



# ASIAN ART MUSEUM

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

**General Information:** (415) 581-3500 or [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org)

**Public Relations:** (415) 581-3713 or [pr@asianart.org](mailto:pr@asianart.org)

Photos/digital images are available

## ASIAN ART MUSEUM DECEMBER 2009 PROGRAM CALENDAR

### ON VIEW IN THE GALLERIES

#### **ONGOING**

##### ***Emerald Cities: Arts of Siam and Burma***

October 23, 2009–January 10, 2010

Thailand and Burma, neighboring countries that are approximately the same size in area and population, have many cultural features in common (Theravada Buddhism above all), but have traditionally been adversaries. This exhibition of religious and aristocratic arts explores the rich traditions not only of central Burma and central Thailand, but of the highland areas inhabited by the Shan and northern Thai. Drawn exclusively from the museum's extensive collections from these regions, most of the sumptuous artworks have never before been on view. The majority of the works are from the Doris Duke Collection which the museum acquired in 2002. The more than 140 artworks include a larger number of Thai paintings than have ever been exhibited in the West, as well as major sculptures, gilded and mirrored ritual vessels, and lacquered and mother-of-pearl inlaid furniture. *Organized by the Asian Art Museum. Exclusive U.S. venue.*

##### ***Photographic Memories II***

A new selection of photographs from the museum's collection on view from August 27, 2009–January 17, 2010

A new selection of historical photographs drawn from the Asian Art Museum's holdings recently went on display. The images reflect varied perspectives on the lives people led in Asia, and record travels people took there at the end of the nineteenth century. These views are controlled by the lenses of Western and local photographers and are informed by their personal visions, official missions, and commercial motivations. The subjects range from formal portraits of princes to picturesque landscapes and architecture. The majority of the 41 works on view document life in colonial India. The remaining works feature China, Japan and Korea as their subjects. Most of the photographs date from 1850 to 1910. Together, they offer a glimpse into the ambivalent relationships between the colonizers and the colonized, touch on issues such as perceptions of the "other," and comment on the political and social realities wrought by modernity and a changing world at the turn of the century. *Photographic Memories* is housed in the intimate Tateuchi Thematic Gallery, located on the second floor of the museum between the Korean and Japanese galleries. *Organized by the Asian Art Museum. Display of the museum's collection made possible by Bank of America. Exclusive U.S. venue.*

### *The Asian Art Museum Collection*

More than 2,500 extraordinary works from the museum's renowned collection are displayed in its new galleries. Together these works constitute a comprehensive introduction to the major cultures of Asia. Immense Indian stone sculptures, intricately carved Chinese jades, vibrant Korean paintings, mystical Tibetan *thangkas* (ritual paintings on cloth), serene Cambodian buddhas, richly decorated Islamic manuscripts, and colorful Japanese kimonos are just a few of the treasures on view.

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

#### ***Pasko!***

Sunday, December 6

Art of the Parol Slide Lecture: 11:30 am–1:00 pm, Education Studios

Hands-on Parol Workshop and Baybayin Demonstration: 1:00–4:00 pm, Samsung Hall

Free general museum admission courtesy of Target

Celebrate *Pasko*, the Filipino Christmas, and explore the *parol*, the illuminated star, a symbol of community, which helps define Filipino Christmas festivities. Attend a lecture on the art of parol with MC Canlas of the Bayanihan Community Center and the Filipino–American Development Foundation in the Education Studios from 11:30 am–1:00 pm, and then learn how to make your own parol at a workshop led by members of the Bayanihan Community Center from 1:00–4:00 pm. Learn about Baybayin, the ancient Tagalog script, and watch artists Christian Cabuay and Ray Haguian transform the old writing form into contemporary art pieces.

"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. Free admission to Target First Free Sundays is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to capacity restrictions, admission is not guaranteed.

#### **The Many Worlds of Turkish Classical Music**

##### **A Talk and Musical Demonstration with Three Turkish Masters.**

Saturday, December 19

1:00 pm

Samsung Hall

Free with museum admission

Turkish virtuoso musicians Necati Çelik, Tumuçin Ceviko lu, and Yavuz Akalin, currently on tour from Turkey, will perform and discuss the essential elements and history of the various genres of music of Turkey. The secular music of the Ottoman courts was compiled not only by Turkish composers, including the sultans themselves, but also by representatives of the Armenian, Greek, Jewish, Balkan, and Arabic communities, whose cultures were part of the Ottoman Empire. The music inherited from Ottoman Turkey not only continues to be performed today, but is still being developed and contributed to by modern composers and ensembles. This presentation will include a demonstration of the various music styles being discussed.

