



# ASIAN ART MUSEUM

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**ASIAN ART MUSEUM HOSTS FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL  
TO COINCIDE WITH THE OPENING OF  
*AFGHANISTAN: HIDDEN TREASURES FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, KABUL***

**A DAY OF FUN FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT WITH PERFORMANCES, ART ACTIVITIES, AND MORE**

Sunday, October 26, 10:30 AM–4:00 PM  
200 Larkin Street, San Francisco  
FREE with museum admission  
Children 12 and under always admitted free

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008: – Families are invited to celebrate the opening of *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul* at the Asian Art Museum’s Fall Family Festival on Sunday, October 26 from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM. A semi-annual museum-wide event during which the cultural and artistic traditions of Asia come alive, the festival celebrates families 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.



From performances to hands-on activities and storytelling, there’s something for the entire family. This year’s festival celebrates the artistic and cultural traditions of Afghanistan and West Asia. Everyone can enjoy local writer, Tamim Ansary, whose book *West of Kabul, East of New York: An Afghan American Story* is the selection for this year’s One City One Book and tells of his experience growing up in Afghanistan; enjoy a performance by Golden Thread Productions of the *Girl Who Lost Her Smile*, inspired by a story by the 13<sup>th</sup> century Persian poet Rumi; 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 members of the Association of the Preservation of Afghan Archaeology (APAA); go on a “dig” to uncover hidden treasures with UC Berkeley archaeologists; make

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an “ivory” carving and a piece of “gold” jewelry; enjoy storytelling in the galleries, or take a family tour of the special Afghanistan exhibition. In addition to viewing the special exhibition, *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul*, this is an opportunity to enjoy the *Arts of the Islamic World from Turkey to Indonesia*, an installation of art from the museum’s collection that shows the incredible diversity of Islamic art from Indonesian puppets and Chinese incense burners to Persian miniature paintings and Turkish carpets. For additional information on the Fall Family Festival, call (415) 581-3666 or email [familyprograms@asianart.org](mailto:familyprograms@asianart.org).

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26: FAMILY FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### 10:30 AM–4:00 PM, Self-Guided Activities

- Tour the *Afghanistan* exhibition with a Family Guide designed to engage younger visitors in their discovery of the artworks on view and their significance, or
- Tour the *Afghanistan* exhibition with an Audio Guide narrated by Fredrik Hiebert, National Geographic Society curator and others (\$3, general; \$2, members per audio guide)

#### 10:30 AM–3:30 PM, Family Exhibition Tours & Storytelling

- The Asian Art Museum storytellers and special guests lead visitors on interactive explorations through the galleries. These activities begin at the Information Desk in the South Court.:
  - 10:30–11:00 AM: *Afghanistan* exhibition family tour  
This family-friendly tour is led by Nadia Tarzi of the Association of the Preservation of Afghan Archaeology (APAA)
  - 11:00 AM–3:00 PM, 4:00 PM–5:00 PM : Informal conversations on the hour with docents stationed in the special *Afghanistan* exhibition
  - 11:30 AM: *Arts of the Islamic World from Turkey to Indonesia* docent tour
  - 1:00 PM–1:45 PM Storytelling  
The Museum’s Storytellers bring the galleries to life with myths and folktales of Asia.
  - 3:00–3:30 PM: *Afghanistan* exhibition family tour  
This family-friendly tour is led by Nadia Tarzi of the Association of the Preservation of Afghan Archaeology (APAA).

11:00 AM–4:00 PM, Hands-on Activities

- Make your own artwork inspired by the *Afghanistan* exhibition or experience what it takes to be an archeologist or a conservator with these hands-on activities. All activities are held in North Court unless otherwise noted.
  - **AsiaAlive: Digging Archaeology**  
Visit “digs” of ancient Afghanistan! Join real-life archaeologists from UC Berkeley’s Archaeological Research Facility (ARF) to learn about archaeology and how they discover the lifestyles of past and present.
  - **Artwork Restorations**  
“Restore” an ancient object with representatives from the Association of the Preservation of Afghan Archaeology (APAA) and learn about the organization’s ongoing efforts in Afghanistan.
  - **“Ivory” Carving**  
Create an “ivory” carving using the artworks in the *Afghanistan* exhibition as inspiration.
  - **Jewelry Making**  
The lavish jewelry on view in the *Afghanistan* exhibition serves as the inspiration for creating your own heirlooms.
  - **Afghan for afghans**  
Bring your knitting needles and wool yarn, and start (or finish) a project to send to Afghanistan with this Bay Area, humanitarian-based group which has been sending hand-knitted or crocheted wool blankets, sweaters, vests, socks, mittens, and hats to Afghanistan for over for over seven years. This program will be located in the Education Resource Center on the first floor.

