



**May - June 2025**

**No. 3**

### Message from the President

Dear Members,

We are sorry to inform you that Gloria Garaventa has decided to step down from her position as President of the Society for Asian Art due to personal reasons. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors have appointed me to act as Interim President until the end of Gloria's term – June 30, 2025.

It is my great honor to take up this challenge and I will endeavor to continue with all the programs and activities of the Society and thank Gloria for her 6 years of dedicated service on the Board of the Society.

I hope to see many of you at our Annual Meeting and Reception on May 29th. It will be an engaging event as we welcome the Museum's new Director, Dr. Soyoung Lee, and say farewell to our beloved Director, Dr. Jay Xu. You can find more information about this event on page 5 of this newsletter as well as on our website.

The Board thanks you for your involvement with the Society and its activities and encourages you to continue your membership and keep actively participating in our programs.

Please encourage your friends and family to join the Society. We have great opportunities for learning and travel together! See our website at [www.societyforasianart.org](http://www.societyforasianart.org) for more information.

Sincerely,  
Nazneen Spliedt  
Interim President

### ***Yuan Goang-Ming: Everyday War*** **April 3 – July 7, 2025**

Don't miss this critically acclaimed exhibition in the Akiko Yamazaki and Jerry Yang Pavilion, the artist's first North American solo show. The exhibition is curated by Abby Chen, Curator of Contemporary Art at the Asian Art Museum and features many works that debuted in Yuan's celebrated 60th Venice Biennale 2024 presentation.



Left: *Everyday War*, 2024, by Yuan Goang-Ming (b. Taipei, 1965). Single-channel video with sound; 10:33 min. © Yuan Goang-Ming. Courtesy of the artist.

Right: *Everyday Maneuver*, 2018, by Yuan Goang-Ming (b. Taipei, 1965). Single-channel video with sound; 5:57 min. © Yuan Goang-Ming. Courtesy of the artist.



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### Thursday, May 22

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### Thursday, May 29

Member Event - Annual Meeting & Reception

### Fridays, Aug. 29 - Dec. 12, 2025

Fall 2025 Arts of Asia - It's Magic: Art and the Power of Transformation



## UPCOMING EVENTS (Subject to Change)

### Sept. 15 - 20, 2025

Asian Art and Culture in Los Angeles

### Jan. 13 - 23, 2026

The Kingdom and Treasures of Thailand with Dr. Julian Brown

Both trips will be offered in early May.



## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member, who joined the Society in February and March. We are thrilled that you have decided to join us, and hope you find our programs and events interesting and engaging. Please don't hesitate to ask questions and give us feedback. Welcome!

Janet Battistini

Caroline Cummins

Raymond Fay & Ingrid Hirashima

Heidi Gerster Kikawada

Jeanne Milligan & Peter Dewees



## SOCIAL MEDIA

The Publicity/Social Media Committee wants to thank all of you who visit our Instagram and Facebook pages regularly to "like" our posts. We are maintaining our "follows" at 1000 people for the two pages combined, with the majority following us on Instagram.

To those of you who are traveling to Minneapolis in May, please remember to take photos and send them to [candacezks@gmail.com](mailto:candacezks@gmail.com). You can send them when you take them, or later, when you get home. The more timely the pictures we post are, the better.

## Society for Asian Art

May - June 2025, No. 3

Members' Newsletter  
Edited by Janet Constantinou  
and Susan Lai

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[www.societyforasianart.org](http://www.societyforasianart.org)  
(415) 581-3701  
[saa@societyforasianart.org](mailto:saa@societyforasianart.org)

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\*ex officio



## It's Magic: Art and the Power of Transformation



Left: *Towering to Cloudy Sky*, 1776, by Luo Pin (Chinese, 1733–1799), Qing dynasty (1644–1911). Ink on paper. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, *Museum purchase*, B74D18. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Right: Theatrical headdress for the magical deer in the *Ramayana* (Epic of Rama) dance-drama, approx. 1950–1960. Central Thailand. Papier-mâché, glass, and mixed media. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, *Gift from Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's Southeast Asian Art Collection*, 2006.27.10.9. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

**When: Fridays Aug. 29 to Dec. 12, 2025 (No lecture on Sept. 26 & Nov. 28.)**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pacific Time**

**Place: Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum & Zoom Webinars**

**Please see schedule on the next page for any exceptions.**

**Fee: \$200 per person Society members; \$250 per person non-members for the series.**

**Advance registration must be received by SAA by Aug. 22, 2025.**

**We only accept drop-ins for individual lectures in Samsung Hall on a space available basis.**

**Drop-in fee is \$20 per person per lecture.**

**All in-person fees are after Museum admission.**

**Instructor of Record: Jeff Durham**

From the beginnings of human existence, art has had the power to transform our understanding of the world; sometimes that power is called magic.