#### **24th Annual Japanese New Year Bell Ringing Ceremony**

Thursday, December 31

Art Activities: 10:00 am–2:00 pm, Classroom

Public Bell Ringing Ceremony: 12:00 noon, Samsung Hall

Free with general museum admission

In this ancient tradition, temple bells are struck 108 times so the ills of the old year might be left behind. Visitors can take a group turn ringing the museum's sixteenth-century bronze bell. *Numbered tickets to ring the bell will be distributed at the Admissions Desk starting at 10:00 am (one ticket per family or group; first come, first served).*

### **FAMILY AND YOUTH PROGRAMS**

Families explore the artwork in the collection, celebrate cultural and seasonal festivals, and are inspired to create at the Asian Art Museum. Kids ages 4-14 and their parents discover the wonders of Asian art and culture through hands-on activities, artist demonstrations, yoga, performances, storytelling, and tours. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

#### **Yoga Flow**

First Sunday of every month

2:00–3:00 pm

Education Studios

Free general museum admission courtesy of Target

Get centered with yogini Lorna Reed as she leads you through active movement and mediation in a class for all ages and ability levels. Learn to be a tree, a cobra or a warrior—this is truly a practice for everyone. A yoga teacher for many years, Lorna brings a depth of knowledge and spirituality to her practice. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat.

“Target First Free Sundays”—Free general admission on the first Sunday of every month and the family programs offered on that day—is made possible by Target. Free general admission to Target First Free Sundays is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to capacity restrictions, admission is not guaranteed.

#### **Storytelling**

Every Sunday, 1:00 pm

Free with general museum admission

The Asian Art Museum Storytellers bring the galleries to life with the myths and folktales of Asia.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

#### **Literary Reading: *The Life of a Burmese* by Khet Mar**

Sunday, December 13

2 pm

Samsung Hall

Free with museum admission

Khet Mar is a journalist, novelist, short story writer, poet, and essayist from Burma. She started writing short stories in 1989, while Burma was going through political turmoil. Most of her short stories are related to the lives and struggles of Burmese people.

She is active in feminist, environmental, and educational programs. In 2008, when Cyclone Nagis hit Burma, she established a group of volunteers for relief efforts and led them in supporting cyclone victims in the delta region of Burma. Her group visited the delta 40 times and covered about 50 villages in nine townships. She is a co-founder of Green Heart Environmental Network, which was founded with several

writers, poets, designers, and journalists. Members of this Network have mounted several exhibitions around saving the environment.

Author of the novel *Wild Snowy Night*, as well as several collections of short stories, essays, and poems, her work has been translated into English and Japanese, featured on radio broadcasts, and made into a film.

During the fall of 2007, she was a visiting fellow at the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa. She is currently a writer-in-residence at the City of Asylum/Pittsburgh.

*This program is co-sponsored with the Center for the Art of Translation.*

## **WORKSHOPS**

### **2-day Traditional Thai Dance Workshop**

Saturdays, December 5 and 12

10:30 am–2:00 pm

Education Studios

\$50 for museum members; \$67 for general public (includes general admission and entry into *Emerald Cities*)

Space is limited, pre-registration is required: [publicprograms@asianart.org](mailto:publicprograms@asianart.org) or (415) 581-3665.

Dance instructors from the Thai Cultural Center of the San Francisco Bay Area lead this class introducing the graceful and precise, the classical and dramatic of Thai dance. The class will also introduce some of the themes presented 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.

