

# Society for Asian Art

## Newsletter for Members



September - October 2017

No. 5

As fall approaches, here is a look back at some of our members enjoying summer SAA travel and events:



Emily Sano, Senior Advisor for Asian Art at the San Antonio Museum of Art and former director of the AAM, giving SAA members a tour of the *Heaven and Hell: Salvation and Retribution in Pure Land Buddhism* exhibition, curated by Emily Sano



Asia Society Texas Center's curator Bridget Bray giving SAA members a tour of the *Sangram Majumdar* exhibition of contemporary paintings



SAA members enjoying their visit to Pace Gallery in Palo Alto, ceramic sculpture by Liu Jianhua





## IN THIS ISSUE

### Saturday, August 12

Lecture: Cloisonné and Champlevé - The Marriage of Glass and Metal with Marsha Vargas Handley

### Fridays, August 18 – November 17

Arts of Asia Fall Lecture Series

### Saturday, September 2

Study Group: Learn to Brush Paint with a Master with Yu Chun-Hui

### Saturday, September 30

Lecture: Textile Arts and Ethnic Dress of Vietnam with Serena Lee

### Saturday, October 7

Visit to the Mills Building in San Francisco: *Weavers of Peace and Dreams: Textile Arts of Mindanao*

### Saturday, October 14

Visit to Mills College Art Museum: *In-Between Places: Korean-American Artists in the Bay Area* with Linda Inson Choy

### Sundays, October 15, 22, and 29

Literature and Culture of Asia: The Epic of Nations – *Shahnameh*, The Chronicle of Kings with Mitra Ara



## UPCOMING EVENTS (subject to change)

### Wednesday, November 15

Visit to the Berkeley Art Museum with Julia White

### Sunday, December 3

SAA Holiday Party at the Zentner Collection in Emeryville



### Sheila Diehl

It is with great sadness that we report that Sheila Diehl died peacefully on July 13 at the age of 87. Sheila had a beautiful life in India, Palestine, England, Italy, New York, and California. She gathered a remarkable circle of friends of all ages and nationalities around her over the decades. She loved the Asian Art Museum and served on the Society for Asian Art Board for 12 years, participating on the Member Events, Travel, Study Group, and Thursday Lecture committees. Her contribution was enormous, and her many friends will miss her.

## Society for Asian Art

September - October 2017, No. 5

Members' Newsletter  
Edited by Trista Berkovitz,  
Margaret Edwards,  
and Jean Karnow  
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# ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2017 LECTURE SERIES

## Art on the Move Across Asia and Beyond – Part I

When: **Fridays, August 18 – November 17**  
 Time: **10:30 am – 12:30 pm**  
 Place: **Samsung Hall**  
 Fee: **\$175 Society members, \$200 non-members for the series (after Museum admission)**  
**\$20 per lecture drop-in (after Museum admission), subject to availability**

This Arts of Asia lecture series launches a two-semester exploration of the centuries of active exchange of art and ideas across the great trade routes of Asia, Europe, and the New World. The renowned scholar Professor Pat Berger of UC Berkeley will be the Instructor of Record for both series. From prehistory and antiquity to the period of the great medieval empires and into the modern era, the arts have been ambassadors of the cultures that produced them, inspiring curiosity, desire, envy, new markets, and even technological espionage.

Certain goods—silk, paper, porcelain, gold, gems—transcended cultures. Other goods were attractive because they were exotic.

The fourteen lectures in Fall 2017 will look at the roles of art—ceramics, metalwork, textiles, painting, sculpture, architecture, fashion, and the performing arts—in spreading knowledge and sparking global trade. Leading scholars and curators will share research and insights on how images of the Buddha traveled East, monks on the move 1,300 years ago, Marco Polo's travels during the Pax Mongolica, traffic along the Silk Road and sea routes, the Bodhisattva of Compassion's gender issues, costume exchange East and West, and more. The Spring 2018 lectures will continue the discussion on what happens when art changes hands across cultural borders.



Tribute bearers, attributed to Ren Bowen (Chinese, 1254–1327). Ink and colors on silk. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection, B60D100. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

### August 18

Marco Polo and the Advent of Global Trade  
 Pat Berger, UC Berkeley

### August 25

On Foreign Soil: Merchant Diasporas and the Archaeology of Cross-Cultural Exchanges  
 Sanjot Mehendale, UC Berkeley

### September 1

Convergence of Hellenism and Buddhism: Gandharan Art Revisited  
 Osmund Bopearachchi, UC Berkeley

### September 8

How the Buddha Traveled East  
 Lewis Lancaster, UC Berkeley

### September 15

The Many Faces of Compassion: Avalokiteshvara in Asian Buddhism  
 Denise Patry Leidy, Yale University

### September 22

Buddhist Pilgrim-Monks as Agents of Cultural and Artistic Transmission: The International Buddhist Art Style in East Asia, ca. 645–770  
 Dorothy Wong, University of Virginia

### September 29

A Tang Dynasty Shipwreck and Marine Archaeology  
 Francois Louis, Bard College

### October 6

Emulation and Distinction: China in the Art of Japan, ca. 700 – 1200 CE  
 Kristopher Kersey, University of Richmond