Join us for a 14-lecture series that delves into the mystical qualities of art across cultures and time. From ancient talismans to contemporary illusions, discover how artists harness symbolism, ritual, and innovation to alter perceptions, bridge worlds, and inspire change. Instructor of Record Jeff Durham, Associate Curator of Himalayan Art at the Asian Art Museum, has invited speakers who provide enlightening new perspectives on art.

The Arts of Asia committee welcomes comments about our lecture series. Please email comments to [info@societyforasianart.org](mailto:info@societyforasianart.org).

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date information about this lecture series.



# ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2025 LECTURE SERIES

## Speakers & Topics (Subject to Change)

**Aug. 29, 2025**

TBD

**Sept. 5, 2025**

Medieval Central Asia in Depth: Archaeological Explorations and Mapping of Newly Discovered High Elevation Cities of the 6th – 12th Centuries

Michael Frachetti, Professor of Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis

**Sept. 12, 2025**

The Other Murakamis

Bradley Bailey, Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Curator of Asian Art, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

**Sept. 19, 2025**

TBD

**Oct. 3, 2025**

The Animated Image In Asia: Image Consecration and Desecration

James Robeson, James C. Kralik and Yunli Lou Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University

**Oct. 10, 2025**

Forbidden City Exhibit

Richard Vinograd, Christensen Fund Professor in Asian Art, Department of Art & Art History, Stanford University

**Oct. 17, 2025**

The Never-Never Land: The Private Theatre of the Qianlong Emperor (1711–1799)

Eugene Wang, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Professor of Asian Art, Department of History of Art + Architecture, Harvard University

**Oct. 24, 2025**

TBD

**Oct. 31, 2025**

Transformation in Okinawan Rituals

Tze M. Loo, Associate Professor of History and Global Studies, Department of History, University of Richmond

**Nov. 7, 2025**

Ghosts in Japanese Art and in Kabuki Theatre

Kirk Kanesaka, Assistant Professor of Japanese and Asian Studies, California State University, San Bernardino

**Nov. 14, 2025**

The Art of Terrestrial Diagrams in Early China

Michelle H. Wang, Associate Professor of Art History and Humanities, Reed College

**Nov. 21, 2025**

TBD

**Dec. 5, 2025**

Transformation: From Magic Mirrors to Tea Bowls to Dancing Cats and Other Magical Creatures

Laura Allen, Independent Scholar and Emeritus Senior Curator for Japanese Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

**Dec. 12, 2025**

The Buddha's Miracles and Magical Appearances

Forrest McGill, Emeritus Senior Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco



# MEMBER EVENTS

## Curating Lunar Phases: Korean Moon Jars with Hyonjeong Kim Han

When: **Thursday, May 22, 2025**

Time: **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Place: **Zoom Webinar**

Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members**  
**Advance registration must be received by SAA by May 15, 2025.**

Join Hyonjeong “HJ” Kim Han, the very popular former Asian Art Museum Associate Curator of Korean Art and currently the department head and Joseph de Heer Curator of Asian Art at the Denver Art Museum, as she discusses (with behind behind-the-scene stories!) how the first exhibition on Korean moon jars in a major museum was developed. This exhibition, entitled *Lunar Phases: Korean Moon Jars* 한국의 달항아리, 다시 차오르다, recently opened at the Denver Art Museum. It features traditional 18th century moon jars, two of which are registered Korean National Treasures, and six contemporary jars plus photographs, video work and paintings that explore the many aspects of Korean moon jars. Not only will this talk focus on artworks in the exhibition, it will also ponder how the moon jar from Korea’s Joseon dynasty (1392-1897) has evolved into a symbol of Korean identity and how contemporary artists, both within and beyond Korea, reflect on and reinterpret the moon jar.



Moon Jar 달항아리, 1700s, Joseon dynasty (1392–1897). Porcelain with clear glaze 17 ½ x 16 7/8 in. Private collection. Photograph by Kim Hyun-soo (K2 Studio) and © Private collection. National Treasure of Korea (2007-1).

## 2025 Annual Meeting & Reception

When: **Thursday, May 29, 2025 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

Place: **Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum**

Fee: **Free for all current Society members**

All Society members are invited to attend the Society’s Annual Meeting & Reception and to meet and mingle with other Society members.

After a short formal meeting to elect new members of the Board of Directors, and a report from the President of the SAA on the activities of the Society during the past year, we will have a short presentation followed by a wine and buffet reception.

This year we are honored to welcome the new Director of the Asian Art Museum, Dr. Soyoung Lee, who will speak about her vision for the future of the museum. Members will also have a chance to say farewell to the outgoing Director, Dr. Jay Xu, and honor him for his 17 years of service to the museum.

Email invitations will be sent to all members in good standing by April 29. Please kindly RSVP to the invitation.



Hyonjeong Kim Han with a National Treasure moon jar of the 18th century in Lunar Phases: Korean Moon Jars exhibition, Denver Art Museum (March 2 – June 8, 2025)



Left: Dr. Soyoung Lee  
Right: Dr. Jay Xu  
Photos courtesy of the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.