Noon–1:00 PM, Tamim Ansary, Author of *West of Kabul, East of New York*, Samsung Hall

- Ansary will speak about his life and experiences growing up in Afghanistan and emigrating to the United States, and read from his book. A Q&A follows as well as a book-signing.

2:00–2:45 PM, *The Girl Who Lost Her Smile*, Performance by Golden Thread Productions, Samsung Hall

- Adapted from a children’s book of the same name by Karim Alrawi and inspired by a Rumi tale, the fable is presented in the traditional Iranian story telling style of Naghalli, including some poetry in Farsi and a full, visually rich performance. This program is presented in conjunction with the exhibition *Arts of the Islamic World from Turkey to Indonesia*.

2:30–3:30 PM, Lecture: *Afghanistan*, Education Studios

- The museum’s Community Speakers’ Program presents a lecture on Afghanistan given by docent Dorothy Gregor.

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>Afghanistan</i> (through January 25, 2009)
11:00 am	Museum Masterpieces
11:30 am	Architectural Tour (Only on Target First Free Sundays)
Noon	China
12:30 pm	<i>Afghanistan</i> (through January 25, 2009)
1:00 pm	Korea & Japan
1:30 pm	<i>Afghanistan</i> (through January 25, 2009)
2:00 pm	South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Himalayas
2:30pm	<i>Arts of the Islamic World</i> (Tateuchi Gallery) (every day the museum is opened except Saturdays through Sunday, March 1, 2009)
2:30pm	Along the Silk Road: Trade, Travel, and Transformation (Saturdays only beginning November 2, through January 24, 2009)
2:30 pm	Architectural Tour (Only on Target First Free Sundays)

**About the Exhibitions*****Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul***

October 24, 2008 – January 25, 2009

The Asian Art Museum is the only west coast venue for this unique exhibition that will explore the rich cultural heritage of ancient Afghanistan which served as an important crossroads during the height of Silk Road trade. The some 200 artworks range in date from 2200 BCE to the second century CE and include bronze and stone sculptures, ivories, painted glassware, gold ornaments and more. These celebrated artworks were thought stolen or destroyed during the 25 years of conflict and were re-discovered intact in 2003. The exhibition celebrates the heroic story of how individual Afghan citizens hid their country's most precious treasures and artifacts from destructive forces. *This exhibition was organized by the [National Geographic Society](#) and the [National Gallery of Art](#) in association with the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.*

***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.

## About the Presenters

### **afghans for Afghans**

afghans for Afghans is 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. The project 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.

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, needles and yarn generously provided by San Francisco's Imagiknit Store, <http://www.imagiknit.com/>.

### **Tamim Ansary—*West of Kabul, East of New York: An Afghan American Story***

“Part memoir, part exploration of militant Islam, with a smattering of contemporary Afghan history. The two strands intertwine in poignant passages. His voice [is] both humble and piercing. He writes movingly of a lost world built around family and faith.”  
— The Washington Post Book World

“The memoir is an idyllic remembrance of his childhood in Afghanistan, the search for Islam in a journey he took in 1980 through the Muslim world, and an ongoing examination of his identity as an Afghan and American.”  
— San Jose Mercury News

The day after the World Trade Center was destroyed Tamim Ansary sent an anguished e-mail to twenty friends discussing the attack from his perspective as an Afghan American. The message reached millions. Born to an Afghan father and American mother, Ansary grew up in the intimate world of Afghan family life and emigrated to San Francisco thinking he'd left Afghan culture behind forever. At the height of the Iranian Revolution, however, he took a harrowing journey through the Islamic world, and in the years that followed, he struggled to unite his divided self and to find a place in his imagination where his Afghan and American identities might meet.