### October 13

Dialogues across Space & Time: The Written Word in East Asia  
 Kevin Carr, University of Michigan

### October 20

The Arts of Byzantium, Armenia & Islam: Age of Transition  
 Helen C. Evans, Metropolitan Museum

### October 27

On the Silk-Paper Road: How Paper Traveled from China to the West  
 Jonathan Bloom, Boston College

### November 3

Fashion and Anxiety in Tang China (618 -- 907 CE)  
 Suzanne Cahill, UC San Diego

### November 10

Feathered Gowns and Twirling Barbarians: Dance Exchanges Across Central and East Asia in the Tang Dynasty (7th-10th Centuries) and Beyond  
 Emily Wilcox, University of Michigan

### November 17

Changing Clothes in Asia: Inspiration vs. Appropriation  
 A panel of Asian Art Museum Curators



## MEMBER EVENTS

### Cloisonné and Champlevé - The Marriage of Glass and Metal With Marsha Vargas Handley

When: **Saturday, August 12**  
Time: **2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**  
Place: **Education Studios**  
Fee: **\$15 Society members; \$20 non-members (after Museum admission)**

This lecture will examine the history of cloisonné and champlevé in Asia as well as the origins of this technically challenging art form in the early medieval Middle East. It will explore the techniques and materials used to produce these fabulous works of art, and will elaborate on how styles and technology changed from pre-Ming China to late Meiji Japan.

*Marsha Vargas Handley, a long-time SAA member and friend, was a dealer in Asian arts for over 45 years as the owner of Xanadu Gallery in San Francisco. As a Senior Member of the American Society of Appraisers, Marsha has been certified in Asian art for over 35 years and has handled and studied a wide range of Asian works of art.*



Cloisonné double vase, Chinese 18<sup>th</sup> century.  
George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum, Springfield, Mass.

### Textile Arts and Ethnic Dress of Vietnam With Serena Lee

When: **Saturday, September 30**  
Time: **2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**  
Place: **Education Studios**  
Fee: **\$15 Society members; \$20 non-members (after Museum admission)**

Vietnam is one of the few places in the world where many ethnic groups continue to wear distinctive, handcrafted outfits that reflect their clan identities and unique world-views. These garments are often embellished with embroidery, applique, supplementary weft, batik, calendaring, piecework, finger-braiding, fringe, and pom-poms. Serena will discuss the textiles and dress of various tribal groups such as the Dao with White Trousers, Pathen, Lu, Lao, Black Hmong, Black Lolo, Flowery Lolo, Dao with Coins, Green Hmong, White Hmong, Black Dao, Dao Lanten, Katu, Cham and Ma.

*Serena Lee is the founder and director of Textile Odyssey Tours and has been a frequent visitor to Vietnam and the neighboring region. Her writings on the ethnic dress of northern Vietnam and southwest China have been published in the Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion and in the Textile Society of America's proceedings.*



Pathen woman in ethnic dress with Serena Lee (right). Vietnam, 2015.

### Weavers of Peace and Dreams: Textile Arts of Mindanao

When: **Saturday, October 7**  
Time: **11:00 am**  
Place: **The Mills Building, 220 Montgomery Street, San Francisco**  
Fee: **\$15 Society members; \$20 non-members**

This exhibition in the Mills Building in San Francisco, a San Francisco historic landmark, is organized by Philippine American Writers and Artists, Inc. (PAWA) and focuses on the rich textile legacy of Mindanao Island. The exhibition is part of the *Hinabi Project*, which focuses on raising awareness of the rich and varied Filipino textile traditions, before they are lost.

A few of the weavers may be present during our visit. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about this part of the world and its ancient weaving traditions.

After the tour, we will organize an optional lunch at a nearby restaurant.



Daughter of a Mandaya chieftain wearing necklace, blouse & headdress from Mindanao, The Philippines



## MEMBER EVENTS

### In-Between Places: Korean-American Artists in the Bay Area With Linda Inson Choy

When: **Saturday, October 14**  
Time: **2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**  
Place: **Mills College Art Museum, 5000 MacArthur Blvd, Oakland**  
Fee: **\$15 Society members; \$20 non-members**

This exhibition, organized by Mills College, features new works of Korean American artists Jung Ran Bae, Sohyung Choi, Kay Kang, Miran Lee, Youngjune Lew, Nicholas Oh, Younhee Paik, and Minji Sohn. Their works reveal the reality and complexities of being a Korean American artist in the Bay Area—a location that has served as a gateway for Korean culture and a bridge between Korea and the West. The exhibition embraces both traditional Korean and contemporary western approaches to art making. Many Korean Americans have described their cultural identity as occupying an "in-between" space.



Kay Kang, *Guests Missed*, 2017.

