



# ASIAN ART MUSEUM

200 Larkin St • San Francisco • [asianart.org](http://asianart.org) • 415-581-3500

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## ASIAN-INSPIRED GIFTS AT THE ASIAN ART MUSEUM SATISFY BUDGET-CONSCIOUS SHOPPERS AS WELL AS THOSE WILLING TO SPLURGE

### 2008 Asian-Inspired Holiday Gift Guide

San Francisco, CA, November 4, 2008: Whatever their budget, holiday shoppers will find something for everyone on their list at the Asian Art Museum store. From stocking stuffers to one-of-a-kind jewelry, textiles and more, the Asian Art Museum store provides a cache of wares that the most frugal and the most extravagant shoppers will find appealing. Shoppers will find merchandise inspired by the critically acclaimed special exhibition currently on view, *Afghanistan:*



*Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul* (through January 25). Afghan hand-painted ceramic bowls, lapis and silver jewelry, dolls, kites, and unique Central Asian textiles are some of the distinctive gifts available for purchase. Adding to the seasonal good-will, proceeds from some of the *Afghanistan* exhibition-related merchandise support programs benefiting Afghans through building and sustaining export markets, educational schools, and/or orphanages. For the discerning shopper, the museum store offers such unique items as made-to-order Chinese seals, Indonesian rod puppets, and signature hand-made silk cord necklaces from local designer Pat Tseng. Children's gifts range from 3-D woodcraft construction puzzles of dragons, pandas and carp, stuffed animal hand puppets, and multicultural story books. The museum store also offers standard holiday staples such as wall calendars, inside-painted glass ornaments, and sequined ornaments. Selected highlights are listed below. All items are available while supplies last.

Museum store hours coincide with museum visiting hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursday evening until 9 p.m. For inquiries, please call 415-581-3505 or email [shop@asianart.org](mailto:shop@asianart.org).

### ***Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul -Inspired Gifts***

- Dress flowers, traditional beaded amulets in the shape of discs, designed to be stitched to clothing as emblems of good fortune and beauty. All proceeds are donated to The Afghan

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Girls Fund, IKAT (the Central Asian Institute) and RAWA (Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan) for their work building and sustaining educational schools and orphanages:(\$6 for 2” discs, \$12 for 4.5” discs, and \$20 for 6” discs.)

- Children’s songs from Afghanistan by Louise M. Pascale with book and CD: (\$17.95)
- Lapis and silver jewelry: (rings begin at \$15; necklaces up to \$100)
- Afghan kites made by the kite shop in Kabul which made the kites seen in the movie *The Kite Runner*: (\$35)
- Afghan dolls hand-made by Afghans associated with the Women of Hope Project (\$35)
- Hand-woven Afghan rugs, approx 31” x 48”: (\$400-500)
- Central Asian textiles ranging from Uzbek ikat scarves (\$75) to colorful coin robes (\$1200)
- Fair-trade Afghan-made jewelry designed by Pippa Small for Turquoise Mountain: (earrings start at \$110, sterling silver necklaces with 24K gold plate priced up to \$1225). All net proceeds go towards funding the Turquoise Mountain School for Jewelry and Gem-Cutting school to revive Afghanistan’s rich jewelry heritage and to build an export market to ensure that more Afghan men and women have access to a sustainable source of income.

### **Other Asian-Inspired Gifts**

- Personalized Chinese seals custom-made onsite at the museum by guest carver Mr. Cui: (\$12–\$250) blank seals, plus carving fee of \$15 and up)
- A selection of over 1200 book titles on topics of Asian art and culture: (\$5–\$850)
- Korean celadon ceramics: (\$20–\$300)
- Yixing teapots: (\$30–\$175)
- Blue & white porcelain ceramics: (\$35–\$1290)
- Persian miniature hand-painted boxes of camel bone: (\$55–\$100)
- Local jewelry designer Pat Tseng’s signature hand-dyed, hand-sewn cord necklaces: (\$400–\$2500); and earrings: (from \$310)

### **Children’s Gifts**

- Wood-craft construction 3-D puzzle kits of dragons, pandas, carp and pagodas: (\$6–\$20)
- Multicultural storybooks including *Children’s Songs from Afghanistan* by Louise Pascale with accompanying CD: (\$17.95)

- Stuffed animal puppets of camels, dragons, pandas, monkeys, and mice: (\$7.95 finger puppets up to \$28 for panda puppet)
- Afghan kites made by the kite shop in Kabul which made the kites seen in the movie *The Kite Runner*: (\$35)
- Afghan dolls hand-made by Afghans associated with the Women of Hope Project (\$35)

### **Traditional Holiday Gifts**

- Stocking stuffers such as good luck ceramic frog or turtle charms (\$1.95), Thai silk jewelry boxes (\$2.95), fortune cookie fabric boxes (\$3.95) and original string doll gang key chains (\$9.95).
- Monthly wall calendars of various themes including Chinese brush paintings, Buddhist paintings, Japanese scrolls and screen paintings, etc.: (\$13.99)
- Assortment of inside-painted glass ornaments of Chinese lion dance, cranes, carp and other Asian-inspired motifs: (\$15)

### **Superlative Gifts**

- Least expensive: good luck ceramic frog and turtle charms, (\$1.95)
- Most expensive: pair of antique wooden carved Chinese dragon panels, (\$5000)
- Most unusual: Afghan war rugs depicting pictorial scenes of tanks, guns, etc. hand-made by children apprenticing to become rug weavers: (Approx. 2' x 3', \$325)
- Most bling: Uzbekistan coin jacket, (\$1200)

### **About Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul**

The Asian Art Museum is the only West Coast venue for this unique exhibition that will explore the rich cultural heritage of ancient Afghanistan which served as an important crossroads during the height of Silk Road trade. The some 200 artworks range in date from 2200 BCE to the second century CE and include bronze and stone sculptures, ivories, painted glassware, gold ornaments and more. These celebrated artworks were thought stolen or destroyed during the 25 years of conflict and were rediscovered intact in 2003. On view through January 25, the exhibition celebrates the heroic story of how individual Afghan citizens hid their country's most precious treasures and artifacts from destructive forces. *This exhibition was organized by the [National Geographic Society](#) and the [National Gallery of Art](#) in association with the Asian Art Museum of*

*San Francisco, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.*

### **About the Museum Store**

The museum store offers a unique shopping experience—supporting and enhancing the visitor experience by extending the introduction to the arts and cultures of Asia to the store. The store reflects the breadth of the collection, offering merchandise from all parts of the continent, from West Asia to Southeast Asia to Japan. As with the rest of the museum, the store continuously offers something new. Complementing what is on view in the galleries, the store carries special exhibition-related merchandise and introduces new products on a regular basis. All proceeds directly benefit the museum's education programs and exhibition efforts. Hours of operation coincide with museum visiting hours: Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday evenings until 9 p.m. Inquiries: [shop@asianart.org](mailto:shop@asianart.org), or 415-581-3605.

### **About the Asian Art Museum**

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 San Francisco's 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's Musée d'Orsay) into a showcase for the museum's acclaimed collection and exhibitions.

- **Information:** (415) 581-3500 or [www.asianart.org](http://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 until 9:00 pm every Thursday.
- **Admission:** \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$7 for youth 13–17, and free for children under 12. Thursday evenings after 5 pm admission is just \$5 for all visitors except those under 12 and members, who are always free. Admission includes a complimentary audiotour of the museum's collection galleries (offered in English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, and Cantonese).
- **Target First Free Sundays:** Free admission—on the first Sunday of every month is made possible by Target. Free admission to Target First Free Sundays is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to capacity restrictions, 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.