



# ASIAN ART MUSEUM

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**AFGHANISTAN: HIDDEN TREASURES FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, KABUL**  
October 24, 2008 – January 25, 2009

## **SCHEDULE OF EXHIBITION-RELATED PROGRAMS**

San Francisco, CA, September 12, 2008: Extraordinary artifacts uncovered in Afghanistan—long thought stolen or destroyed during some twenty-five years of conflict until their dramatic rediscovery in 2003—make their only West Coast appearance on their United States tour at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, October 24, 2008 through January 25, 2009. Revealing the multicultural heritage of Afghanistan, which was once the heart of the Silk Road linking cultures from Asia to the Mediterranean, are some 228 objects ranging in date from 2200 BCE to the second century CE. The artworks are mainly drawn from three archaeological sites, together with a few earlier works providing background. These artworks which belong to the National Museum, Kabul fragmentary gold bowls with artistic links to the cultures of ancient Mesopotamia (largely present-day Iraq) and the Indus valley (largely present-day Pakistan) from the Bronze Age site of Tepe Fullol; bronze and stone sculptures and a gilded silver plaque from the former Greek colony at Ai Khanum (“Lady Moon”); bronzes, ivories, and painted glassware that had been imported from Roman Egypt, China, and India, and excavated from ancient storerooms discovered in the 1930s and 1940s in Begram; and more than one hundred gold ornaments from the “Bactrian Hoard,” found in 1978 in Tillya Tepe, the site of six nomad graves, and revealing a synthesis of Greek, Roman, Persian, Indian, Chinese, and Siberian styles.

The Asian Art Museum will present a roster of programs inspired by the exhibition and intended to put the artworks in context for visitors of all ages. A schedule of programs follows. All programs are subject to change. Please visit [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org) for updates.

## **PERFORMANCES, DEMONSTRATIONS, & ACTIVITIES**

### **AsiaAlive: Digging Archaeology**

Fridays through Sundays, October 26 through January 25  
12:00 noon – 4:00 pm  
North Court

Visit “digs” of ancient Afghanistan! Join real-life archaeologists from UC Berkeley to learn about archaeology and how they discover the lifestyles of past and present.

### **Rumi & Rebab: An Evening of Poetry and Music**

**Featuring Ustad Obaidulla Esar, Hodayun Sakhi, and Salar Nadar**  
Thursday, October 30

7:00 pm, Samsung Hall  
\$15 members, \$20 general  
Space limited. Tickets beginning September 30: [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org) or Admissions Desk

Ustad Esar, literature scholar and professor from Kabul University, recites the ancient poems of Rumi. He will be accompanied by Homayun Sakhi, master of the Afghan *rebab* (also known as *rubab*)—the double-chambered lute that is at the heart of Afghanistan's Pashtun *klasik* tradition. Salar Nadar will accompany Homayun Sakhi on tabla.

### **Knitting, Tea and Conversation**

Sunday, October 26 and the first Sunday of the month November 2, December 7 and January 4  
1:30–4:30 pm  
Education Resource Center  
Part of the Target First Free Sunday program

A humanitarian and educational people-to-people project that knits and crochets wool blankets, sweaters, vests, socks, mittens, and hats for the people of Afghanistan, afghans for Afghans was started in response to the war that unfolded after 9/11. This follows a long-time American tradition of knitting for others at times of war and crisis.

From the start, afghans for Afghans has partnered with the American Friends Service Committee and an array of relief and humanitarian organizations. Volunteers across the US and Canada have made tens of thousands of beautiful, warm, top-quality blankets and garments as a gesture of friendship and respect for Afghan families. To encourage cross cultural appreciation, they document traditional Afghan knitting designs and create new knitting patterns based on Afghanistan's rich cultural heritage.

