



**November - December 2024**

**No. 6**

**Save the Date!**  
**Mesmerizing Mongolia**  
**Jul. 2 - Jul. 18, 2025**



Join us on a journey of a lifetime through the land of Genghis Khan. Together with the renowned scholar of Mongolian art and culture, Dr. Uranchimeg (Orna) Tsultem, you will have an opportunity to unveil mysteries of ancient and modern Mongolia, one of the least known countries left on earth. Dr. Tsultem was born and raised in Mongolia and obtained her Ph.D. in art history from the University of California, Berkeley, where she taught courses on Mongolian and Tibetan art. This trip will offer a great taste of the country including the mighty Gobi Desert and Orkhon Valley region in Central Mongolia strewn with remains of ancient monuments and Buddhist monasteries. You will have a chance to witness one of the greatest and most colorful cultural events – Naadam Games. These games, known as the three manly sports (for originating from military training – horse-racing, archery and wrestling) have been celebrated over several millennia by the local nomads. The trip will also offer an exclusive chance to visit some nomadic families. Mongolia has been building democracy over the last 34 years since it toppled the communist ideology in 1990. With all its mistakes and slowdowns, the country stayed on its course and became a beacon of democracy between two autocratic giants: Russia and China. Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton praised Mongolia as a model of democracy during her visit in 2012.

This trip will be offered in January 2025 and will be limited to 20 Society for Asian Art members.

Photos courtesy of Mongolia Quest.



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### Sunday, Dec. 8

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### Fridays, Jan. 31 - May 9, 2025

Spring 2025 Arts of Asia - Visualizing the Divine



## UPCOMING EVENTS (Subject to Change)

### Thursday, Apr. 3 - Sunday, Apr. 6, 2025

Annual Book Sale

### Jul. 2 - 18, 2025

Mesmerizing Mongolia



## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members, who joined the Society in August and September. 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!

Devora Depper

Kenneth Jew



## SOCIAL MEDIA

The Social Media Committee is reaching out to all members who will be participating in our trips and programs. Our Facebook page and Instagram feed will attract more attention if we add reels or short video clips. Please email your photos and short videos to [candacezks@gmail.com](mailto:candacezks@gmail.com). Don't forget to like and follow our Facebook page and Instagram account!

## Society for Asian Art

November - December 2024, No. 6

Members' Newsletter  
Edited by Janet Constantinou  
and Susan Lai

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## Visualizing the Divine



Left: The Daoist deity Doumu, approx. 1700–1800. China; Fujian province. Qing dynasty (1644–1911). Porcelain, mold-impressed, with sculpted decoration. *Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection, B6OP1362.* Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Right: Goddess of Earth, 1976, by Mayumi Oda (Japanese, b. 1941). Showa period (1926–1989). Silkscreen print; ink and colors on paper. *Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Gift of Dr. Stephen A. Sherwin and Merrill Randol Sherwin, 2023.32.* © Mayumi Oda. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

**When: Fridays from Jan. 31 to May 9, 2025 except Mar. 7 or Apr. 4 - TBD**

**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 Jan. 24, 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**

Since the dawn of human experience, there has been a search to understand the mysteries that surround us. As we contend with the unseen, the unknown, and the unknowable, beliefs in spirits, demons, gods, and other divinities have emerged to help us make sense of our time on Earth.

Join us as our Instructor of Record, Asian Art Museum Associate Curator Jeff Durham, guides us through 14 lectures on Visualizing the Divine. Noted scholars will discuss traditions from different parts of Asia, exploring how both ancient and contemporary cultures have depicted visions, feelings, and beliefs relative to the metaphysical and the otherworldly.

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 SPRING 2025 LECTURE SERIES

## Speakers & Topics (Subject to Change)

### Jan. 31, 2025

Tibetan Renaissance: Monastery Murals and the Rebirth of Buddhism

Jeffrey Durham, Associate Curator of Himalayan Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

### Feb. 7, 2025

Insights in Living with the Gods

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

### Feb. 14, 2025

Zoroastrianism

Daniel Sheffield, Associate Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University

### Feb. 21, 2025

Contrasting Expressions of Shinto between Ise and Izumi Shrines and Trajectories to the Contemporary Built Environment in Japan

Ken Tadashi Oshima, Professor, Department of Architecture, University of Washington

### Feb. 28, 2025

Hinduism Across Asia

Layne Little, Associate Professor of Teaching, Religious Studies Department, University of California, Davis

### Mar. 7, 2025

TBD

### Mar. 14, 2025

The Buddhist Wheel of Rebirth, Past and Present

Stephen F. Teiser, D.T. Suzuki Professor in Buddhist Studies and Professor of Religion, Department of Religion, Princeton University

### Mar. 21, 2026

Pagans in the Churches: Traces of Traditional Roman Religion in the Early Christian Architecture of Arabia

Sarah Wenner, Curatorial Research Fellow of Ancient Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Art, Cincinnati Art Museum

### Mar. 28, 2025

Lives of Khmer Sculpture from Past to Present

Paul Lavy, Associate Professor of South & Southeast Asian Art History, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

### Apr. 4, 2025

TBD

### Apr. 11, 2025

Pure Land Buddhism as Practiced in Asia

Mark Blum, Shinjo Ito Distinguished Chair in Japanese Studies, Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures, University of California, Berkeley

