



September - October 2022

No. 5

STUDY GROUP

Western Engagements with the Gamelan Music of Java and Bali With Henry Spiller

When: **Friday, Sept. 16, 2022**
Time: **1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**
Place: **Koret Education Center, Asian Art Museum**
Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members.**
Advance registration must be received by SAA by Sept. 9, 2022.
All in-person event fees are after museum admission.



Photo by Jody Diamond, American Gamelan Institute.

Henry Spiller recounts some of the influences of the performing arts of the islands of Java and Bali (now a part of the modern nation of Indonesia) on 19th and 20th century European and North American performing artists, including French composer Claude Debussy, Canadian soprano Eva Gauthier, American dancer Hubert Stowitts, and more recent composers such as Colin McPhee (Canada), Benjamin Britten (UK), and Lou Harrison (US). Their representation of Java and Bali are often regarded as furthering cross-cultural understanding; however, the creative work of these artists can also be analyzed to reveal a great deal about the cultural milieu of these uniquely American art and artists. Spiller's talk will feature visual and audio examples to illuminate his arguments.



Henry Spiller

Henry Spiller (Professor, Department of Music, UC Davis) is an ethnomusicologist whose research focuses on Sundanese music and dance from West Java, Indonesia, on issues of gender and sexuality, and on American interactions with Javanese music and dance. His books include *Gamelan: The Traditional Sounds of Indonesia* (ABC-CLIO, 2004), which was named an Outstanding Academic Title by CHOICE, and *Focus: Gamelan Music of Indonesia* (Routledge, 2008; a third edition, coauthored with Elizabeth Clendinning, was released 2022). Spiller holds a bachelor's degree in music from UC Santa Cruz, a master's degree in harp performance from Holy Names College, and a master's degree and a PhD in ethnomusicology from UC Berkeley. At UC Davis, he teaches world music classes and graduate seminars, and directs the Department of Music's gamelan ensemble. He served as department chair 2012–2018.

Oman, Doha, Abu Dhabi & Dubai: A Cultural Odyssey to the Middle East October 20 - November 4, 2022

Space has become available on this exciting trip. If you are interested, please contact the tour operator, Spiekermann, at 1-800-645-3233 or info@mideasttrvl.com as soon as possible. Reservation forms and payments should be sent to Spiekermann Travel Service, Inc., 18421 E. Nine Mile Rd., Eastpointe, MI 48021. Please do not send to the SAA.

Join the SAA for an unforgettable opportunity to explore the history, culture, and beauty of the Arabian Peninsula! This trip is limited to a maximum of 20 SAA members.

See the [trip flyer/reservation form](#) on the SAA website for details.



Nakhla Fort, Oman. Photo courtesy of Sheila Dowell.



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Fall 2022 Literature Course

Jin Ping Mei: The Aphrodisiac, The Climax and The Dissolution



UPCOMING EVENTS (Subject to Change)

Sunday, Nov. 13

Member Event - Visit to the Gyuto Foundation Buddhist Temple, Richmond Hills



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members, who joined the Society from June through July. 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!

Jeanette Cottle

France Viana

Tom & Aaron Duffy

Mona Wilson



IN MEMORIAM

Joanna Williams 1939 - 2022

We are sad to share news of the death of Joanna Williams, long time SAA Advisor and UC Berkeley Professor Emerita of South and Southeast Asian Art, on June 16, 2022. Joanna was one of the most highly-regarded and foremost scholars of South and Southeast Asian art and architecture. She served on the Society's Board of Advisors for over 20 years, during which time she delivered many distinguished and highly interesting lectures for the docent training programs. We will always be grateful to her for her generosity in sharing her knowledge and expertise with us.

Society for Asian Art

September - October 2022, No. 5

Members' Newsletter
Edited by John Nelson
and Susan Lai

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Forging New Connections: Asia in the First Millennium of the Common Era



Left: Seated Buddha, approx. 200–400. Pakistan; ancient region of Gandhara. Schist. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection, B60S557. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Right: Pillow in the form of a boy and a lotus leaf, approx. 1050–1127. China; Hebei province. Northern Song period (960–1127). Porcelain with glaze (Ding ware). Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection, B60P1351. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

When: Fridays, Aug. 19 – Nov. 18, 2022
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pacific Time
Place: Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum & Online Webinars
Fee: \$200 per person Society members and \$250 per person non-members for the series. Advance registration must be received by SAA by Aug. 12, 2022. We will only accept drop-ins for individual lectures in Samsung Hall on a space available basis. Drop-in fee is \$25 per person per lecture. All in-person fees are after Museum admission.