*Independent curator Linda Inson Choy, a specialist in contemporary Korean art, will lead our group on an in-depth walk through of this important exhibition. She has an extensive background in Korean and Asian Art and is a historian and curator. She was also a curatorial assistant at the AAM. Her main aim is to collaborate with artists and help them contextualize local and global environments.*



## STUDY GROUP

### Learn to Brush Paint with a Master With Yu Chun-Hui

When: **Saturday, September 2**  
Time: **1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
Place: **Education Studios**  
Fee: **\$35 Society members; \$40 non-members (after Museum admission)**

Ink art is the quintessential art form of China. Whether you are a beginning or advanced painter, take advantage of this opportunity to study with a master brush painter. Join this study group for an incredible afternoon of discovery.

The program will provide basic supplies from the museum's school program. Participants are welcome to bring their own brushes or other supplies if they prefer.

Refreshments will be served.

*Yu Chun-Hui has studied under masters such as Huang Chun-Pi, Wong Lui-Sheng, and Hau Pei-Jen. Her art is an integration of philosophy, painting, and calligraphy with nature, poetry, and Ch'an (Zen) serving as vital sources of inspiration. Her paintings have been extensively exhibited in China, Taiwan, and the U.S. She has taught brush painting at San Jose City College and presently teaches at the Pacific Art League of Palo Alto.*



Chun-Hui Yu



## The Epic of Nations - *Shahnameh*, The Chronicle of Kings With Mitra Ara

When: **Sundays, October 15, 22, and 29**

Time: **10:15 am – 12:15 pm**

Place: **Education Studios**

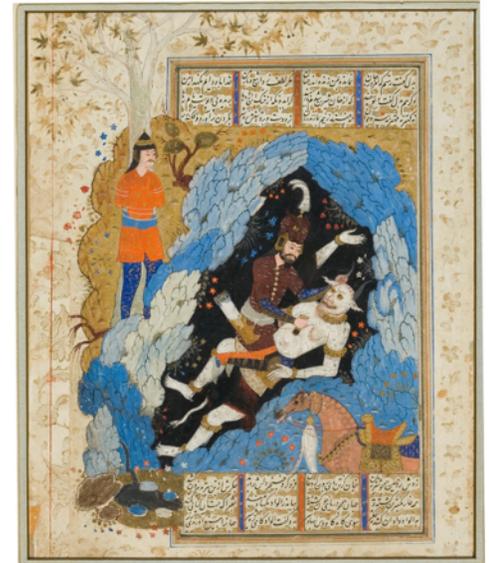
Fee: **\$60 Society members; \$75 non-members (after Museum admission)**

Ancient Iranians, like other peoples of antiquity, created narrative poems and prose works of legendary and heroic content.

We will focus on *The Book of the Kings*, or *Shahnameh*, composed over a thousand years ago by the Persian poet Ferdowsi, reviewing the work with illustrated paintings from different manuscripts. This monumental volume in 50,000 verses is a compilation of various mythological and heroic episodes in a single epic. It tells the story of several Iranian peoples from the creation of the world to the seventh century Common Era. Other related accounts from the earlier Avestan and Middle Persian texts will also be introduced, but the *Shahnameh* is regarded as the national epic of many nations.

Primary reading materials will be from *Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings* by Abolqasem Ferdowsi, translated to English by Dick Davis, published in 2007 and 2016 by Penguin Classics. Other selected readings will be introduced as we proceed.

*Dr. Mitra Ara is professor and founding director of Persian Studies at San Francisco State University, where she lectures on the Ancient Iranian cultures, religions, and mythologies.*



The hero Rustam kills the White Demon, from a manuscript of the *Shahnameh* (Book of Kings), approx. 1580. Iran; perhaps Shiraz. Opaque watercolors on paper. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, From the Collection of William K. Ehrenfeld, M.D., 2005.64.162. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.



### Lotus Leaves Is Now Online!

*Lotus Leaves* has now joined the many scholarly publications that are **online only**. Each issue will be sent to members by email, and will be available for download from the SAA's website.

If you haven't yet received your email for the Spring 2017 issue, please contact Jean Karnow at [officemanager@societyforasianart.org](mailto:officemanager@societyforasianart.org).

### Society Book Sale 2018

Donations for our Annual Book Sale are accepted throughout the year. If you have any Asian-related books on art, culture, travel, cooking, or novels, please call the SAA office. If you have a couple of boxes, we will pick them up from your home in the Bay Area!

**Sign Up Now for the SAA'S Iran Trip!**

Now is the time to sign up for the SAA's Iran trip (April 22 - May 9, 2018), led by scholar Dr. Keelan Overton.

Explore Tehran, Hamadan, Kermanshah, Shiraz, Yasuj, Isfahan and Kashan with the SAA, focusing on Islamic art, architecture, and culture.

The Iran Trip Flyer with details and the registration form (application) is included in this newsletter. It is found at the end of the online newsletter version or you may click on the following link to access the Iran Trip Flyer directly at <https://www.societyforasianart.org/programs/tripstravel/through-pishtaq-art-architecture-and-culture-persia>.

Trip applications will be accepted **BY MAIL ONLY** and must include your check for the \$500 per person trip deposit and your registration form. SAA members will be accepted for the trip based on the (earliest) postmark date. The trip is limited to 20 people, so it is important to register now!