## **LECTURES**

### **SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART MONTHLY LECTURES**

*Lauren Arnold will discuss historical major collectors of Asian art objects*

First Thursday of the month, December 3

3:00 pm– 4:00 pm (please note new time),

Education Studio

\$5 after general museum admission

A different topic and speaker are featured each month. *Space limited, pre-registration required: [saa@asianart.org](mailto:saa@asianart.org) or (415) 581-3701. Information: [www.societyforasianart.org](http://www.societyforasianart.org)*

### **ARTS OF ASIA LECTURE SERIES FALL 2009**

#### **Gods and Goods: Global Art and Trade**

Fridays, through December 11 (no lecture November 27)

10:30 am–12:30 pm,

Samsung Hall

\$20 per lecture

This season, the renowned lecture series explores trade roads and sea routes with merchants, monks, monarchs, and missionaries. *Space limited, series pre-registration required: [saa@asianart.org](mailto:saa@asianart.org) or (415) 581-3701. Information: [www.societyforasianart.org](http://www.societyforasianart.org)*

***Emerald Cities***

Fourth Sunday of every month: December 27

2:30 pm

Education Studios

Free with general museum admission

Docents present one-hour lectures on the exhibition *Emerald Cities: Arts of Siam and Burma*.

**TOURS****Architectural Tours**

Free with general museum admission

Learn about the transformation of San Francisco's former main public library building into the new Asian Art Museum. All tours assemble at the information desk on the ground floor.

**Gallery Tours**

Collection Gallery Tours: Free with general museum admission. Tours assemble at the information desk on the ground floor.

*Emerald Cities* Exhibition Gallery Tours: Free with the exhibition admission (general museum admission and \$5 exhibition surcharge). Tours assemble in the *Emerald Cities* galleries on the ground floor.

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)**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 10:15 am   | “Sneak Peek” at Special Exhibition: <i>Emerald Cities</i> (this 15-minute talk will focus on the two pieces from the <i>Emerald Cities</i> exhibition on display in North Court, daily through Sunday, January 10, 2010) |
| 10:30 am   | Great Works from the Museum's Collection   |
| 10:45 am   | “Sneak Peek” at Special Exhibition: <i>Emerald Cities</i> (this 15-minute talk will focus on the two pieces from the <i>Emerald Cities</i> exhibition on display in North Court, daily through Sunday, January 10, 2010) |
| 11:00 am   | China: 5,000 Years of Tradition and Innovation   |
| 11:30 am   | Korea: Treasures Past and Present (Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays)<br>Southeast Asia: Kingdoms and Cultures (Wednesdays, Fridays, & Sundays)   |
| 12:00 noon | <i>Emerald Cities</i> (special exhibition tour through Sunday, January 10, 2010 excluding Target First Free Sundays)<br>Architectural Tour (Only on Target First Free Sundays)   |
| 1:00 pm    | India and Its Neighbors: Beliefs Made Visible  |
| 1:30 pm    | Japan: Land of Contrasts (Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays)<br>Himalayas: The Roof of the World (Wednesdays, Fridays, & Sundays)   |
| 2:00 pm    | <i>Emerald Cities</i> (special exhibition tour through Sunday, January 10, 2010 excluding Target First Free Sundays)<br>Architectural Tour (Only on Target First Free Sundays)   |
| 3:00 pm    | Special Thematic Tour related to the <i>Emerald Cities</i> exhibition: Art of the Buddhist World (Fridays & Saturdays through Saturday, January 9, 2010)   |
| 3:30 pm    | <i>Emerald Cities</i> Thai language tour (special exhibition tour in Thai on Sundays, December 13 only)  |

**Private Tours**

Private guided tours are available for the permanent galleries, special exhibitions, the building's architecture, and customized themes ("Jade," "Silk Road," "the Feminine Divine," etc). Fees apply and reservations must be made at least one month in advance. For more information, please call (415) 581-3624, or email [groupvisits@asianart.org](mailto:groupvisits@asianart.org).

**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 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](mailto:docent@asianart.org).

All programs are subject to change without notice. (415) 581-3500 or [www.asianart.org](http://www.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](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 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 museum admission on Thursdays after 5 pm from February through September is just \$5 for all visitors (except those under 12, SFUSD students, and members, who are always admitted free). General museum 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.

**January 2010 Program Highlights continue on next page**

**ASIAN ART MUSEUM  
JANUARY 2010 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

**ON VIEW IN THE GALLERIES**

***CLOSING***

***Emerald Cities: Arts of Siam and Burma***

Through January 10, 2010

Thailand and Burma, neighboring countries that are approximately the same size in area and population, have many cultural features in common (Theravada Buddhism above all), but have traditionally been adversaries. This exhibition of decorative and religious arts explores Thailand and Burma's shared aesthetic despite their contrasting histories. Drawn exclusively from the museum's extensive holdings of artworks from this region and period, many of the sumptuous artworks have never before been on view. The majority of the artworks are from the Doris Duke Collection which the museum acquired in 2002. The more than 100 artworks include gilded and mirrored ritual vessels, black lacquer and mother-of-pearl inlaid furniture, and vibrant, colorful paintings. Admission into *Emerald Cities* requires a \$5 surcharge. *Organized by the Asian Art Museum. Curated by Dr. Forrest McGill, Chief Curator. Exclusive U.S. venue.*