Instructor of Record: Sanjyot Mehendale

The Fall 2022 Arts of Asia Lecture Series, entitled “Forging New Connections: Asia in the First Millennium of the Common Era,” continues our Spring 2022 ancient Asia series. The 14-lecture fall series is designed to be a survey of Asian cultures with attention to how they used their natural resources and trade routes in the first 1,000 years of the common era.

The series will provide our audience with a better understanding of key cultural and artistic traditions of Asia. Thus, the Fall 2022 series will offer lectures on Armenia and trade until the Mongols, the advent and growth of Islam in Afghanistan, exchanges along the Silk Road, early Turkic settlements in Central Asia, stone temples of ancient South India, the Seljuqs, the Tang and Song Dynasties of China, Japan before the Shoguns, the Khmer, the Champa, kingdoms in maritime Southeast Asia, kingdoms in Thailand and Myanmar, the Tibetan empire, and Korea’s pivotal role in the transmission of Buddhist art.

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



ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2022 LECTURE SERIES

Speakers & Topics (Subject to Change)

August 19, 2022

The Rise and Florescence of Turkic Nomadic Polities in Central Asia (6th to 12 c. CE): Material and Political interactions Across a Connected World

Michael Frachetti, Professor of Archeology, Washington University, St. Louis

August 26, 2022

Armenia and Trade Until the Mongols

Helen Evans, Curator for Byzantine Art, Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters, Metropolitan Museum of Art

September 2, 2022

Arts in Afghanistan from the Arrival of Islam to the Ghaznavids

Martina Rugiadi, Associate Curator of Islamic Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art

September 9, 2022

Xuanzang's World: Art and Pilgrimage in Tang China

Anne Feng, Assistant Professor of Chinese Art, Boston University

September 16, 2022

Who Built the Stone Temples of Ancient South India: Key Monuments of the Pallava and Early Chola Period

Padma Kaimal, Batza Professor of Art and Art History, Colgate University

September 23, 2022

Korea's Pivotal Role in the Early Transmission of Buddhist Art to and through East Asia

Jonathan Best, Professor of Art History, Emeritus, Wesleyan University

September 30, 2022

The Transition from Tang to Song Dynasty China: Visual and Material Culture

Michelle C. Wang, Associate Professor, Georgetown University

October 7, 2022

Consolidation of Power and Visual/Material Culture in the Nara and Heian Periods of Japan

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

October 14, 2022

Celestial Palaces, Axial Mountains, and Cosmic Seas: Ancient Khmer Temple Architecture

Paul Lavy, Professor of South and Southeast Asian Art History, University of Hawaii

October 21, 2022

The Champa Empire of Southeast Asia and Its Relationship with Its Environments and Neighbors during the First Millennium of the Common Era

Kenneth Hall, Professor of History, Ball State University

October 28, 2022

Between the East Indian Ocean and China Sea: Southeast Asia's Port Kingdoms in the Premodern Era

Derek Heng, Professor and Chair of the Department of History, North Arizona University

November 4, 2022

Early Common Era Kingdoms in Thailand, Laos, and Historical Burma

Catherine Raymond, Professor of Art History and Director of Center for Burma Studies, Northern Illinois University

November 11, 2022

The Tibetan Empire and Its Aftermath in Central Asia

Brandon Dotson, Associate Professor and Thomas P. McKenna Chair of Buddhist Studies, Georgetown University

November 18, 2022

The Arts of the Seljuqs from Iran to Anatolia

Deniz Beyazit, Associate Curator, Islamic Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art



MEMBER EVENTS

Contemporary Miniature Painting in India With Waswo X. Waswo

When: **Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022**
 Time: **10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
 Place: **Koret Education Center, Asian Art Museum**
 Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members.**
Advance registration must be received by SAA by Sept. 3, 2022.
All in-person event fees are after museum admission.

Contemporary miniatures are most often discussed in relationship to thriving practices that utilize traditional painting techniques. Art history courses probe the legacy of Mughal Court ateliers. Recently, India has seen a resurgence of interest in the miniature art form and its techniques to create contemporary works that stretch the tradition's boundaries. This talk will highlight some of the figures that have been instrumental in shaping the Indian contemporary miniature paintings scene, and their new techniques as they seek to forge a new path ahead for traditional miniature paintings.

Waswo X. Waswo has been a long-time participant and observer in the Indian art scene. He has lived in India for over 20 years and has made Udaipur his home for the past 16 years. He collaborates with a variety of local artists, whose works have been exhibited all over India. He curated the exhibition *Luminously Between Eternities*, which focused on contemporary Indian and Pakistani miniaturists. His latest book, *Karkana: A Studio in Rajasthan*, explores the personal and working relationships between him and the traditional artists he has called friends in Udaipur.

The Ren Brown Collection

When: **Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022**
 Time: **11:00 a.m.**
 Place: **1781 N. Highway One, Bodega Bay**
 Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members.**
Advance registration must be received by SAA by Sept. 17, 2022.