**SAA IS A VENDOR OF CSA TRAVEL PROTECTOR INSURANCE**

Buying travel protection insurance is easy if you follow the policies detailed in the CSA brochure available in the SAA office. CSA has a wide range of coverage available, from emergency medical insurance to complete trip cancellation protection. Each time you use CSA, the SAA earns a commission which goes into our general fund. Sign up on-line at [www.csatravelpro.com](http://www.csatravelpro.com) or call [1-800-834-8853](tel:1-800-834-8853). Please use SAA's Producer Code 20100719, so we get credit.



Left: SAA members touring the Asia Society Texas Center exhibition titled *Modern Twist: Contemporary Japanese Bamboo Art*

Bottom: SAA members enjoying a visit with Tom Edson and Emily Sano in San Antonio





# REGISTRATION FORM

## How to Register

To Register you may:

1. Go to our website, sign up and pay online: [www.societyforasianart.org](http://www.societyforasianart.org)

OR

2. Print this registration form and send it with a check to: SAA, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

We cannot accept fax registrations at this time. Please use mail, our website, or call the office.

Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. If a program becomes fully enrolled, your payment will be returned. Refunds are granted for cancellations up to one business week before the event and take one or two weeks to process.

**SAA does not issue tickets or confirmations. You will be contacted ONLY if your registration cannot be completed.**

Paid Programs	Fee	Quantity	Sub-Total
<input type="checkbox"/> August 12: Cloisonné and Champlevé — The Marriage of Glass and Metal with Marsha Vargas Handley	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fridays, August 18-November 17: Fall Arts of Asia Lecture Series	\$175 Members \$200 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> September 2: Learn to Brush Paint with a Master with Yu Chun-Hui	\$35 Members \$40 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> September 30: Textile Arts and Ethnic Dress of Vietnam with Serena Lee	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> October 7: Visit to the Mills Building in San Francisco: Weavers of Peace and Dreams: Textile Arts of Mindanao	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> October 14: Visit to Mills College Art Museum with Linda Inson Choy	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sundays, October 15, 22, and 29: The Epic of Nations— <i>Shahnameh</i> , The Chronicle of Kings with Mitra Ara	\$60 Members \$75 Non-Members		

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

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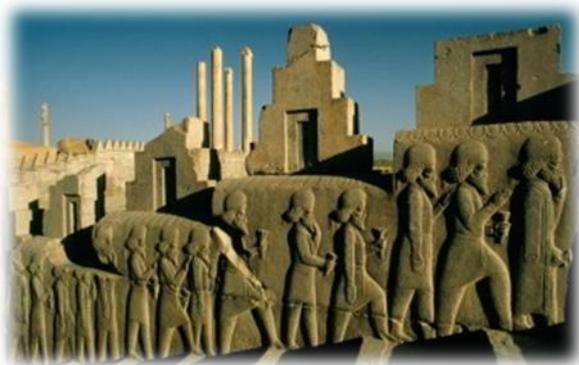
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*The Society for Asian Art Presents:  
Through the Pishtaq: \*\*  
Art, Architecture and Culture of Persia  
Led by Dr. Keelan Overton  
April 22 - May 9, 2018*



*Ancient Persia has been the seat of many civilizations and many of Iran's achievements have contributed to our modern world. Most of the country's archaeological gems have been well preserved and portray a rich historical heritage. Join this journey to Iran accompanied by scholar Keelan Overton as well as an outstanding local Iranian guide. Uncover the many layers of Iranian culture, mores, religion, and history as you attempt to understand the unique character of the country. Explore colorful cities, exotic bazaars, ancient baths, and rich ruins. Marvel at ancient monuments and exquisitely tiled mosques. Stroll across plazas that remain much the same as they were in medieval times. Learn about ancient Persian poetry, art, architecture, science, and history – and how past achievements have shaped a modern world. Discussions and lectures will enrich the site visits.*

**\*\*Formal Gateway    \*World Heritage Site**

### **Sun-Mon, April 22/23      USA to Tehran**

Depart the US for the flight to **Tehran** arriving the next day late evening and meet, assist and transfer to *Espinas Hotel* or similar for check in and overnight.

### **Tuesday, April 24      Tehran**

After a late breakfast, visit some of Tehran's major museums, including **Iran's National Museum Complex (Museum of Ancient Iran and Museum of Islamic Era)** displaying a rare and spectacular collection of pre-historic and ancient artifacts with pottery dating back to 6th -7th century BCE. Then visit **Reza Abbasi Museum** - the collections on display belong to the 2nd millennium BCE to the early 20th century, corresponding to the end of Qajar period. The displays are arranged chronologically, so visitors have a chance to observe the development of art, culture and technology during this time interval. After the museum, take a walk in northern Tehran, culminating in *Shandiz Mashhad Restaurant* for a traditional lamb dinner. Return to your hotel for overnight. **(B,L,D)**

### **Wednesday, April 25      Varamin & Ray**

Take an excursion to **Shahr-e-Ray**, an archaeological site Cheshmeh Ali and Seljuk Toghrol Tower nearby. In **Varamin**, visit the 14-century Friday Mosque, the Shrine of Imamzada Yahya and the 12th c. Ala al-Din Tomb Tower. Picnic lunch will be provided. Early afternoon return to hotel for some free time, followed by dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