***Photographic Memories***

Through January 17, 2010

Beginning August 27, a new selection of historical photographs drawn from the Asian Art Museum's holdings will be on display for the exhibition. The images reflect varied perspectives on the lives people led in Asia, and record travels people took there at the end of the nineteenth century. These views are controlled by the lens of Western and local photographers and are informed by their personal visions, official missions, and commercial motivations. The subjects range from formal portraits of princes to picturesque landscapes and architecture. The majority of the 41 works on view document life in colonial India. The remaining works feature China, Japan and Korea as their subjects. Most of the photographs date from 1850 to 1910. Together, they succeed in being more than personal memories. The photographs offer a glimpse into the ambivalent relationships between the colonizers and colonized (in the case of India), touch on issues such as perceptions of the 'other', and comment on the political and social realities wrought by modernity and a changing world at the turn of the century. *Photographic Memories* is housed in the intimate Tateuchi Thematic Gallery, located on the second floor of the museum between the Korean and Japanese galleries. *Organized by the Asian Art Museum. Display of the museum's collection made possible by Bank of America.*

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**PERFORMANCES, DEMONSTRATIONS, & ACTIVITIES****Mochitsuki! Mochi Pounding Ceremony**

Saturday, January 9

Mochi Pounding Ceremony: 12:00 noon–1:00 pm, Samsung Hall

Hands-On Activity: 1:00 pm–4:00 pm, North Court

Free with general museum admission

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 draw *omikuji*, written fortunes about the upcoming year. Don't worry if you get an unfavorable fortune—tie it to a tree in the hopes that your bad fortune won't come true!

***AsiaAlive: Japanese Paper Cutting Art (Kirie) Demonstration***

Saturday, January 23

12:00 noon–4:00 pm

North Court

Artist Kunishima Satoshi creates images by cutting fine lines on colorful dyed Japanese paper with a knife. She captures the richness of the seasonal traditions of Japanese life and scenery in her work. Although the art of paper cutting was first developed in China, it has been developed into a unique style in Japan.

*Co-sponsored by Satsuki-kai, a Japanese women's group presenting Japanese cultural events.*

**FAMILY AND YOUTH PROGRAMS**

Families explore the artwork in the collection, celebrate cultural and seasonal festivals, and are inspired to create at the Asian Art Museum. Kids ages 4-14 and their parents discover the wonders of Asian art and culture through hands-on activities, artist demonstrations, yoga, performances, storytelling, and tours. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Yoga Flow**

First Sunday of every month

2:00–3:00 pm

Education Studios

Free general admission courtesy of Target

Get centered with yogini Lorna Reed as she leads you through active movement and mediation in a class for all ages and ability levels. Learn to be a tree, a cobra or a warrior—this is truly a practice for everyone. A yoga teacher for many years, Lorna brings a depth of knowledge and spirituality to her practice. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat.

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**Storytelling**

Every Sunday, 1:00 pm

Free with general museum admission

The Asian Art Museum Storytellers bring the galleries to life with the myths and folktales of Asia. Please meet at the information desk in South Court.

**WORKSHOP****Chinese Calligraphy Workshop with Aiqin Zhou**

Saturday, January 16

10:30 am– 2:00 pm

Education Studio.

*\$40 members; \$52 general (includes museum admission and art supplies; bring your own bag lunch or buy lunch at Café Asia)*

Chinese calligrapher and painter Aiqin Zhou teaches basics of calligraphy brushwork. *Space limited, pre-registration required: [publicprograms@asianart.org](mailto:publicprograms@asianart.org) or (415) 581-3665.*

**LECTURES**

Fourth Sunday of every month, January 24

2:30 pm

Education Studio

Free with general museum admission

Docents present one-hour lectures on a chosen topic relating to Asian art.

**TOURS****Architectural Tours**

FREE with general museum admission

Learn about the transformation of San Francisco's former main public library building into the new Asian Art Museum. All tours assemble at the information desk on the ground floor.

**Gallery Tours**

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