Knitting, tea and conversation—join local members of afghans for Afghans on the first Sunday of every month during the run of the special exhibition, *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul*. Bring your knitting needles and wool yarn, and start (or finish) a project to send to Afghanistan; knowledgeable knitter Chris Motley from ImagiKnit will be on hand to help with projects. For more information about afghans for Afghans visit <http://www.afghansforafghans.org>. Knitting instructor, some needles and yarn generously provided by San Francisco's ImagiKnit, <http://www.imagiknit.com/>. Supplies are limited, so please bring your own materials.

### **The Kite-Runner: A Theatrical Reading**

Thursday, November 20  
7:00 pm, Samsung Hall  
Free with museum admission

Matthew Spangler and student actors from San José State University present a staged reading of *The Kite Runner*, the best-selling novel by Khaled Hosseini. *The Kite Runner* was adapted as a stage play and directed by Professor Spangler as a full-length theatre production at San Jose State University in March 2007.

## **FAMILY AND YOUTH PROGRAMS**

### **Fall Family Festival: *Treasures of Afghanistan***

Sunday, October 26  
10:30 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 Central Asia 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, the festival 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.

Join local writer Tamim Ansary, author of *East of New York, West of Kabul* as he speaks about his experience living in Afghanistan in this multimedia presentation; enjoy a performance of the *Girl Who Lost Her Smile*, a story adapted by Golden Thread Productions from the children's book by Karim Alrawi and presented in conjunction with the special exhibition, *Arts of the Islamic World from Turkey to Indonesia*; participate in a knitting circle with afghans for Afghans, an organization that knits hats, scarves, socks and blankets for beleaguered communities in Afghanistan; “restore” an ancient object with people from the Association of the Preservation of Afghan Archaeology (APAA) and learn about the work that this venerable organization does; go on a “dig” to uncover hidden treasures with members of U.C. Berkeley's Archaeological Research Facility; make an ivory carving and a piece of gold jewelry; or take a tour of the special exhibition with Nadia Tarzi of APAA.

## **FILM SERIES**

### **Afghan Film Series**

Sundays, November 2, December 7, and January 4, 11:00 am and 2:00pm

Samsung Hall. Please arrive early as space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Free admission courtesy of Target Stores.

In conjunction with the special Afghanistan exhibition, six films showcase contemporary Afghan life.

### **Sunday, November 2**

#### ***Lost Treasures of Afghanistan, 11:00 am***

(Documentary by National Geographic Society, 2006, DVD, 55 minutes)

This film brings together different stories of heroism and bravery in war-torn Afghanistan. Explore the Bamiyan Valley with archaeologist Dr. Tarzi as he digs for a long-forgotten monastery that houses the 1,000 foot Buddha in his ultimate quest to honor the Bamiyan people and their history. Also join Russian archaeologist Victor Sarianidi as he unveils and confirms whether gold treasures found underneath the Presidential palace was indeed the Bactrian Hoard treasure he helped discover and catalog two decades ago. And finally, listen to the different stories of brave Afghani artists and archivists as they recount how they went about protecting and preserving works of art and film archives from certain destruction by the Taliban.

#### ***Front Runner, 2:00 pm***

(Documentary by Virginia Williams, 2008, DVD, Farsi with English subtitles, 90 minutes)

In Afghanistan's first democratic election ever, Dr. Massouda Jalal shouts to the crowd, “Vote for the mother.” Amidst death threats and bomb attacks, Jalal, a medical doctor and mother of three, doggedly campaigns from the back of a taxi, in mosques, in homes, in busy markets and in the streets.

*Frontrunner* tells the heroic story of Jalal, who as a children's advocate, defied the murderous Taliban regime. Now, she boldly runs for president—the only woman in a field of seventeen candidates. In a dramatic turn of events, she holds the fate of the country's first presidential election in her hands. This film will surely inspire viewers to reflect upon the 2008 US presidential election, in which gender politics also have played an important role.