## Journey through Cambodian Buddhist & Hindu Iconography

When: **Saturday, May 10, 2025**

Time: **1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**(Optional ceremony & lunch 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)**

Place: **Wat Dhammararam Buddhist Temple, 3732 Carpenter Rd., Stockton**

Fee: **\$35 per person Society members; \$40 per person non-members**

Discover the spiritual and artistic wonders of Wat Dhammararam Buddhist Temple's Sculpture Garden in Stockton, home to over 90 life-sized sculptures depicting the key moments of Sakyamuni Buddha's life, as well as Cambodian Buddhist and Hindu deities. Led by esteemed scholar M.L. Pattaratorn Chirapravati, this study group will explore the profound symbolism and rich traditions of Cambodian Hindu and Theravāda Buddhist iconography, using these striking sculptures as a guide.

For those seeking a deeper connection, an optional blessing ceremony is conducted by the head abbot/artist, Master Kong Tith. This special prayer will follow a complimentary Cambodian non-vegetarian lunch, the Buddhist tradition of *dāna*—the act of offering food to accumulate good merit. Please note: The ceremony will require attendees to be seated on the floor for about one hour.

M.L. Pattaratorn Chirapravati is an art historian who specializes in Buddhist art and Southeast Asian visual cultures. She is an emeritus professor of art history and former Director of the Asian Studies Program at California State University, Sacramento. She was also former Head of Studies, Division of Arts and Humanities at Yale-NUS College (Singapore) in 2016–2018 and was a Joint Visiting Professor at the School of Humanities and Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) in 2022–2024. She co-curated two major art exhibitions with Forrest McGill at the Asian Art Museum, *The Kingdom of Siam: Art from Central Thailand (1530–1800)* in 2005 and *Emerald Cities: Arts of Siam and Burma (1775–1950)* in 2009.



Photos courtesy of Wat Dhammararam.



M.L. Pattaratorn Chirapravati

### Donations for Book Sale

We now accept books throughout the year for our annual Book Sale. So if you move, downsize or are tired of all the books collecting dust in your home, please donate them to our Book Sale. We are accepting books with Asian subjects only, be it art, culture, novels, history, travel, cooking, exhibition catalogs or others.

Due to space constraints, we are unable to accept book donations at the SAA office. You can drop off books on Fridays when the Arts of Asia lectures are in session. If you have a lot of books, we are happy to pick them up from your home within the Bay Area. Please contact the SAA office at 415-581-3701 or [info@societyforasianart.org](mailto:info@societyforasianart.org) for details.



Left: The Buddhist Deities Chakrasamvara and Vajravahni, Tibet (by a Newar artist), circa 15th century. Mineral pigments and traces of gold on cotton cloth, 54 x 45 in. (137.16 x 114.3 cm). Los Angeles County Museum of Art, from the Nasli and Alice Heeramaneck Collection, M.70.1.3. Photo courtesy of LACMA.  
Center: Lidded Vase; artist unknown; about 1730; hard-paste porcelain with enameled decoration; 72.DE.62. Photo courtesy of The Getty Center.  
Right: James Irvine Japanese Garden, Little Tokyo. Photo courtesy of JACCC.

**Save the Date**  
**Asian Art and Culture in Los Angeles**  
**Sept. 15 - 20, 2025**

Join us for curator-led tours at some of LA's major art museums. Highlights include visits to LACMA's exhibition, *Realms of the Dharma: Buddhist Art Across Asia*, featuring more than 180 works from their permanent collection; The Getty's collection of Chinese porcelain; The Hammer's exhibition, *Rising Sun, Falling Rain: Japanese Woodblock Prints*; and The Broad's collection of influential modern and contemporary artists. Our trip will also include visits to three private collections. We will stay at the Palihotel Westwood Village, a 55-room boutique hotel on a quiet residential street within walking distance to a variety of cafes and restaurants. All this and more!

An email with trip details and registration instructions will be sent in early May. This trip is limited to 20 SAA members, and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.



Photos courtesy of Conley & Silvers.

**Save the Date**  
**The Kingdom and Treasures of Thailand with Dr. Julian Brown**  
**Jan. 13 - 23, 2026**

Embark on a cultural journey through Thailand's rich history, starting in vibrant Bangkok, where you'll explore grand temples and enjoy a private evening at the Jim Thompson House Museum. Travel north to the ancient capital of Ayutthaya, where the UNESCO World Heritage site offers majestic ruins of temples and palaces from the Siamese Kingdom. Continue to Sukhothai and Si Satchanalai, the cradle of Thai civilization, known for its meticulously preserved temples and stunning Buddha statues. End the trip in Chiang Mai, a hub of Lanna culture, where traditional arts flourish in its old city, temples, and local crafts workshops. Enjoy an exclusive lecture on tribal textiles and mingle with elephants free to roam in a verdant jungle reserve. An extension to Chang Rai is possible.

An email with trip details and registration instructions will be sent in early May. This trip is limited to 20 SAA members, and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.