



# ASIAN ART MUSEUM

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**POWER & GLORY: COURT ARTS OF CHINA'S MING DYNASTY**

June 27-September 21, 2008

**SCHEDULE OF EXHIBITION-RELATED PROGRAMS**

San Francisco, CA, May 13, 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 objects — porcelain, paintings, textiles, lacquer, jade, jewelry, architectural elements, and more — are on view for the first time in the United States. 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).

The schedule of exhibition-related programs follows:

**PERFORMANCES, DEMONSTRATIONS, & ACTIVITIES**

*AsiaAlive: The Living Tradition of Guqin* (pronounced goo chin)

Saturdays and Sundays, June 28 through July 27

Noon–4:00 pm

North Court

FREE with museum admission

In conjunction with the special exhibition *Power and Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty*, the museum invites visitors to encounter one of the oldest living traditional arts, the music of the Chinese *guqin*. Appearing in Chinese writings as old as 3,000 years, this zither-like instrument is the most revered

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of Chinese instruments. In residence at the Asian Art Museum will be the distinguished scholar and musician Wang Fei.

***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**

**The Forbidden Discovery Room**

Tuesdays through Sundays, June 27 through September 21

Education Resource Center, regular museum hours

FREE with museum admission

Guests can explore the magic and mystery of Ming dynasty imperial culture through costumes, objects, and hands-on art activities. Inspired by life in China’s Forbidden City—the Ming palace complex in Beijing—this interactive discovery room is for visitors of all ages. *Created, implemented, and led by members of the museum’s Art Speak teen program. Co-sponsored by KTSF 26.*

**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

Children and their parents can 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 art objects. Visit the Forbidden Discovery Room or the Information Desk to pick up your activity brochure.

**Activities: The Brilliant Dynasty**

Saturdays and Sundays, June 28 through August 17

1:00 pm–4:00 pm, North Court and the Forbidden Discovery Room

FREE with museum admission

Members of the museum’s Art Speak teen program will lead hands-on activities and games in the Forbidden Discovery Room. Guests can learn about the Ming dynasty’s emperors and the symbolism that identifies them as royalty.

**Family Art Encounter—*Adventures of the Treasure Fleet***

Sunday, September 7

Noon–2:00 pm

Education Studios

FREE admission to all courtesy of Target First Free Sundays

*Adventures of the Treasure Fleet* is the amazing story of the larger than life Ming Dynasty naval commander, Admiral Zheng He. During his life, Zheng He led more than 300 brightly painted ships (the Treasure Fleet) on seven epic voyages across the South China Sea, to the Indian Ocean, and all the way to the distant coast of Africa. An Admiral, during the reign of the Yongle emperor (1403-24), Zheng He was a trusted friend who became an important diplomatic envoy during the Yongle reign. Author Ann Bowler reads from this beautifully illustrated book. Guests can play with artifacts collected and traded on the voyages and then construct their own 3-dimensional boat inspired by the Treasure Fleet.

### **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.

#### **July 3: Sound of the Sages**

The guqin (goo chin), a seven-stringed zither, is China's oldest stringed instrument, with a history of some 3000 years. The July MATCHA channels the ancient strings of China's philosophers, sages, and emperors. Enjoy the spiritual song of guqin, try your hand at brush painting, encounter the tranquility and strength of tai chi, stroll the galleries and special exhibitions on a docent tour, or simply enjoy a drink and hang out with friends. This program is co-presented with the North American Guqin Association.

#### **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. Jump on a special docent tour of weaponry in Asia, or try out a hands-on activity. Tune-in to a special talk on shaolin martial arts or "kick it" with the DJ, a drink, and some friends.

#### **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, experience teas from India, Tibet, or Iran. Hop on a docent tour through arts of the Ming dynasty, arts of the Silk Roads, and the spice routes.

### **CLASSES**

#### **Chinese Brushpainting Class with Aiqin Zhou**

Saturdays, July 12 through August 16

10:30 am–1:30 pm (please bring your own bag lunch)

Education Studios

\$150 for museum members, \$210 for general (includes museum admission and art supplies)

Space is limited. *Pre-registration required.* Inquiries: (415) 581-3665 or [publicprograms@asianart.org](mailto: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. An exhibition of artworks created in the class will be on display during the last session.

### **Gu Embroidery Workshop**

Saturday and Sunday, August 9 and 10

10:30 am–2:30 pm (please bring your own bag lunch)

Education Studios

\$160 for museum members, \$184 for general (includes museum admission and art supplies)

Space is limited. *Pre-registration required.* Inquiries: (415) 581-3500 or [publicprograms@asianart.org](mailto:publicprograms@asianart.org).

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 will be discussed. Participants will work on Gu Embroidery projects with the artists focusing on needle techniques and color arrangements. This program is offered in conjunction with the special exhibition *Power and Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty*.

### **Chinese Calligraphy Class with Aiqin Zhou**

Saturday and Sunday, August 23 and 24

10:30 am–2:30 pm (please bring your own bag lunch)

Education Studios

\$80 for museum members, \$104 for general (includes museum admission and art supplies)

Space is limited. *Pre-registration required.* Inquiries: (415) 581-3500 or [publicprograms@asianart.org](mailto:publicprograms@asianart.org).

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.

## **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](mailto: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.

## **DAILY PROGRAMS**

### **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>Ming</i> (June 27 through September 21)
11:00 am	Museum Masterpieces
11:30 am	Architectural Tour (Only on Target First Free Sundays, the first Sunday of every month)
Noon	China
12:30 pm	<i>Ming</i> (June 27 through September 21)
1:00 pm	Korea & Japan
1:30 pm	<i>Ming</i> (June 27 through September 21)
2:00 pm	South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Himalayas
2:15 pm	Architectural Tour (Saturdays only through June 28)
2:30 pm	Architectural Tour (Only on Target First Free Sundays, the first Sunday of every month)

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

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).

**\*\* Power & Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty** private guided tours are available in English, 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](mailto:groupvisits@asianart.org). Regular group tour rates apply.

**Power & Glory Exhibition Organization**

*Power & Glory* was organized by the Asian Art Museum in collaboration with the Palace Museum, the Nanjing Municipal Museum, and the Shanghai Museum. *Power & Glory* was developed by a grant from the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation. The museum is grateful for additional support provided by the Henry Luce Foundation, the Starr Foundation, the Bei Shan Tang Foundation, Sotheby's MasterCard, and United Airlines. Additional funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. Media sponsors: CBS Outdoor, KQED Public Broadcasting, NBC11, San Francisco Magazine, KTSF 26, Sing Tao Daily, AsianWeek, World Journal, and Where Magazine. Official hotel: Hilton San Francisco Financial District. The exhibition will travel to the Indianapolis Museum of Art (October 26–January 11, 2009) and St. Louis Museum of Art (February 22–May 17, 2009).

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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 nearly 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:** 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.