



September - October 2024

No. 5

Hallyu! The Korean Wave

Sept. 27, 2024 - Jan. 6, 2025

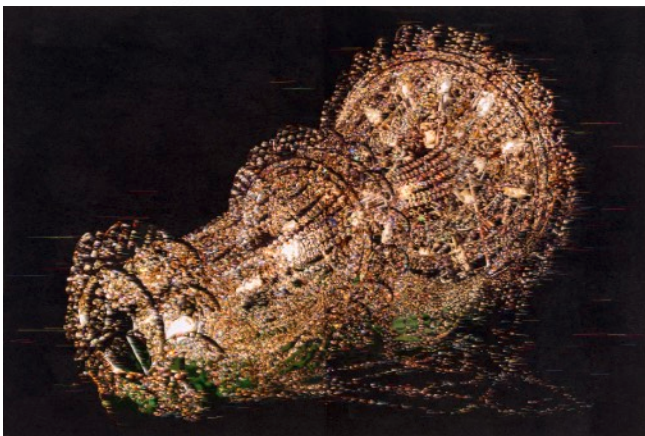
Hambrecht Contemporary Gallery, Wilbur Foundation Gallery, Yang Yamazaki Pavilion

Discover why the world can't get enough K-pop, Korean dramas and kimbap.

Tickets available Aug. 16

K-pop, K-drama, K-cinema, K-fashion, and K-beauty

Step into the spectacular world of Korean dramas, music, film, TV, fashion, and beauty – from Netflix hits like Squid Game and the Academy Award-winning "Parasite" to chart-topping K-pop idols and influential designers – and discover how South Korea reinvented itself as a 21st-century pop culture phenomenon. Created by the V&A and touring the world, Hallyu! The Korean Wave includes nearly 200 objects and artworks that illustrate the limitless flow of creativity powering the world's biggest, fastest-growing contemporary cultural wave from Asia.



Top left: "Parasite," 2019. © CJ Entertainment. Top middle: Aespa "Next Level" MV, 2021. © SM Entertainment. Top right: "Squid Game," 2021. © Netflix. All rights reserved. Bottom left: What you see is the unseen / Chandeliers for Five Cities by Kyungah Ham, 2015. © Kyungah Ham. Courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery. Photo: Chunho An. Bottom middle: Moon Jar Dress, Blue by Minju Kim, 2021. © Minju Kim. Photo: Sangmi An. Model: Leehyun Kim. Bottom right: Peony Gown by Miss Sohee, 2020. Photo: Daniel Sachon.

The Society for Asian Art is an independent nonprofit organization that provides programs on Asian art and culture and supports the Asian Art Museum.





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Member Event - Isamu Noguchi with Matt Kirsch

Saturday, Oct. 19

Study Group - Indonesia's Indigenous Textiles with Jean Howe & William Ingram



UPCOMING EVENTS (Subject to Change)

Thursday, Nov. 14 Member Event - Radical Clay: Contemporary Women Artists from Japan with Janice Katz

Sunday, Dec. 8 Member Event - Annual Holiday Party at Zentner Gallery



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members, who joined the Society in June and 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!

Kathleen Van Boven
Wendy Chiang

Gillies McKenna & Ruth Muschel
Arun & Coral Patel



SOCIAL MEDIA

The Social Media Committee is reaching out to all members who will be participating in our trips and programs this year. 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.

Society for Asian Art

September - October 2024, No. 5

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and Susan Lai

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*ex officio



ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2024 LECTURE SERIES

Beyond the Familiar: A Deeper Look into the Asian Art Museum Collection



Left: Seated Buddha in meditation, approx. 1300–1400. Cambodia. Leaded bronze. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection, B71S4. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Right: *The Melt*, 2017, by Ang Tsherin Sherpa (Nepalese, b. 1968). Acrylic, ink, and gold on canvas. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Museum purchase, Mortimer-Harvey Fund, 2017.44. © Tsherin Sherpa. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

When: Fridays from Aug. 30 to Dec. 13, 2024 (No lecture on Oct. 4 & Nov. 29)

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. 23, 2024.

