

ASIAN ART MUSEUM
Chong-Moon Lee Center
for Asian Art & Culture
www.asianart.org

200 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
T 415.581.3711
pr@asianart.org

Asian

News



PRESS CONTACT:

Tim Hallman, Asian Art Museum
415.581.3711, pr@asianart.org

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS AT THE ASIAN ART MUSEUM

December 2011 through February 2012



SAN FRANCISCO, December 12, 2011—The Asian Art Museum presents a full spectrum of festive and entertaining holiday programs this year. Bell ringing, mochi pounding, and our Year of the Dragon celebration accompany a full schedule of art activities and entertainment for the whole family.

Programs for families and art lovers will be at the museum throughout the holidays. For a complete schedule and updated information, please visit www.asianart.org.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Holiday Drop-In Art Activities

Various dates throughout December 2011

For details, see www.asianart.org/helios/events/

Free with museum admission. All ages.

Decorate for the holidays with art inspired by the *Maharaja* exhibition. Bejewel your own elephant, maharani, or maharaja image. Learn about traditional royal Indian symbols of power while having family holiday fun.

Stories! The Wicked, the Wily and the Wise

Every Sunday, 1:00 pm (45 minutes). Meet at the Information Desk.

Free with museum admission. All ages.

Art comes to life in this storytelling program featuring myths and folktales from across Asia.

Family Fun Activity: Dance

Thursday, December 29, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm

Free with museum admission. All ages.

Hip hop, funk, and reggae songs are the soundtracks for Bhangra, a type of popular dance combining Punjabi folk traditions with Western pop music. Learn to dance like a Bollywood star in this workshop for tweens. Suggested for families with children ages 11-15.

26th Annual Japanese New Year Bell Ringing Ceremony

Saturday, December 31, 11:30 am–1:30 pm, Samsung Hall

Free with museum admission. All ages.

Strike the giant temple bell and say goodbye to 2011 at the Asian Art Museum's 26th Annual Japanese New Year Bell Ringing Ceremony. This year, we hold our traditional ceremony on Saturday, December 31, beginning at 11:30 am. As in past observances, a 2100-lb., sixteenth-century Japanese bronze bell—originally from a temple in Tajima Province and now part of the museum's permanent collection—will be struck 108 times. The bell-ringing provides a fun, festive, and meaningful opportunity to ring in the New Year with loved ones and to reflect peacefully upon the year past.

Origami Odyssey

Saturday, January 7, 2012, 12:00 pm–4:00 pm in the North Court

Free with museum admission. All ages.

Origami's not what it used to be. Here's your chance to learn what's new about this ancient art from one of the world's best-known origami artists and scholars. Inspired by minimalist Japanese arts and contemporary developments in art and science, Peter Engel captures his subjects in compositions that are evocative, abstract, and strikingly modern.

Families can meet the artist and participate in hands-on paperfolding led by museum volunteers. Engel will also conduct slide presentations at 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm.

Mochitsuki! Mochi Pounding Ceremony

Saturday, January 14, 12:00 pm–1:00 pm, Samsung Hall

Hands-on activity, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm, Education Classrooms

Free with museum admission. All ages.

Celebrate the Japanese New Year with Kagami Kai! Join this venerable San Francisco institution as they present the colorful and exciting New Year tradition of mochi (delectably sweet rice cakes) pounding with music, dance and costumes. Afterward, stick around and make an art project inspired by the New Year, listen to storytelling, or join an Art Explorers' Family Tour.

ASIAALIVE ARTIST DEMONSTRATION

India Comes Alive with Music, Dance and Art

December 16 through 18 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm, North Court.

Free with museum admission.

Teachers from the Milpitas Indian Community Center introduce India's cultural festivals, dance traditions, and art activities. Learn to dance bhangra like a Bollywood star, make a traditional drum, or create your own colorful floor art. Themes change every month. For a detailed schedule, visit www.asianart.org/asiaalive.htm. This program is offered in partnership with the India Community Center.

PERFORMANCES

Year of the Dragon Celebration

Sunday, February 5, 11:00 am–4:00 pm

Free Admission Courtesy of Target

Celebrate the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Dragon with students of the Chinese American International School (CAIS) presenting Chinese classical music and dances from Chinese ethnic minorities, ending with a playful lion dance arranged by the students. The lion dance is an important part of every New Year celebration and is believed to scare away evil spirits and ensure a bright new beginning. Hunt for dragons on an Art Explorers' family tour; listen to dragon stories; create a dragon puppet or paint a dragon netsuke designed by artist Natusaka Shinichiro. "Target First Free

Sundays"—free admission on the first Sunday of every month and the family programs offered on that day—is made possible by Target. Due to capacity restrictions, admission is not guaranteed and supplies are limited.

FILM

For Lovers -

The Greatest of the Mughals

Sunday, January 8, 1:00 pm, Samsung Hall

Free with museum admission.

1960, India, in Urdu and Hindi with English subtitles, 191 minutes

This 1960 epic took nine years and \$3 million to make, and it was the highest grossing Indian film ever produced. The story is loosely based on an episode in the life of the Mughal Prince Salim, who went on to become the Emperor Jahangir (r. 1608-1627). The film chronicles the drama of royal succession, forbidden love between the prince and a court-dancer, the prince's rebellion against his father, and dramatic death sentences.

TALKS

Classical Indian Vocal Music and Dance

Thursday, January 19, 7:00 pm, Samsung Hall

\$5 (does not include museum admission). Purchase tickets in advance online or at the museum.

Visiting from India, classical vocalist and music educator, Dhanashree Pandit-Rai and Kathak dancer Keka Sinha present a talk and demonstration that unravels the poetic and expressive connections between *thumri* (a classical form of vocal music) and *kathak* (a classical Indian dance form). This program is co-sponsored with Society for Art and Cultural Heritage of India.

SCHOOL AND TEACHER PROGRAMS

Teacher Workshop: New Year Celebrations

Saturday, February 4, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

\$20, pre-registration required.

Deepen your students' understanding of Asian arts and cultures through the lens of New Year celebrations. Learn the significance of the art, stories, and traditions of Nowruz, Tet, the Chinese Lunar New Year, and more. Participants receive lesson plans, images, and storytelling videos for use in the classroom.

DOCENT GUIDED TOURS AND TALKS***Maharaja* Public Guided Tours and Talks**

Offered daily through April 8, 2012, from 10:15am to 3:00pm

Free special exhibition admission; schedules subject to change

Join a guided tour or talk led by the museum's highly trained docents. All tours leave from the front information desk.

ABOUT THE ASIAN ART MUSEUM

The Asian Art Museum—Chong-Moon Lee Center for Asian Art and Culture is one of San Francisco's premier arts institutions and home to a world-renown collection of more than 18,000 Asian Art treasures spanning 6000 years of history. Through rich art experiences, centered on historic and contemporary artworks, the Asian Art Museum unlocks the past for visitors, bringing it to life, while serving as a catalyst for new art, new creativity and new thinking.

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 January through October, 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: FREE for museum members, \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors (65+), \$7 for college students with ID, \$7 for youths 13–17, and FREE for children under 12 and SFUSD students with ID. Admission on Thursdays after 5:00 pm is \$5 for all visitors (except those under 12, SFUSD students, and members, who are always admitted FREE). Admission is FREE to all on Target First Free Sundays (the first Sunday of every month). A surcharge may apply for admission into special exhibitions.

Access: The Asian Art Museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information regarding access: 415.581.3598; TDD: 415.861.2035.

###