herbs and medicines. Admiral Zheng He and his crew returned to China as heroes, bringing dignitaries and treasures from far away lands as tributes to powerful Ming emperor.

Participants will enjoy author Annie Bowler’s story reading, which keeps the audience so entertained they barely realize they are learning. Every person has a fun role in Annie’s presentation. It features kids playing classic instruments from around the world, adults showing a bit of drama, a sing along to Annie’s song *Adventures* and a question and answer session. Afterward, purchase a book in the Museum Store and have it signed by the author.

Fall Family Festival: *Treasures of Afghanistan*

Sunday, October 26
 11:00 am–4:00 pm
 Museum-wide
 FREE with museum admission

Families throughout the Bay Area are invited to celebrate the artistic and cultural traditions of Afghanistan and the opening of *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul* at the Asian Art Museum’s Fall Family Festival. An annual museum-wide event during which the cultural and artistic traditions of Asia come alive, family festivals celebrates the parent-child relationship with a fun-

filled day of engaging programs—all FREE with museum admission—that promise to delight and excite the imaginations of both young and old.

MATCHA

1st Thursday of the month, June through November, 2008

5:00–9:00 pm

Museum-wide

FREE with museum admission (\$5 after 5 pm)

MATCHA—the museum’s monthly Thursday evening mixer series—is back for an exciting third season. Participants can experience live performances, browse through the museum’s galleries, mingle with friends over cocktails, create art, embark on special tours, or simply chill to the hip beats of DJs and musicians. The MATCHA drawings allow for a chance to win fabulous prizes each month, including a pair of roundtrip tickets for two, courtesy of Southwest Airlines.

September 4: Tea & Spice

Recently back from its annual trek to Burning Man, John Oda’s Tea Temple will be erected inside the museum. The stupa-like structure pays homage to the nomadic structures of the Silk Road where tea was traded for thousands of years. Underneath the big top, participants can discover floral, fruity, and earthy teas of China. Elsewhere in the museum, adventurous tasters can experience teas from India or Iran. Participants can hop on a docent tour through arts of the Ming dynasty, arts of the Silk Roads, and the spice routes.

October 2: The Japanese Tattoo

This installment of MATCHA features author and tattoo artist Takahiro Kitamura (artist name Horitaka, apprentice to the Japanese master, Horiyoshi III) presenting a talk about the centuries-old art of traditional Japanese tattooing. The evening will also include demonstrations of Japanese style tattooing using a hand-tapping technique. Join a docent tour and dip into the world of Zen among ancient Japanese Samurai warriors. Learn about Japanese altars through an in-depth talk with author John Nelson, sample Japanese teas by Ito En, and hang out with the DJ.

November 6: Afghanistan!

The grand finale of MATCHA’s third season culminates with music, dance, and a sampling of food from Afghanistan. The evening also features a performance of traditional dance—including the Afghan national dance *Attan*—by the Bay Area’s own Ballet Afsaneh. Guests can try their hand at making jewelry inspired by the ancient Bactrian gold on view in the special exhibition *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul*, or enjoy docent tours of the special exhibition and specially-themed gallery walks on the crossroads of East and West.

LECTURES, CLASSES, & WORKSHOPS

Community Speakers Program

Fourth Sunday of every month

2:30 pm

Education Studios

FREE with museum admission

Sunday, September 28

The Silk Road: Globalization 1.0

With Kathleen Braunstein

Sunday, October 26

Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul
With Dorothy Gregor

Sunday, November 23

Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul
With Florence Hitchcock

Sunday, December 28

Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul

FOR EDUCATORS ONLY**Conversation with the Curator: *Power and Glory***

Saturday, September 13, 2008

9:30 am–12:30 pm

Education Studios

\$5 (includes museum admission)

Pre-registration is required and limited to educators: schools@asianart.org or (415) 581-3697.

For a rare peek behind the scenes of the special exhibition *Power and Glory*, Dr. Michael Knight, the museum's Senior Curator of Chinese Art, will discuss this exquisite selection of art that encompass 276 years of Ming dynastic rule (1368–1644). Dr. Knight will highlight the curatorial process from thematic conception to object selection. The event includes a docent-led tour of the special exhibition and light refreshments.

TOURS**Architectural Tours**

FREE with museum admission

Learn about the transformation of San Francisco's former main public library building into the new Asian Art Museum. All tours assemble at the information desk on the ground floor.

Gallery Tours

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