



ASIAN ART MUSEUM

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EMERALD CITIES: ARTS OF SIAM & BURMA, 1775-1950

October 23, 2009—January 10, 2010

SCHEDULE OF EXHIBITION-RELATED PROGRAMS

San Francisco, CA, September 8, 2009: From October 23, 2009 through January 10, 2010, the Asian Art Museum showcases *Emerald Cities: Arts of Siam & Burma, 1775-1950*, the first exhibition of its kind to use a systematic approach to present artworks from this region and period. The exhibition features more than 140 artworks drawn exclusively from the museum's collection, which is one of the largest and most important collections of nineteenth-century Siamese and Burmese art outside of Southeast Asia. On view are ornately carved furniture, lavishly decorated miniature shrines, gilded statues, elaborately illustrated manuscripts, colorfully detailed paintings, and mirrored and bejeweled ritual objects. The Asian Art Museum will present a series of programs inspired by the exhibition that are intended to provide greater context to the artworks on view. Designed for visitors of all ages, onsite programs include Burmese puppet performances by a marionette troupe brought from Mandalay, a family festival, a MATCHA evening mixer, lectures and more. Offsite programs include a symposium scheduled for October 29 and 30 in partnership with U.C. Berkeley —Object Knowledge: Art, Artifact and Authority in Southeast Asia. A detailed schedule of programs follows. All programs are subject to change. For updates, please visit www.asianart.org or call 415-581-3500.

PERFORMANCES, DEMONSTRATIONS, & ACTIVITIES

Burmese Puppetry

Featuring members of the Mandalay Marionettes Theatre

Sunday, October 25 through Sunday, November 1

The Burmese marionette tradition traces its roots back long before the earliest records of performances in the 1400s. By the 1700s, this tradition became an important part of Burmese royal court life. With British colonization in the 1800s, however, the form went into decline. It enjoyed a period of revival as a popular tradition in the early 1900s when puppeteers, who no longer had royal patronage, established themselves in outlying villages.

The Mandalay Marionette Theatre was founded in 1986 by two Burmese women who have researched extensively this puppet tradition. Drawing on their research and collaborations with descendants of ancient puppeteer professionals, they have successfully built their artistic team of puppeteers, musicians, and dancers. Over the years, they and their troupe have traveled internationally to France, the Netherlands, Japan, Australia, and the United States to expose more people to their art form and cultivate its appreciation.

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In conjunction with the special exhibition *Emerald Cities: Arts of Siam and Burma*, the museum is proud to host performers from the Mandalay Marionettes Theatre. Through an array of public programs, this team of four puppeteers will present a variety of demonstrations and talks for visitors of all ages and backgrounds. Kicking off their residency with performances at the museum's Family Festival, the performers will continue to demonstrate the process of making traditional Burmese puppets (similar to the puppets that will be on view in the exhibition) for the public through the museum's AsiaAlive program (Tuesday through Sunday), as well as provide a special lecture-demonstration for the museum's storytelling team. On the evening of October 29, the performers will demonstrate at the museum's evening MATCHA program, engaging young adult audiences, teachers, and guest specialists in the field of South East Asian studies.

AsiaAlive: Burmese Puppet Troupe

Tuesday through Saturday, October 25 through October 31

12:00 noon–4:00 pm

North Court

Free with general museum admission

Members of Mandalay Marionette from Burma demonstrate the traditional puppet making process. Visitors can watch them manipulate puppets and create an artwork of their own to take home. The Mandalay Marionettes Theatre will also present short performances on Target First Free Sunday, November 1.

Burmese Puppet Performance

Sunday, November 1

12:00 noon and 2:00 pm

Samsung Hall

Free general museum admission sponsored by Target

Enjoy puppet shows filled with Himalayan adventures, love stories, and dance.

AsiaAlive: Thai Mask Painting

Tuesday through Sunday, November 3 through 8

12:00 noon–4:00 pm

North Court

FREE with museum admission

In Thai performing arts gorgeous costumes with richly gilded crowns and colorful masks play a large role in conveying the gestures and meanings of the dance. Watch an artist from Thailand demonstrate how to create intricate patterns and colors on papier mache masks using paint, gold leaves, and colored glass.