Join Society members for a visit to the Ren Brown Gallery, located in the charming town of Bodega Bay. Attendees will have an opportunity to see Ren's eclectic collection and the wonderful artifacts he has collected through the years. We will view his current exhibit, *Expressions in Clay*.

The Ren Brown Collection opened in 1990. The primary focus has always been contemporary Japanese prints. Also shown are works by northern California printmakers. The gallery also has tansu chests and antiques as well as ceramics and jewelry by local artists.

After the visit, attendees can choose to join an optional no-host lunch at a nearby restaurant.

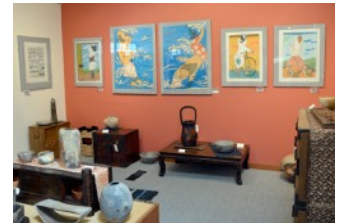
Ren Brown is a third-generation Japanophile. His grandfather went to Japan as a missionary in 1900, where his mother was born. His father was a Japanese history professor at UC Berkeley. Ren organized his first print exhibition when he was an undergraduate at Swarthmore College.



Alexander Gorlizki and Riyaz Uddin, *The Scholar Before Breakfast*, natural pigments on paper, 2015.



Waswo X. Waswo. Photo by Merope Mitrou.



The Ren Brown Collection. Photo courtesy of Ren Brown.



Ren Brown

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 catalogues or others.

Due to construction at the museum, we are unable to accept book donations at the SAA office. You can drop off books at the Friday morning Arts of Asia lectures. 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 for details.



MEMBER EVENTS

Lost Kingdoms of Ancient China With Fan Jeremy Zhang

When: **Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022**
 Time: **2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**
 Place: **Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum**
 Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members.**
Advance registration must be received by SAA by Sept. 22, 2022.
All in-person event fees are after museum admission.

The blockbuster *Lost Kingdoms of Ancient China* show opens in late September, and the exhibition's distinguished curator, Dr. Fan Jeremy Zhang, will share his insights relating to this exhibition in addition to providing important historical background.

The "lost kingdoms" of Zheng and Chu flourished in the middle Yangzi River region about 2,500 years ago before being conquered by China's First Emperor. These kingdoms' extraordinary artistic achievements were revealed in amazing finds from recent archaeological excavations, and most of these loans to the exhibition have not been shown outside China.

Dr. Fan Jeremy Zhang is the Barbara and Gerson Bakar Curator for Chinese Art at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco. Trained as an archaeologist in China, Dr. Zhang holds a PhD from Brown University and was formerly a lecturer at Smith College and the curator of Asian art at the Ringling Museum of Art in Florida.



Bronze vessel from Zeng tomb no. 28 at Yejiashan, Suizhou, ca. 1000 BCE. Photo courtesy of Hubei Provincial Museum.



Fan Jeremy Zhang

Forbidden City With Vanessa Hua

When: **Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022**
 Time: **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
 Place: **Koret Education Center, Asian Art Museum**
 Fee: **\$15 per person Society members; \$20 per person non-members.**
Advance registration must be received by SAA by Oct. 1, 2022.

Our Contemporary Author series continues with Vanessa Hua, author of the recently published novel *Forbidden City*. Vanessa will speak about her novel and give us insights into her craft as a writer and columnist.

Forbidden City has been called "masterful" and "epic" by critics. As Cathy Park Hong wrote in her review, the book is "...a grand, cinematic, and captivating novel...*Forbidden City* is both a passionate feminist recreation of Mei, Mao's lover, and a meditation on how power corrodes human judgment."

After the presentation, Vanessa will be signing copies of her book, *Forbidden City*, which will be available at the Museum's Cha May Ching Boutique.

Vanessa Hua is an award-winning author, writer, and columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle. She is the author of *Deceit and Other Possibilities* and *River of Stars*. For the past two decades, she has been writing about Asia and the diaspora, filing stories from China, Burma, and South Korea. Her work has appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, The Atlantic and Newsweek.

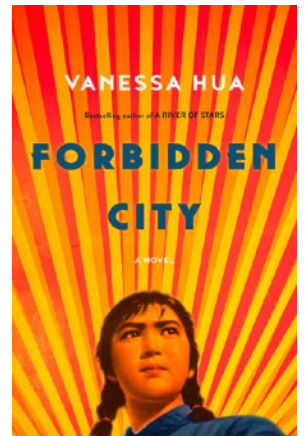


Photo courtesy of Blue Flower Arts.



Vanessa Hua. Photo courtesy of Blue Flower Arts.