### **Sunday, December 7**

#### ***Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame, 11:00 am***

(Documentary by Hana Makhmalbaf, 2007, DVD, Farsi with subtitles, 81 minutes )

The beauty and grief of present-day Afghanistan receives poetic treatment from eighteen-year-old Iranian filmmaker Hana Makhmalbaf. Set in central Afghanistan's Bamiyan Valley, where in 2001

Taliban soldiers destroyed centuries-old sculptures of Buddha carved into the cliffs, the film is a haunting journey into the minds of the children who live in that desolate area. Amidst the rubble of the massive statues, an endearingly obstinate six-year-old Afghan girl, Bakhtay, wants to learn to read and write. After hearing that a school for girls has opened up across the river, she sets out on a mission to attend. The film follows Bakhtay as she faces obstacles, including her family's poverty and indifference to education, on her way to school. She must also traverse a no man's land, where she is "captured" by a band of boys who delight in playing war games that mimic the violence they have witnessed. Bakhtay's arduous journey across the river becomes a metaphor for Afghanistan's own difficult transition.

***Kandahar, 2:00 pm***

(Feature film by Mohsen Makhmalbaf, 2001, DVD, English, Farsi, Pashtu with subtitles, 85 minutes)  
The first of two films from the house of Makhmalbaf (the Iranian filmmaking family responsible for many eloquent narratives about Afghan society), *Kandahar* is the story of a journalist who leaves her post in Canada to aid her troubled sister at home in Afghanistan. This proves no easy task, as the film sensitively delineates the woman's near endless perils and pitfalls.

**Sunday, January 4, 2009**

***Earth and Ashes, 11:00 am***

(Feature film by Atiq Rahimi, 2004, DVD, Dari and Pashtu with subtitles, 102 minutes)  
An old man called Dastaguir (Abdul Ghani) travels by foot through the Afghan desert with his small grandson Yassin (Jawad Mard Homayoun). Exactly why they are making their journey is revealed slowly, in a scenario less about overt actions than graceful nuances, as details come to light in war-torn yet beautiful landscapes.

***Giant Buddhas, 2:00 pm***

(Documentary by Christian Frei, 2005, DVD, 95 minutes)  
*The Giant Buddhas* is a film about the destruction of the famous Buddha statues and moreover is an essay on fanaticism and faith, terror and tolerance, ignorance and identity. Combining several narrative lines, Frei's beautifully crafted film uses the Bamiyan statues as a starting point on a fascinating journey exploring the boundaries between spirituality and religious fanaticism, the ancient and the modern and the local and the global. Frei weaves together a colorful and moving tapestry that ultimately reflects the Buddhist saying: "Everything changes, nothing is permanent." With some excellent photography by Peter Indergand, this monumental, yet quietly contemplative – and at times very funny – film is as much a quest for questions, as a search for answers.

Film schedule subject to change without notice. For updates, please visit <http://www.asianart.org/filmsandvideos.htm>. All films will be shown on digital video disc (DVD) format. Some will have English subtitles.

**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.

**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**

**Lecture: “Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul”**

Saturday, October 25, 2:30 pm

Samsung Hall

FREE with museum admission.

Limited seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Guest curator Fredrik Hiebert (Ph.D. Harvard 1992) of the National Geographic Society was present in 2004 when boxes from Afghanistan's National Museum were opened for the first time in more than two decades. The boxes, kept safe in the basement of the Presidential bank vault in Kabul, contained the prized artifacts from the destroyed National Museum. Thousands of gold and silver items, fragile ancient ivory carvings and imported Greek and Roman trade goods found in Afghanistan were preserved. Hiebert's tale of rediscovery is one of both fabulous art from the center of the Silk Road and remarkable courage on the part of modern Afghans to preserve their own cultural heritage. Following the lecture, Hiebert will sign copies of the exhibition catalog, available for sale in the Museum Store.