### **Thursday, April 26      Tehran to Hamadan**

Drive to **Hamadan** via Qazvin. In Qazvin visit the **holy shrine of Shahzadeh Hossein**, son of the 8th Shiite Imam, dating from early Safavid period. Continue to Hamadan, the capital of the Median Empire in the 7th century B.C.E. and the summer capital of the Achaemenid kings in the 5th century B.C.E. Visits include **Ganjnameh**, the inscriptions by Darius I, and his son, Xerxes, carved on the rocks of the mountain; the **Tomb of Esther & Mordechai**, a major Jewish pilgrimage center; the 12th century **Gonbad-e Alavian** domed tomb, plus the tomb of **Avicenna**, Iran's celebrated philosopher/scientist/physician, whose prescriptions are still used. See the **Stone Lion**, an intriguing, sculpture believed to date from the Hellenistic Period when Alexander invaded Iran. Stay in Hamadan for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

### **Friday, April 27      Hamadan to Kermanshah**

Drive to **Kermanshah**, via Kangavar, a small town dating back to 200 BCE. Visit the **Temple of Anahita**, goddess of water and fertility. Continue to **Bisotun\***; see texts that helped in the deciphering of the cuneiform script. The 400 foot high inscription carved into the cliff side has been recently restored. On arrival in Kermanshah visit the important Sassanian reliefs at **Taq-e-Bostan**, depicting royal hunting scenes and the investiture of the Sassanian kings. Transfer to your hotel for check in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

### **Saturday, April 28      Kermanshah**

After breakfast, drive to Malayer to visit *Tepe Nush-e-Jan*, the ancient Iron Age settlement. Then head to *Takieh Mo'aven ol-Molk*. Distinctively Shiite, Hosseiniehs are shrines where plays are acted out during the Islamic month of Moharram, commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hossein at Karbala (AD 680). The finest of these theatres is the *Takieh Mo'aven ol-Molk*. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

### **Sunday, April 29      Kermanshah to Shiraz**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Shiraz. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel for check in, dinner and overnight. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. **(B,L,D)**

### **Monday, April 30      Shiraz (Persepolis)**

Full Day exploring **Persepolis\***, the magnificent 6th - 8th c. ceremonial capital city of the Achaemenids. Visit the rock-cut tombs of Persian kings at **Naqsh-e Rostam** and the Sassanian cliff reliefs at **Naqsh-e Rajab**. Return to your hotel in Shiraz for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

## Tuesday, May 01 Shiraz

Explore **Shiraz**, known as the city of "Roses and Nightingales" for its famous gardens. Visit the **Pars Museum**, the pink-tiled 19th century **Mosque of Nasir-ol-Molk**, the **Qajar Narenjestan Garden and House**, the **Vakil Complex** and the **Bazaar of Shiraz**. Visit the 9th century **Friday Atigh mosque**, the most interesting and oldest of the buildings in Shiraz. After lunch visit a nomadic carpet workshop/gallery to shop or just learn about tribal rugs. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

## Wednesday, May 02 Shiraz to Yasuj

After breakfast, drive via the beautiful Zagros Mountains to **Yasuj**, the center for Qashqai and Boyer-Ahmadi nomads. The nomads migrate from the southern areas to spend the spring and summer in open pastures of Zagros to graze their herds. Upon arrival in Yasuj transfer to your hotel for check in and overnight. (B,L,D)

## Thursday, May 03 Yasuj to Isfahan

Drive north through the **Zagros Mountains** where the vistas are gorgeous. We will make many photo stops, passing several of the cascades that gives this region the nickname, "The Land of Waterfalls." The road to Isfahan will take you through the town of Semrom around which Qashqais settle during the summer. Check-in at **Abbassi Hotel** for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

## Friday, May 04 Isfahan

Full day tour of the beautiful city of **Isfahan**, the 17th century capital of the Safavids, referred to as **Nesf-e Jahan** (Half of the World) in Safavid sources. Visit the famous bridges of **Shahrestan/Khaju/Sio-se-pol**; the Armenian Quarter with several churches, including the Vank Cathedral and possibly an Armenian house with exceptional wall paintings. In the afternoon visit one of the world's grandest squares, the **Maidan-e-Naghsh-e-Jahan\***, with several sites: the **Ali Qapu Palace** with its enchanting music room and balcony overlooking the Maidan; the **Shah Mosque\***, one of the world's greatest mosques; and the architecturally exquisite **Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque\***. (B,L,D)