We will 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: Robert Mintz

Much has changed in the last few years at the Asian Art Museum. New curators and scholars have fresh ideas about objects in our collection. Others are re-examining common assumptions and ideas about the history, provenance, and context of even our well-known artifacts and will also introduce new acquisitions to our audience.

The Instructor of Record is none other than Chief Curator Robert Mintz. He has been working with our curatorial staff to present a significantly different approach to talking about art.

Just when you thought you knew our collection, join us in 14 lectures to take a new and deeper dive into our favorites, new and undiscovered treasures at the Asian Art Museum. The Arts of Asia committee welcomes comments about our lecture series. Please direct comments to info@societyforasianart.org.

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



ARTS OF ASIA FALL 2024 LECTURE SERIES

Speakers & Topics (Subject to Change)

Aug. 30, 2024

Beyond the Familiar: AAM Collections Old and New
Robert Mintz, Chief Curator, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Sept. 6, 2024

Immersive Sacred Environments
Jeffrey Durham, Curator of Himalayan Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Sept. 13, 2024

Bridging the Indian Ocean: Comparisons and Contrasts
Forrest McGill, Former Curator, South and Southeast Asian Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Sept. 20, 2024

Sixteenth-Century Painting of Officials Gathering in Yeongbyeon: A Virtual Tour of the City in Today's North Korea
Hyonjeong Kim Han, Joseph de Heer Curator of Asian Art, Denver Art Museum

Sept. 27, 2024 - *This lecture will be held in Koret Education Center and on Zoom.*

Weak in the Knees: When Does Art Move, Inspire, or Bring us to Tears?
Padma Dorje Maitland, Malavalli Family Foundation Associate Curator of the Art of the Indian Subcontinent, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Oct. 11, 2024

Women Artists in the AAM Contemporary Collection
Abby Chen, Head of Contemporary Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Oct. 18, 2024

Who Was I Made For?: Provenance Research at the Asian Art Museum
Natasha Reichle, Associate Curator of Southeast Asian Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Oct. 25, 2024 - *This lecture will be held in Koret Education Center and on Zoom.*

Japanese Modern Prints
Yuki Morishima, Associate Curator of Japanese Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Nov. 1, 2024

Is that Art? Game and Tech as a Medium
Cheng Xu, Curator for Games and Technology, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Nov. 8, 2024

New Acquisitions/New Voices
Naz Cuguoglu, Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art & Programs, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Nov. 15, 2024

Korean Popular Culture
Yoon-Jee Choi, Assistant Curator for Korean Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Nov. 22, 2024

Persuasion, Instruction, and Entertainment: Storytelling in Chinese Pictures
Fan Jeremy Zhang, Barbara and Gerson Bakar Curator of Chinese Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Dec. 6, 2024

Sumiyoshi Festival Screens
Laura W. Allen, Former Curator, Japanese Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Dec. 13, 2024

Melancholia: Nagahiro Toshio and the Japanese Wartime Survey of the Yungang Caves
Jun Hu, Mr. & Mrs. Pai Ruchu Presidential Professor in Arts & Humanities, University of California, Berkeley



MEMBER EVENTS

Anime Comes of Age: The History of Japanese Animation, 1980-Present with Joshua Frydman

When: **Thursday, Sept. 11, 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 Sept. 4, 2024.



Photo by Dex Ezekiel on Unsplash
<https://tinyurl.com/5frbwuee>

In 1979, *Mobile Suit Gundam* and *The Rose of Versailles* proved that Japanese animated television series could work as entertainment for adult audiences as well as children. As appreciation of what animation could do spread in the high-speed economy of 1980's Japan, new genres and forms of anime were developed. Out of this explosion of animation came some of the powerhouse directors, writers and animation studios that would go on to change not only Japanese popular culture, but that of the entire world over the next few decades. Following on last year's talk about the origins of anime, this presentation looks at how and why Japanese animation became a worldwide phenomenon, and what led to the current styles and titles that remain popular today.