**Rory Stewart—author, diplomat, and NGO Executive Chairman—will speak on Afghanistan: reality versus rhetoric**

Thursday, November 13, 2008; Talk and questions: 1:00–2:00 pm, Book signing 2:00–3:00 pm

Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

\$5 members; \$17 general (includes museum admission). *Space limited, advance registration is advised.*

*Tickets beginning October 9: [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org) or Admissions Desk.*

Few Westerners in recent years have explored Afghanistan the way Rory Stewart has. In January 2002, Rory Stewart walked across Afghanistan—surviving by his wits, his knowledge of Persian dialects and Muslim customs, and the kindness of strangers. Along the way Stewart met heroes and rogues, tribal elders and teenage soldiers, Taliban commanders and foreign-aid workers. Stewart will share his insights about contemporary Afghanistan and discuss his current work as Chief Executive of the Turquoise Mountain Foundation. He founded the non-profit foundation in 2006, to regenerate the historic commercial and residential quarter of Kabul's old city. As part of that initiative, Turquoise Mountain now provides vocational training for Afghans in traditional craft-making and architectural skills, and sources commercial opportunities for Afghan craft businesses. It also restores historic buildings, employs locals, and provides them with basic health services and a school.

Rory Stewart was born in Hong Kong and grew up in Malaysia. He served briefly as an officer in the British Army (the Black Watch), studied history and philosophy at Balliol College, Oxford and then joined the British Diplomatic Service. He worked in the British Embassy in Indonesia and then, in the wake of the Kosovo campaign, as the British Representative in Montenegro. In 2000 he took two years off and began walking from Turkey to Bangladesh. He covered 6000 miles on foot alone across Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal – a journey described in *The Places in Between*.

In 2003, he became the coalition Deputy Governor of Maysan and Dhi Qar—two provinces in the Marsh Arab region of Southern Iraq. He has written for a range of publications including the *New York Times Magazine*, the *London Review of Books*, the *Sunday Times*, the *Guardian*, the *Financial Times* and *Granta*. In 2004, he

was awarded the Order of the British Empire and became a Fellow of the Carr Center at Harvard University. He lives in Kabul, where he is the Chief Executive of the Turquoise Mountain Foundation. In January 2009, Stewart will join Harvard University as Ryan Professor of Human Rights. He will continue as Chief Executive of Turquoise Mountain.

This program is sponsored by Carmen M. Christensen, who also provided generous support for the Asian Art Museum presentation of *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul*.

**Recovering Afghanistan's Past: Exhibition Preview and Panel Discussion in Dari**

Thursday, November 13

10:00 am–9:00 pm Afghan exhibition viewing, Ground Floor Galleries

6:00–6:30 pm Rebab music by Aziz Herawi, Samsung Hall

7:00–8:30 pm Panel Discussion in the Afghan language Dari, no English translation, Samsung Hall

FREE with museum admission (\$5 after 5:00 pm).

Space limited for panel discussion. RSVP to (415) 581-3665 or [rsvp@apaa.info](mailto:rsvp@apaa.info)

This program kicks off **Recovering Afghanistan's Past**, a conference organized in conjunction with the special exhibition *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul*. Conference participants are invited to hear a short rebab (Afghan lute) concert and visit the exhibition to study some of the objects that will be discussed during the conference on the Berkeley campus. Members of the Afghan community are invited to a special panel discussion featuring three of Afghanistan's most important cultural heritage specialists—Dr. Omar Sultan, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture, Afghanistan; Dr. Omara Khan Massoudi, Director General of Museums of Afghanistan and of the National Museum, Kabul; and Dr. Zemaryalai Tarzi, Director for the Bamiyan Archaeological Mission, President of Association for the Protection of Afghan Archaeology (APAA) and Professor Emeritus, Strasbourg University, France. This panel discussion is designed as a special outreach event for the Afghan community, and thus the discussion will be conducted in the Afghan language of Dari. No English translation will be provided, however, these same three speakers will present in English or with English translation at the Berkeley conference on Friday, November 14.

The conference is sponsored by several University of California Berkeley departments and research units, the Association for the Protection of Afghan Archaeology, the Society for Asian Art, and the Asian Art Museum.

**Conference at University of California, Berkeley:**

**Recovering Afghanistan's Past**

Friday, November 14, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday, November 15, 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Chevron Auditorium, International House

University of California, Berkeley

Free admission

This conference will focus on Afghanistan's cultural heritage in its past and present contexts and bring together scholars from various disciplines to address, among others, the following issues: the recovered objects from the National Museum; recent research and preservation/renovation projects; challenges of cultural heritage protection; the complexities of heritage; cultural heritage and nationalism; and cultural heritage and globalization.