## Saturday, May 05 Isfahan

Another full day sightseeing of Isfahan. Visit the magnificent **Masjed-e Jame Mosque\***, with the famous **Oljaitu Mihrab** (Prayer Niche) of the Il-Khanid period. This mosque is considered a museum of a thousand years of Persian religious architecture. Also visit the **Harun-e-Velayat Shrine** and the **Ali Minaret**. From here drive to the **Chehel Sotun Palace\***, built by Shah Abbas II in the 17th century, its wooden columns reflected in the surface of the pool inspired its name "**The Palace of Forty Columns**". Final stop of the day is at the **Hasht Behesht pavilion** built in 1670 by Shah Soleiman and known as the Pavilion of Eight Paradises or the Palace of Nightingales. This small gem is set amongst tree-lined alleys, a reflecting pool and water rills. Return to the Maidan to visit the Qeisarieh Bazaar with hundreds of shops displaying the arts and handicrafts for which Isfahan is world-famous. (B,L,D)

## Sunday, May 06 Isfahan

After breakfast, visit the newly-restored **Hammam-e Ali Gholi Agha**, dating to late Safavid period, with magnificent tiles and paintings, now an ethnographic museum displaying customs and rituals of traditional bathhouses; the **Darb-e Imam shrine complex** and the Seljuk **Chehel Dokhtar Minaret**, adorned with brick work and Kufic inscriptions. Also visit the Seljuk **Sarban Minaret**, a 54 m tall minaret and the nearby **Madrassa-i Imami**. In the afternoon, return to the Maidan for a walk and interaction with local people (B,L,D)

## Monday, May 07 Isfahan to Kashan

Drive to the charming desert town of Natanz to visit the **Mosque, Monastery and Tomb complex of Sheikh Abdolsamad**. Take a tea-break under the shade of a 500-year old plane tree. Visit rose cultivation and processing in Qamsar. Celebrate with a *special farewell dinner* and overnight at *Manouchehri House* or similar. (B,L,D)

## Tuesday, May 08 Kashan to Tehran

Visit **Bagh-e Fin\*** (16th century gardens). Depart Kashan for Tehran, stopping along the way to visit the **Shrine of Fatima Masumeh** in Qom, the second most holy shrine in Iran. Continue to Tehran and on arrival check-in at Novotel Airport Hotel. Dinner & overnight. (B,L,D)

## Wednesday, May 09 Tehran to USA

Very early morning, walk to the terminal for the flight returning to the US.

\*\* Formal Gateway

*"We (STS) reserve the right to change hotels, restaurants, airlines or the order of activities if/as needed."*

**Tour cost per person in double occupancy**

**Land Package: \$5,995.00**

**Single Supplement: \$1,200.00**



**Price based on a minimum of 15 participants and maximum of 20 participants**

***Trip Grade: II***

***Lodging Level: ★★★★★***

**Tour includes:**

- Deluxe and First class properties in most cities and one or two hotels superior tourist class in smaller towns for a few nights.
- All meals (Full-board) as specified in the itinerary: (B-breakfast, L-lunch and D-dinner).
- All tours as per itinerary including entrance fees and high qualified English speaking guide throughout the trip.
- Transfers/transportation by large comfortable modern A/C vehicle during the whole tour.
- A bottle of mineral water per passenger per day on touring days plus juice, coffee and tea on board the bus.
- All local taxes and service charges on included items.
- Tipping to guide, drivers, porters, hotel and restaurant staff.
- Internal flights in Iran

**Tour excludes:**

- International airfare to Tehran and back
- Iran visa (Cost is currently \$148.00, subject to change)  
***Passport should not include any Israeli stamps.***
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees at sites, laundry, phone calls, emails, excess luggage, etc.)
- Travel protection insurance.
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on scheduled flights/tour dates.
- Dayroom or overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules.

**Trip Grade: Moderately-Rigorous Touring**

We will be covering great distances by road during this journey. The roads are very good and the air-conditioned bus very comfortable. You will often be served cold water, tea and fruits along the way. We will make several rest stops (some will not be five star bathrooms and others will be in the beautiful wilderness). It is important to recognize the exhausting nature of some of the long driving days as well as some of the site visits where you might have to climb on uneven terrain and do some long walks. Also, it is our responsibility to inform you that despite the immense progress in standard of accommodations over the last years, you might still encounter minor annoyances, such as leaky plumbing fixtures, or hot water interruptions in hotels. This will necessitate a flexible, tolerant attitude and a sense of humor. Women will be required to wear loose, ankle-length dresses with long sleeves or pants and tunic and have their hair covered with a scarf or shawl at all times when outside their hotel rooms.

***Trip Grade: II Active*** - Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long bus rides.

***Lodging Level: ★★★★★ Luxury*** - Mostly large hotels, typical western standard with ample venues & full amenities. (4- 5 stars)

**Spiekermann Travel Service**

Ph: 800-645-3233 / 586-775-9550 ☉ Fax: 586-775-9556 ☉ [www.mideasttrvl.com](http://www.mideasttrvl.com)  
☉ [Email:info@mideasttrvl.com](mailto:info@mideasttrvl.com)

# THE SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART PRESENTS

## Through the Pishtaq: Art, Architecture and Culture of Persia

APRIL 22 - MAY 9, 2018



clay-baked caravansaries, and everywhere a horizon pierced by mosques and turquoise minarets.