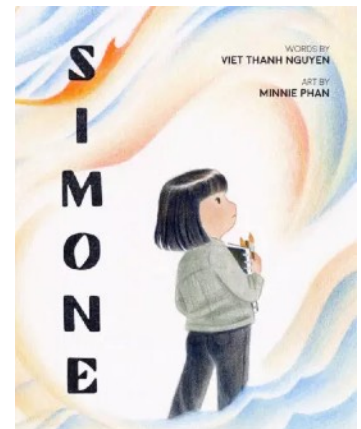


Joshua Frydman

Joshua Frydman is Associate Professor of Japanese at the University of Oklahoma. A scholar on ancient Japan, his interests include the development of writing systems in East Asia and worldwide. He is the author of *The Japanese Myths: a Guide to Gods, Spirits and Heroes* and *Inscribed Objects and the Development of Literature in Early Japan*.

Simone with Viet Thanh Nguyen & Minnie Phan

When: **Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024**
 Time: **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
 Place: **Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum**
 Fee: **\$20 per person after museum admission.**
Children 12 and under are free.

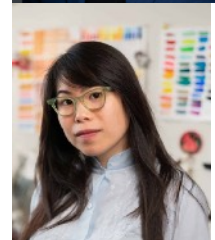


Cover photo of *Simone*,
 courtesy of the publisher.

Award-winning author Viet Thanh Nguyen and acclaimed illustrator Minnie Phan will captivate parents, grandparents and children alike at this special presentation. They will offer insights, inspiration and a look at their just published book, *Simone*, a heartfelt story about a Vietnamese American girl whose life is transformed by a wildfire. Viet Thanh Nguyen brings his emotionally resonant voice and concern for social justice to the story, while Minnie Phan's beautiful illustrations are geared toward children's experiences.



After the talk, Minnie Phan will lead children in the audience in a hands-on drawing and painting activity in the Koret Education Center, while Viet Thanh Nguyen will answer questions about his writings and his work. They will also be signing books, which will be available for purchase in the museum's gift shop. Don't miss this unique opportunity to interact with the world-renowned author and illustrator! We urge you to bring your children and grandchildren to the museum for this fun-filled family program.



Top: Viet Thanh Nguyen
 Bottom: Minnie Phan

Viet Thanh Nguyen is the author of *The Sympathizer*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. His other books are *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War*, and *Race and Resistance: Literature and Politics in Asian America*. He is the Aerol Arnold Chair of English, and a Professor of English, American Studies and Ethnicity, and Comparative Literature at the University of Southern California. Minnie Phan is an illustrator and writer based in Oakland. Her work has been featured by Google, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the San Francisco Public Library.



MEMBER EVENT

Against Time: Isamu Noguchi's Museum Experiment with Matthew Kirsch

When: **Thursday, Oct. 17, 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 Oct. 10, 2024.

In 1985, American-born artist Isamu Noguchi opened his namesake museum in a renovated photoengraving factory across the street from his longtime studio in Long Island City. The experimental move was Noguchi's rebuttal to the art museum environment he had grown critical of during his career, and a counter to the numerous museums that had asked him to consider making gifts. The museum's origins will be discussed in the context of *Against Time: The Noguchi Museum 40th Anniversary Reinstallation*, an adapted reinstallation of the second floor galleries, which opens on September 10, 2024. Within these galleries, Noguchi paired a selection of sculptures from the 1920s through the early 1970s with project models related to his various completed and unrealized public commissions for gardens, plazas, playgrounds, fountains and monuments, an area of his practice that was relatively unsung in 1985. Through the lens of the reinstallation, we can explore Noguchi's art, the choices he made about its display and the museum's ongoing work in ensuring his legacy.

Matthew Kirsch is Curator and Director of Research at The Noguchi Museum, where he is involved with exhibitions, public programs, publications, and editorial projects. He has been a major contributor to internationally renowned exhibitions and monographs.



Isamu Noguchi with sculptures at his Mure Studio, c. 1974. The Noguchi Museum Archives, 04024. Photo: Michio Noguchi. © The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, New York / ARS.



Matthew Kirsch. Photo courtesy of The Noguchi Museum.