FAMILY AND YOUTH PROGRAMS**Tales from the Emerald Cities**

Sunday, October 25

10:00 am–4:00 pm

Museum-wide

Free with general museum admission

Families throughout the Bay Area are invited to celebrate the artistic and cultural traditions of Burma and Thailand at the Asian Art Museum's Fall Family Festival, Tales from the Emerald Cities. An annual museum-wide event during which the cultural and artistic traditions of Asia come alive, the fall festival celebrates families with a fun-filled day of engaging programs that promise to delight and excite the imaginations of both young and old. On hand are the Mandalay Marionettes Theatre from Burma

presenting short performances of Burmese puppet shows; observe a Thai flower garland (*phuang malai*) demonstration by Isha Mok, and then make your own garland with tissue paper flowers; construct a pair of mythical bird wings or a crown to wear for Halloween; search for rabbits, demons and princesses on a docent family tour of the special exhibition; listen to stories in the galleries and much, much more.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Trunk Show and Sale: Textiles and Treasures of Southeast Asia

Friday and Saturday, October 23 through 24

10:00 am–5:00 pm

Education Studio

Free admission

In conjunction with the opening of the special exhibition *Emerald Cities*, travelers and ethnic art collectors Phil and Noreen Bloch (Tygh Valley Traders) return to present more fine silk scarves, traditional textiles, tribal jewelry, beads, amulets, and unusual artifacts from throughout Southeast Asia. This two-day event benefits the museum.

MATCHA: Thai River Festival

Thursday, October 29, 5:00 pm–9:00 pm

Museum-wide

\$10 (includes admission to *Emerald Cities*)

Central to the annual River Festival in Thailand, *Loi Krathong* is the practice of floating offerings along waterways, traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month, which usually falls in November. The floating (*loi*) of a banana-leaf cup (*krathong*) is intended to carry away ill-fortune and honor Khongkha, the River Goddess. Celebrate the Thai River Festival at MATCHA, with live Thai music and dance by the Thai Cultural Center. Sample exotic Thai foods, watch a performance by Mandalay Marionette puppet theater, create your own Thai-inspired river offering, and join in docent conversations about the museum's special exhibition *Emerald Cities*.

SYMPOSIUM

Object Knowledge: Art, Artifact and Authority in Southeast Asia

Friday, October 30

10 am–6 pm.

[Berkeley City Club](#) at 2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA

\$25 (includes lunch when registering before October 20)

Please visit <http://ieas.berkeley.edu/events/2009.10.30w.html> for more details.

Designed to complement *Emerald Cities: Arts of Siam and Burma*, this conference aims to forge new dialogue on the recent genealogy of material culture in Southeast Asia, with specific reference to Siam, the Shan states, and Burma. By bringing together curators, historians, art historians and anthropologists, we aim to stimulate new inquiry into the interpretive potency and methodological possibilities of "object knowledge" in Southeast Asia.

Sponsored by the Institute of East Asian Studies, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Society for Asian Art, Asian Art Museum, Townsend Center for the Humanities, and Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies.

WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES**2-day Traditional Thai Dance Workshop**

Saturdays, December 5 and 12

10:30 am-2:00 pm

Education Studios

\$60 for museum members; \$77 for general public (includes entry to *Emerald Cities*)

Pre-registration required.

Dance instructors from the Thai Cultural Center of the San Francisco Bay Area lead this class introducing the graceful and precise classical and dramatic of Thai dance. The class will also introduce some of the themes presents in the dance such as stories from Thai history, literature and mythology that borrow largely from Hindu traditions and the practices and customs of ancient royal courts.

EDUCATOR EVENTS**Educator Workshop: Conversation with a Curator and Conservator*****Emerald Cities: The Arts of Burma and Siam***

Saturday, October 3

9:30 am-2:00 pm

\$10 (bring your lunch or purchase at Cafe Asia)

Register online at asianart.org/educatorevents or by contacting schools@asianart.org or (415) 581-3697.