**M**ore than five hundred years before Christ, Cyrus the Great founded one of the world's first empires at Pasargadae. Over the centuries Persian civilization has been impacted by diverse cultural influences from invading Greeks, Arabs, Mongols and Turks. Join Dr. Keelan Overton on a journey through Iran where impressive monuments serve as vivid testament to the extraordinary history and culture of the country. The name Persia, used by the ancient Greeks, is derived from the southwesterly province of Pars which was the cradle of the Persian Empire. It was here that the Achaemenids became the first kings of a united country. They built capitals at Pasargadae and Persepolis and ruled over territory which stretched from the Persian Gulf to the Black Sea and from China in the east to the Mediterranean shores in the west. It is a welcoming and beautiful country of contrasts, of jagged mountains and golden deserts punctuated by slender wind towers, crumbling

### *Tour Highlights*

#### **Tehran – 3 nights**

Visit the National Museum of Iran complex:

- Museum of Ancient Iran (History and Archaeology)
- Museum of the Islamic Era
- See Reza Abbasi Museum (Ancient Persian art to early 20th c.)
- Take an excursion to archaeological sites in Ray and Varamin

#### **Hamadan – 1 night**

- Stop in Qazvin to visit the holy shrine of Shahzadeh Hossein
- See rock inscriptions of Darius I and Xerxes at Ganjnameh
- Explore the Tomb of Esther and Mordechai
- View the Gonbad-e-Alavian, a 12 c. Seljuk domed tomb
- Visit the Tomb of Avicenna, a 10th c. Persian polymath

#### **Kermanshah – 2 nights**

- Visit the Sassanian Temple of Anahita in Kangavar
- See Achaemenid bas-relief cuneiform inscriptions and Darius the Great relief at Bisotun\*
- Admire the Sassanian bas-reliefs and grottoes at Taq-e Bostan
- Drive to Tepe Nush-e-Jan, an ancient Iron Age settlement
- Visit the Takieh Mo'aven ol-Molk Hosseinieh shrine/theatre complex

#### **Shiraz – 3 nights**

- Explore Persepolis,\* ceremonial capital of the Achaemenids.
- See Sassanid reliefs at Naqsh-e Rostam
- At Naqsh-e-Rostam see Achaemenid rock-cut tombs of Persian kings.
- See the dazzling Nasir-ol Molk "Pink Mosque"
- View the Pars Museum
- Visit the Qajar Narenjestan Garden and House
- Wander through the Vakil Bazaar

- Visit Jameh Atigh, 9th c. Friday Mosque
- Learn about tribal rugs at a nomadic gallery

#### **Yasuj - 1 night**

- Drive through the beautiful Zagros Mountains to Yasuj
- Observe Qashqai and Boyer-Ahmadi nomads in the area

#### **Isfahan – 4 nights**

Explore the splendid 17th century Safavid capital:

- Survey historic arched bridges over the Zayandeh River
- Visit Vank Cathedral in the Armenian Quarter
- Walk around the Maidan-e Naghsh-e-Jahan Square\*
- Marvel at the architecture of the ancient Shah Mosque\*
- Visit the exquisite Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque\* and Ali Qapu Palace
- Visit the Chehel Sotoun Palace\* (Palace of Forty Columns)
- Explore Mas'jed-e Jameh\*
- Admire the Hasht Behesht pavilion.
- See Harun-e Velayat Shrine and Ali Minaret and View the Darb-e Imam shrine complex
- Shop in the Qeisarieh Bazaar
- Visit the ethnographic museum - Hammam-e-Ali Gholi Agha

#### **Kashan - 1 night**

- In Natanz see the mosque, monastery and tomb of Sheikh Abdolsamad
- Visit rose cultivation and processing in Qamsar
- See the Bagh-e Fin gardens\*
- Celebrate with a special farewell dinner
- Drive to the Fatima Masumeh Shrine in Qom

#### **Tehran Airport Hotel - 1 night**

\* UNESCO World Heritage Sites

### **DIFFICULTY LEVEL: STRENUOUS**

There will be extensive walking on uneven surfaces, stair climbing, and extended periods of standing. The trip is not suitable for those with mobility problems.

SAA is now a vendor of CSA Travel Protection Insurance 800.348.9505 [www.csatravelprotection.com](http://www.csatravelprotection.com)  
Producer code: 20100719.