Tamim Ansary writes and lectures about Afghanistan, Islamic history, democracy, schooling and learning, fiction and the writing process, and other issues as they grab his imagination. He also directs the San Francisco Writers Workshop, the oldest continuous free writers' workshop in America and the hub of a growing community of Bay Area writers. He lives in San Francisco and is currently at work on his next book.

Tamim's book, *West of Kabul, East of New York: An Afghan American Story*, is the One City One Book choice for San Francisco this fall. Ansary will speak about his life and experiences living in both Afghanistan and the United States, and read from his book. Afterward, there will be a question and

answer period and an opportunity to have your book (available for purchase in the Museum Store) signed by the author himself.

### **Archaeological Research Facility at UC Berkeley**

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. This program is also offered every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through January 25 in conjunction with the exhibition, *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul*.

The Archaeological Research Facility at U.C. Berkeley is committed to working directly with local schools and organizations to bring archaeology to the classroom. Archaeology is an interdisciplinary subject that uses art, history, math, science, literature and cultural studies to investigate the past. From kindergarteners to high school students and beyond, ARF helps people develop skills to think critically about the past.

The Public Outreach program arranges for graduate students from UC Berkeley to visit classrooms and community organizations where they do a short (45 minute) introduction to archaeology. These interactive presentations are fun and involve hands-on activities such as a mock-dig for younger students, or showing real artifacts, tools, and slides to older students.

### **Nadia Tarzi—Association for the Protection of Afghan Archaeology (APAA)**

The APAA, Association for the Protection of Afghan Archaeology, was founded by Nadia Tarzi in December of 2002 in the State of California, U.S.A. The initiative to create the Association was a call from the heart and brought together a father's expertise and a daughter's passion. A non-profit organization, APAA is dedicated to the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of Afghanistan. APAA's goals are to bring understanding and raise awareness thus ensuring the promotion of the Afghan Archaeological and Cultural Heritage through its teaching in schools and public venues internationally including in Afghanistan, in the Afghan and multi-cultural Bay Area community. APAA's work also consists of promoting and assisting in the education of the international public about the inherent value of archaeological treasures to cultural identity, and to specifically focus on the plight of Afghan people regarding the loss of their cultural heritage. The APAA therefore combines different approaches in educating younger generations as well as older ones, by publishing children's books and organizing international cultural events. APAA is concerned with the lack of professional training in the sciences of archaeology, restoration and conservation and aims at providing thorough assistance in these areas. Finally, as the archaeological heritage of Afghanistan is in peril, APAA aims at sounding the alarm loud and far and calls everyone to get involved and help SAVE the archaeological heritage of Afghanistan now.

Nadia will lead an interactive tour of the special exhibition for kids and their families, focusing on a few key pieces that are relevant to both her and her father's work.

### **Golden Thread's Fairytale Players' *The Girl Who Lost Her Smile***

Golden Thread's Fairytale Players present *The Girl Who Lost Her Smile* in the traditional Iranian story telling style of Naghalli, including some poetry in Farsi and full, visually rich performance. Adapted from a children's book of the same name by Karim Alrawi and inspired by a Rumi tale, the fable transports us to the King's Palace in the ancient city of Baghdad where we find the young princess has lost her smile. Artists from around the world are brought to the palace to help restore the princess' smile through magic and entertainment. But the solution lies elsewhere as only those watching very closely will find out!

Golden Thread Productions is a San Francisco Bay Area company dedicated to exploring Middle Eastern culture and identities as represented throughout the globe. Made up of artists from around the world, the company exemplifies theatre's ability to transcend cultural and political boundaries and to encourage an active dialogue. Among the nations represented in our past productions are Iran, Armenia, Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Algeria, Turkey, Afghanistan, and the United States. Their annual programming consists of one to two main stage productions, ReOrient (an annual festival of short plays written by playwrights from or on themes concerning West Asia), as well as workshops, stages reading, and special events. The Fairytale Players are a part of the company's blossoming Youth Education Program.

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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).
- **Audio Tour:** Admission includes a complimentary audiotour of the museum's collection galleries (offered in English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, and Cantonese). *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul* special exhibition audiotour \$3 general \$2 members.
- **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.

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