How do collectors, conservators, and curators use historical analysis and technology to reconstruct the past? In what ways does the past inform our understanding of the present? In this workshop, teachers will explore the role that museums play in preserving history through the Asian Art Museum's collection of Southeast Asian art from Thailand and Burma. Dr. Forrest McGill, Chief Curator and Wattis Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art will give a sneak preview of the upcoming exhibition, *Emerald Cities: The Arts of Burma and Siam* which unveils close to 100 artworks from the Doris Duke Collection, never before on view. Then, teachers will explore curriculum connections with language arts, history, and science. This workshop includes a lecture, docent-led tour of the museum's collection of Southeast Asian art, two free tickets for the upcoming special exhibition, *Emerald Cities: The Arts of Siam and Burma*, and light refreshments. Teachers will also receive lesson plans with a CD of images and a supplementary behind the scenes DVD.

An Evening for Educators at MATCHA: Thai River Festival

Thursday, October 29, 2009

4:30-7:00 PM

\$10 pre-registration required

Drop in to network with fellow teachers over wine and hors d'oeuvres and learn how to use the Asian Art Museum as a resource to enrich your teaching. The Evening will coincide with and take place prior to MATCHA, a museum-wide event where you can experience live performances; create art; embark on special tours of the galleries; mingle with friends over cocktails; or listen to DJs and musicians. Educators are invited to learn about upcoming exhibitions, educator resources and opportunities for their students, such as school tours and teacher workshops, and then enjoy an evening of celebration at MATCHA.

LECTURES***Emerald Cities***

Fourth Sunday of every month: October 25

2:30 pm

Education Studios

Free with general museum admission

Docents participating in the museum's Community Speakers Program present one-hour lectures on the exhibition *Emerald Cities: Arts of Siam and Burma*.

TOURS

***Emerald Cities* Public Guided Tours**

Offered daily, October 23, 2009 through January 10, 2010, except on the first Sunday of each month.

12:00 pm and 2:00 pm

Free with paid *Emerald Cities* admission

Join a guided tour of the exhibition led by the museum's highly trained docents. All tours assemble in the *Emerald Cities* exhibition galleries on the ground floor.

Special Thematic Tour related to the *Emerald Cities* exhibition: Art of the Buddhist World

Fridays & Saturdays starting Friday, October 23, 2009, through Saturday, January 9, 2010

3:00 pm

Free with paid *Emerald Cities* admission

Sneak Peek Tour of *Emerald Cities*

Offered daily, October 23, 2009 through Sunday, January 10, 2010

10:15 am and 10:45 am

Free with paid *Emerald Cities* admission

An introductory 15-minute talk on two significant pieces from the special exhibition *Emerald Cities*. All tours assemble in the *Emerald Cities* exhibition galleries on the ground floor.

Community Speakers Program

For a nominal fee, trained museum docents can be scheduled to give presentations on a variety of subjects related to Asian art. Topics include *Emerald Cities* and other special exhibitions as well as targeted interests such as "Hidden Meanings in Chinese Art" and "Doris Duke and the Kingdom of Siam." For more information, please call 415-581-3664 or docent@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 Tuesdays through Sundays from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with extended hours Thursdays until 9:00 PM from February through September. Closed Thursday evenings from October through January. Closed Mondays.
- **General Museum 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. General 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 audiotour of the museum’s collection galleries (offered in English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, and Cantonese). In addition to general museum admission fees, entry into the *Emerald Cities* exhibition requires a \$5 surcharge.
- **Target First Free Sundays:** Free general museum admission on the first Sunday of every month is made possible by Target. Free general museum admission to Target First Free Sundays is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to capacity restrictions, admission is not guaranteed. Entry into the *Emerald Cities* exhibition requires a \$5 surcharge.
- **Access:** The Asian Art Museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information regarding access, please call (415) 581-3598; TDD: (415) 861-2035.