STUDY GROUP

Indonesia's Indigenous Textiles with Jean Howe & William Ingram

When: **Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024**

Time: **10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

Place: **Koret Education Center, Asian Art Museum**

Fee: **\$25 per person Society members; \$30 per person non-members after museum admission.**

Come explore and enjoy a presentation by Jean Howe and William Ingram, co-founders of Threads of Life, an Indonesian social enterprise since 1998, on how to sustain Indonesia's indigenous textile traditions in the 21st century. Threads of Life works directly with over 1000 women weavers in more than 35 groups on 12 Indonesian islands to build livelihoods, empower women, revitalize indigenous culture, and conserve dye plant ecologies. Their textile and basket products can be seen on their website and in retail galleries in Bali.

After meeting in Tokyo and living in Japan for 5 years, Jean Howe and William Ingram moved to Bali in 1993 and started leading cultural tours to weaving communities through the 1990s. During the Southeast Asian economic crisis of 1998, they started [Threads of Life](#) to support textile culture, address the poverty caused by the economic crisis, and to facilitate the continuation of natural dye traditions. The organization has grown to employ 40 people, with Jean developing a deep knowledge of Indonesia's textile heritage and William exploring the natural dye arts and dye plant cultivation.



Photos courtesy of Threads of Life.



Fall 2024 Literature Course In Pursuit of Qu Yuan (343-277 BCE) with Paula Varsano

When: **Sundays, Sept. 8, 15, and 22, 2024**

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

Place: **Koret Education Center, Asian Art Museum**

Fee: **\$100 per person Society members; \$125 per person non-members for the course after museum admission.**

Advance registration must be received by SAA by Sept. 1, 2024.

The name Qu Yuan (alternately written, Ch'ü Yuan) can provoke a range of responses, from admiration and compassion to exasperation and even disdain. Was he a wise and upright minister in the court of King Huai of Chu, who ended his life upon realizing that he was unable to save the kingdom from being overcome by the neighboring state of Qin? Or was he a man obsessed with the need to make known—and preserve—his own moral purity in the face of the corrupt and violent world of the Warring States? A supremely disciplined truth-teller or an unhinged madman? A statesman or a shaman? Patriot or narcissist? Or, as certain scholars have been wondering of late: did such a man ever exist? This short course on the great statesman and poet of the fourth century BCE will offer a window onto the history, legend, poetry, and cultural responses that comprise his complicated legacy, well beyond the festivals and traditional dishes that endure in popular culture.

Each class will be prefaced by a brief lecture introducing the historical background of particular facets of the Qu Yuan story, the salient aesthetic features of the texts in question, and the key debates that have exercised readers in modern and contemporary times. Each presentation will be followed by a guided conversation as, together, we engage in close readings of the works that have been passed down to us, raising our own queries and questions along the way. (Note: Attendees who have competency in the reading of Classical Chinese may request these texts in the original.)

Book to purchase: Unless otherwise indicated, all readings will be drawn from *Ch'u Tz'ü: The Songs of the South: An Ancient Chinese Anthology*. David Hawkes, editor and translator. Penguin Classics, 1985. See program webpage for [Reading Assignments](#).

Paula Varsano, Professor of Chinese Literature at the University of California, Berkeley, earned a B.A. in East Asian Studies at Yale University and a PhD in Chinese Literature at Princeton University. She specializes in classical Chinese poetry and thought from the 3rd through the 11th centuries, with particular interest in the intersections between Chinese literary practice and philosophical notions of the self. Selected book publications include *Tracking the Banished Immortal: The Poetry of Li Bo and its Critical Reception* (University of Hawaii Press, 2003), *In Praise of Blandness (the English translation of François Jullien's Éloge de la fadeur, Zone Books, 2004)*, and *The Rhetoric of Hiddenness in Traditional Chinese Culture* (SUNY, 2016). She is currently completing work on the book, *Knowing and Being Known: The Lyric Subject in Traditional Chinese Poetry and Poetics*.



Nine Songs - album, after Zhao Mengfu (MET, 1973.121.15a-p)



Paula Varsano

Donations for Book Sale

We accept books throughout the year for our annual Book Sale. If you move, downsize or are tired of all the books collecting dust in your home, please donate them to our Book Sale. We accept books with Asian subjects only, be it art, culture, novels, history, travel, cooking, exhibition catalogs or others. Please email the SAA office at info@societyforasianart.org to arrange drop off or pick up.