### Apr. 18, 2025

Light of the Valley: The Renovation of Svayambhunath

Padma Dorje Maitland, Malavalli Family Foundation Associate Curator of the Art of the Indian Subcontinent, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

### Apr. 25, 2025

Chakrasamvara, The Wheel of Bliss

Samuel Grimes, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Fairfield University

### May 2, 2025

It is Amun Who Made Me: A Tale of Two Houses

Marc Maillot, Associate Director/Chief Curator, ISAC Museum, University of Chicago

### May 9, 2025

Visualizing the Divine Hands: Sutra Fragments and Imagining Deified Individuals in Japan's Early Modern Period

Akiko Walley, Maude I. Kerns Associate Professor of Japanese Art, University of Oregon



## MEMBER EVENTS

### Radical Clay with Janice Katz

When: **Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024**

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

Place: **Zoom Webinar**

Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members**  
**Advance registration must be received by SAA by Nov. 7, 2024.**

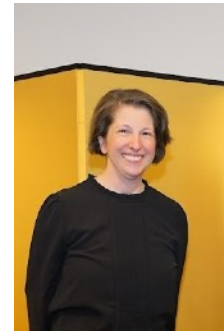
*Radical Clay* was an exhibition on view at the Art Institute of Chicago until recently. This extraordinary exhibition, which celebrated 36 Japanese female artists through 40 stunning virtuosic ceramic pieces, was curated by Janice Katz, who will present and talk about many of these extraordinary objects from the exhibition.

Historically, women have been under recognized for their contribution to the ceramic field. *Radical Clay* showcased these artists pushing the limits in ceramics and clay far beyond traditional ceramics. The artists are on the cutting edge of invention in terms of material, glaze and technique.

Janice Katz is the Roger L. Weston Associate Curator of Japanese Art at the Art Institute of Chicago. She has been with the Art Institute for over 20 years and has worked on many exhibitions of Japanese prints. Her research focuses on paintings from the Edo period (1615-1868) and the history of art collecting in Japan.



Tanaka Yu 田中悠. Bag Work (フクロモノ) (detail), 2018. Carol and Jeffrey Horvitz Collection of Contemporary Japanese Ceramics. Photo courtesy of the Art Institute of Chicago.



Janice Katz

### Visit to *Spirit House* with Aleesa Pitchamarn Alexander

When: **Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024**

Time: **11:00 a.m.**

Place: **Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford**

Fee: **\$20 per person Society members only**

Join us for a special tour of *Spirit House* – a thrilling yet thought provoking special exhibition that features 33 Asian-American and Asian diaspora artists. These works explore the boundary between life and death by asking questions like what does it mean to inhabit haunted spaces, speak to ghosts and enter different dimensions.

This fascinating exhibition tour will be led by Aleesa Pitchamarn Alexander, the Robert M. And Ruth L. Halperin Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art and Co-Director of the Asian American Art Initiative (AAAI) at the Cantor Arts Center, who curated this exhibition.

This tour is limited to 20 Society for Asian Art members.

Following the tour, you may opt to view more art or have lunch in the museum's café.



Korakrit Arunanondchai (b. 1986, Bangkok, Thailand; lives and works in Bangkok and Brooklyn, NY), *Shore of Security*, 2022. Repurposed wooden doll house made by the artist's mother, wood, house paint, polyurethane, fabric sculpture, ceramics, snake skeleton, LED lights. 60 in. x 29 ¼ in. x 29 ¼ in. (152.4 cm x 74.3 cm x 74.3 cm). Courtesy of the artist and C L E A R I N G, New York / Brussels / Los Angeles. Photo: JSP Art Photography. Photo courtesy of Cantor Arts Center.



## MEMBER EVENTS

### Annual Holiday Party

When: **Sunday, Dec, 8, 2024**

Time: **1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Place: **Zentner Collection, 5757 Horton Street, Emeryville**

Fee: **\$65 per person Society members; \$75 per person non-members**

Tis the season! Feast your eyes and your taste buds at our Annual Holiday Party in the vast, significantly re-modeled gallery space at Zentner Collection in Emeryville.

The gallery's rooms are filled with exquisite art and artifacts from all over Asia. Here's your opportunity to admire, browse and buy!

Come in your festive attire! Join us for an afternoon with other SAA friends and enjoy a delicious light buffet in delightful surroundings.



Photo courtesy of The Zentner Collection.



## ANNUAL BOOK SALE

### 2025 Annual Book Sale

When: **Thursday, Apr. 3, 2025 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

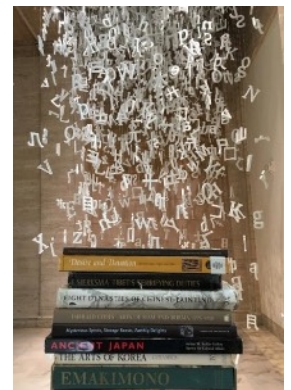
**Friday, Apr. 4, 2025 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, Apr. 5, 2025 10:00 a.m. - closing**

**Sunday, Apr. 6, 2025 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Place: **Asian Art Museum Loggia**

Book lovers, mark your calendars! Thousands of books — including rare collector's items — will be available at bargain prices at the Society for Asian Art's annual Book Sale in the Asian Art Museum's Loggia. This year's special four-day event includes both a Thursday night, when the museum remains open until 8 PM, and a Free First Sunday. Tell your friends!



Photos courtesy of Peter Sinton

#### 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.