REGISTRATION FORM

How to Register

1. Go to our website, www.societyforasianart.org, sign up and pay online; OR
2. Print and fill out this registration form, and send it with a check or the credit card information to:
Society for Asian Art, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

SAA does not issue tickets or confirmations. You will be contacted ONLY if your registration cannot be completed. A valid email address for each registrant must be provided for online programs.

The Society for Asian Art's cancellation policy requires at least one week's advance written notice in order to receive a refund of registration fees. Requests must be received by the SAA office no later than one week before the start of the event, lecture series, or literature course. This excludes our travel programs, which have separate cancellation policies, as well as any programs where a specific refund policy is stated on the event page or description.

Please note that by registering for a program, you are giving consent to the SAA to be photographed or videoed as a participant.

Programs	Fee Per Person	Quantity	Subtotal
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 19 - Nov. 18, 2022 Fall 2022 Fall Arts of Asia Lecture Series Forging New Connections: Asia in the First Millennium of the Common Era Advance registration must be received by SAA by Aug. 12, 2022.	\$200 Members \$250 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 10, 2022 Member Event - Contemporary Miniature Painting in India Advance registration must be received by SAA by Sept. 3, 2022.	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 16, 2022 Study Group - Western Engagements with the Gamelan Music of Java & Bali Advance registration must be received by SAA by Sept. 9, 2022.	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 24, 2022 Member Event - The Ren Brown Collection Advance registration must be received by SAA by Sept. 17, 2022.	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 29, 2022 Member Event - Lost Kingdoms of Ancient China Advance registration must be received by SAA by Sept. 22, 2022.	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 8, 2022 Member Event - Forbidden City Advance registration must be received by SAA by Oct. 1, 2022.	\$15 Members \$20 Non-Members		
<input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 17, Oct. 31 & Nov. 14, 2022 Fall 2022 Literature Course - Jin Ping Mei: The Aphrodisiac, The Climax, and The Dissolution Advance registration must be received by SAA by Oct. 10, 2022.	\$105 Members \$130 Non-Members		

Total Amount _____

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Check Number _____ Check Amount _____ Check Date _____

Charge registration fees to my credit card (CHECK ONE): Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

_____-_____-_____- / ____/____
Credit Card Number Expiration (MM/YY) CVV (3 digit # on back of Visa, MC or D; 4 digit # on front of AmEx)

Signature Date

COVID DISCLAIMER

Given the persisting risks posed by COVID-19, attendance at any SAA in-person event necessarily increases your risk of exposure. If you choose to attend an event in person, you are agreeing to assume all the risks of exposure and to waive any right to make claims against the SAA, its agents, or its members for exposure. Your attendance is also your agreement to present proof of having received full vaccination against COVID-19, and that you will always wear a mask over your nose and mouth, except when actively eating or drinking. You also agree to follow any additional requirements imposed by public health authorities. SAA in-person events will follow current health protocols.

Society for Asian Art
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LITERATURE & CULTURE FALL 2022 COURSE

Jin Ping Mei 金瓶梅: The Aphrodisiac, The Climax, and The Dissolution with Stephen Roddy

When: **Mondays, Oct. 17, Oct. 31 & Nov. 14, 2022**

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

Place: **Koret Education Center, Asian Art Museum & Zoom Webinars**

Fee: **\$105 per person Society members; \$130 per person non-members for the course.**

Advance registration must be received by the SAA by Oct. 10, 2022.

Traditional Chinese novels tend to be epic in scope, and Chin P'ing Mei is no exception. The last twenty chapters of this book cover not only the destruction of the Ximen household and the dispersal of its surviving members, but the fall of the Northern Song Dynasty at the hands of the Jurchen (Jin) invaders as they overrun the North China plain. But before that happens, the author gradually brings all of the physical and moral excesses of the first 40 chapters to a crescendo in the momentous events of the four "decades" of chapters 40-80. Variations on the family and societal dynamics that we have witnessed earlier—infidelity, jealousy, financial entanglements, political corruption, etc.—become ever more convoluted, revealing ever greater complexity in Pan Chinlian, Li Ping'er, Wu Yueniang, their servants and others in or outside the household. To what extent can we feel empathy or at least pity for characters who have sinned so egregiously? Should we take some comfort in the ways in which nearly all of them receive their just deserts? We will ponder these questions as we make our way through the material splendor that only begins to fade as the family enters its final, terminal decline. Vol. 3-5 of the David Roy translation are all available as e-books.



Stephen Roddy, a professor at the University of San Francisco, received his PhD in East Asian Studies from Princeton University, and specializes in the fiction and other prose genres of 18th and 19th century China and Japan. He teaches courses in Japanese and Chinese literature, culture, and language.

Bodhidharma (Daruma) holding his shoes, by Suio Genro (Japanese, 1716–1789). Ink on paper. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Gift from The Collection of George Gund III, 2016.195. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.