For a detailed schedule: <http://ieas.berkeley.edu/events/2008.11.14w.htm>

Participants include: Prof. Andrew Stewart, History of Art, UC Berkeley (UCB); Prof. Joanna Williams, History of Art, UCB; Prof. Pat Berger, History of Art, UCB; Prof. Wali Ahmadi, Near Eastern Studies, UCB; Dr. Sanjyot Mehendale, Near Eastern Studies, UCB; Prof. Emeritus, David Stronach, Near Eastern Studies,

UCB; Dr. Mo Qayoumi, President, Cal State University-East Bay; Dr. Omar Sultan, Deputy Minister of Culture, Afghanistan; Dr. Omara Khan Massoudi, Director of the National Museum, Kabul; Prof. Esther Jacobson-Tepfer, University of Oregon; Prof. Barry Flood, New York University; Dr. Fredrik Hiebert, National Geographic Society; Prof. Osmund Bopearachchi, Sorbonne University - Paris IV, France; Dr. Veronique Schiltz, National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris; Prof. Zemaryalai Tarzi, Strasbourg University, France; Prof. Richard Salomon, University of Washington; Prof. Soheila Amirsoleimani, University of Utah; Ms. Nadia Tarzi, Executive Director, Association for the Protection of Afghan Archaeology.

Sponsored by Center for Buddhist Studies (CBS), Al-Falah Program for Islamic Studies (CMES), Townsend Center for the Humanities, Center for South Asia Studies (CSAS), Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ISEEES), History of Art Department, Society for Asian Art, Association for the Protection of Afghan Archaeology (APAA), California State University-East Bay . *Organized in conjunction with the special exhibition Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures* at the Asian Art Museum October 24, 2008 through January 25, 2009.

**Afghanistan Today: A Conversation with Mohammad Qayoumi and Special Guest  
Thursday, December 11**

Exhibition Tours: 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm

Conversation: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Samsung Hall

\$5 general (includes museum admission after 5:00 pm); Free for members and California State University, East Bay, students with valid current student ID.

*Space limited; first-come, first-served.*

In celebration of the special exhibition “Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul” Afghan-born scholar Mohammad H. Qayoumi and an Afghan expert to be announced will discuss the current political and cultural landscape of Afghanistan against the backdrop of the extraordinary exhibition of archaeological treasures from the National Museum of Afghanistan, Kabul. The exhibition, on view at the museum through January 25, 2009, encompasses the rich cultural heritage of ancient Afghanistan from the Bronze Age (2500 BCE) through the rise of trade along the Silk Road in the first century CE.

Qayoumi is president of California State University, East Bay, where he is also a tenured professor of engineering. Qayoumi holds a PhD in electrical engineering from University of Cincinnati and master’s degrees in nuclear engineering, electrical and computer engineering, as well as an MBA in finance. Qayoumi has published eight books, more than 85 articles, and several chapters in various books. Qayoumi has served his native country of Afghanistan in various financial capacities. He was the senior advisor to the Minister of Finance of Afghanistan from 2002 to 2005 and served on the board of directors for the Central Bank of Afghanistan from 2004 to 2007.

*Co-sponsored with the California State University, East Bay.*

**Student Assembly Lecture by Fred Hiebert**

Tuesday, January 13

Please visit [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org) or call 415-581-

**Community Speakers Program**

Fourth Sunday of every month

2:30 pm

Education Studios

FREE with museum admission

**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*

**TEACHER WORKSHOP**

**Teacher Workshop: Hidden Treasures of Afghanistan**

Sunday, November 9

9:00 AM–12:30 PM

Education studios

\$20 (includes museum admission), pre-registration required

Space limited to educators only.