Our journey will take us to ancient cities, glorious mosques and fabulous archaeological sites. In the capital, Tehran, we will visit three superb museums: National Museum (Museum of Ancient Iran and the Museum of the Islamic Era) and the Reza Abbasi Museum which contain works from 2nd millennium BCE to 20th century. We will have an opportunity to take a walk through northern Tehran which will culminate in a delicious traditional lamb dinner at a local restaurant. The next day is an excursion to Shahr-e Ray; to Tepe Cheshmeh Ali, an archaeological site and to the Seljuk Toghol Tower in nearby Varamin. We will visit the 14th century Friday Mosque; the Shrine of Imamzadeh Yahya; and the 12th century Ala al-Din Tomb Tower. We will enjoy a picnic lunch in the countryside and then drive to Hamadan via Qazvin. In Qazvin visit the holy shrine of Shahzadeh Hossein. In Hamadan, the capital of the Median Empire in the 7th century BCE and the summer capital of the Achaemenid kings in the 5th century BCE, visit Ganjnameh with inscriptions by Darius I and Xerxes and the tomb of Esther and Mordechai. Drive to Kermanshah via ancient Kangavar to see the Temple of Anahita, Goddess of water and fertility. In Kermanshah visit the Sassanian reliefs at Taq-e Bostan. Drive to Tepe Nush-e-Jan, the ancient Iron Age settlement, then on to the Takieh Mo'aven ol-Molk Shiite shrines/theatres where plays were enacted. Fly to Shiraz, an important city in the medieval Islamic world. Through its many artists and scholars, Shiraz has been synonymous with learning and poetry. Enjoy an excursion to the magnificent site of Persepolis which comprises one of the most remarkable archaeological sites found in the Near East. Visit the rock-cut tombs of Persian kings at Naqsh-e Rostam. In the city of Shiraz, see the Pars Museum; the Pink Mosque, the Qajar Narenjestan Garden and House; the Vakil Complex and the bazaar. Learn about tribal rugs at a nomadic carpet workshop and gallery. Drive to the

nomadic area of Yasuj and continue through the scenic Zagros mountains called "Land of Waterfalls" to arrive at Isfahan. Spend 4 nights in this city of unsurpassed beauty. Tour the 17th century capital of the Safavids to see the famous bridges of Shahrestan/Khaju/Sio-se-pol and the Armenian quarter. Experience one of the world's grandest squares, the Maidan-e-Naghsh-e-Jahan with its extraordinary mosques and palace. Visit the Friday Mosque with its famous prayer niche and the Harun-e-Velayat shrine and Ali Minaret. Drive to Shah Abbas II's Palace of Forty Columns and Shah Soleiman's Pavilion of Eight Paradises. Shop in the Qeisarieh handicrafts bazaar. See the Hammam-e Ali Gholi Agha ethnographic museum displaying the traditions of bathhouses. Visit the Darb-e Imam shrine complex and Sarban Minaret. In the charming desert town of Natanz visit the mosque, monastery and tomb complex of Sheikh Abdolsamad. Enjoy a tea break under a 500 year-old plane tree. Participate in a special farewell dinner. In Kashan visit the Bagh-e Fin Gardens. On the way to Tehran visit the Shrine of Fatima Masumeh in Qom. Continue to a Tehran airport hotel for an overnight before heading home the next day. The trip will be accompanied by **Dr. Keelan Overton**, an independent scholar of Islamic art and architecture who has taught at Pomona College, the University of California at Santa Barbara, University of California, Los Angeles, and Occidental College. Formerly she was Associate Curator in the Art of the Middle East Department at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Prior to that she served as Curator of Islamic Art at the Doris Duke Foundation of Islamic Art at Shangri La in Honolulu. She holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Art History from the University of California, Los Angeles (2011). She currently is editing an interdisciplinary book project on artistic exchange between Iran and the Deccan, c. 1400-1600.

**Land Package: \$5,995.00 \*\*Single Supplement: \$1,200.00**  
**Price based on a minimum of 15 participants and maximum of 20**  
**The tour cost includes:**

- Deluxe and First class properties in most cities and one or two hotels superior tourist class in smaller towns for a few nights.
- All meals (Full-board) as specified in the itinerary:
- All tours as per itinerary including entrance fees.
- English speaking guide throughout the trip.
- Transfers/transportation by large comfortable modern A/C vehicle during the whole tour.
- Daily mineral water on touring days plus juice, coffee and tea on board the bus.
- All local taxes and service charges on included items.
- Tipping guide, driver, porters, hotel & restaurant staff.

Internal flights in Iran.

**Not Included are:**

- International airfare to Tehran and back
- Iran visa (Cost is currently \$148.00, subject to change). *Passport should not include any Israeli stamps.*
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees at sites, laundry, phone calls, emails, excess luggage, etc.)
- Travel protection insurance.
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on scheduled flights/tour dates.
- Dayroom or overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules.

I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s) for the **SAA Iran Tour April 22 - May 9, 2018**. (Please note you must be a member of the Society for Asian Art to go on this trip. If you are not currently a member, you may join or renew at the SAA website [www.societyforasianart.org/membership](http://www.societyforasianart.org/membership)).

Enclosed is a deposit of \$500 per person, in the total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. **Please make checks payable to Spiekermann Travel Service.**

(Your deposit is refundable up to 90 days prior to departure less a \$250 per person administration fee.)

**Room Arrangements**

- Single Supplement  Double Occupancy, I will be sharing a room with: \_\_\_\_\_
- I would prefer a roommate, but will pay the single supplement if one is not available.

**Personal Information (please write clearly)**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send reservation form and deposit to: The Society for Asian Art, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

**Applications will be accepted by mail only and your inclusion will be based on the postmark date.**  
**A confirmation letter, a declaration & waiver form and a travel insurance application will be mailed to you upon receipt of your deposit.**

For more information or a detailed itinerary, call Spiekermann Travel at (800) 645-3233 or the Society for Asian Art at (415) 581-3701.