For more information: [schools@asianart.org](mailto:schools@asianart.org) or (415) 581-3697

For more than a millennium the trading centers of Afghanistan served as both a cultural hub and connecting point for several countries of Asia and the eastern Mediterranean. Afghanistan's singular role in this context shaped both its history and its culture. The special exhibition *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul* features archaeological objects saved from destruction during the political conflicts of the past three decades. Said Tayed Jawad, Afghanistan's ambassador to the U.S., remarked on the launch of this exhibit:

Afghanistan has always been the heart of Asia. Afghanistan's centrality in the Silk Road created a rich mosaic of cultures and civilizations. Although this mosaic was shattered by war and terror, both the spirit of the Afghan people and our cultural heritage survived. These priceless artifacts are a testament to the Afghan people and the heroism of the brave and selfless Afghans who preserved and protected them.

Dr. Forrest McGill, the Asian Art Museum's chief curator and Watis Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art, and Dr. Sanjyot Mehendale, lecturer, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley, will introduce this special exhibition and discuss the historical circumstances that produced these exquisite objects influenced by Greek, Indian, Chinese, and Central Asian traditions. This event includes lectures, a docent-led tour of the special exhibition, and light refreshments. Teachers will also receive a special educator packet with content information, a CD of selected images, and suggested activities. This packet is provided to teachers attending the workshop and to teachers bringing their students on the school tour *Hidden Treasures of Afghanistan*.

**EXHIBITION TOURS**

FREE with museum admission

Throughout the day, the museum's highly trained docents offer three tours of *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul*. All tours assemble at the information desk on the ground floor.

**Tour Times (Tuesday–Sunday, except where noted)**

10:30 am *Afghanistan* (October 24– January 25)

12:30 pm *Afghanistan* (October 24 - January 25)

1:30 pm *Afghanistan* (October 24 - January 25)

Audio tours of the exhibition are available for \$3 with general admission, \$2 for museum members.

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](mailto:groupvisits@asianart.org).

### **SCHOOL TOURS**

#### ***Hidden Treasures of Afghanistan (Grades 6-7)***

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM and Noon

From October 29, 2008, through January 21, 2009.

Investigate the artifacts of ancient Afghanistan, treasures hidden and guarded by officials at the National Museum of Kabul from looting and destruction during the Soviet invasion and the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan. Students discover how this country, strategically located along the Silk Road, was a center for trade and cultural exchange, and learn how art from the past can inspire acts of heroism in the present. This tour features the exhibition *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul*.

*Note: Teachers bringing their students on this tour will receive a special educator packet with content information, a CD of selected images, and suggested activities.*

### **RELATED EXHIBITION**

#### ***Arts of 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—housed in the museum's intimate Tateuchi gallery on the museum's second floor—consists of approximately sixty paintings, manuscripts, ceramics, textiles, metal wares, historic photographs, and even puppets which highlight their superb artistic traditions. The artworks originate from such countries as Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, China, Indonesia, 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.

### **EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION**

The exhibition was organized by the National Geographic Society and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, in association with the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. This exhibition is supported by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. Presentation at the Asian Art Museum is made possible by the Bernard Osher Foundation, the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, and Carmen M. Christensen. Media sponsors: ABC7, KQED Public Broadcasting, Mercury News, San Francisco magazine, CBS Outdoor, Bay Guardian, mercurynews.com. The works in the exhibition are the sole property of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

### EXHIBITION ADMISSION

*Afghanistan* is free with general museum admission. However, due to the anticipated popularity of *Afghanistan*, we will be using a timed entry system for the exhibition. As such, museum admission tickets will be sold for specific dates and times during the run of the exhibition. Advance purchase of museum timed tickets is highly recommended. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org) with a service charge of up to \$2.25 per ticket. Tickets can be picked up at Will Call the day of the visit. Advance and day-of tickets are also available at the museum with no processing fee, subject to availability. Free admission on Target First Free Sundays is on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to capacity restrictions, admission is not guaranteed.

All programs are subject to change without notice. (415) 581-3500 or [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org)

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### 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](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 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:** 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.