



ASIAN ART COUNCIL PROGRAMS LATE SPRING 2016

Curator's Gallery Tour: New on View in the Asian Galleries

April 5, Tuesday at 6 PM in the Museum

- 5:30 PM: Hoffman Entrance doors open to accommodate early arrivals: access provided to Brantley, Korean, Islamic and Japanese galleries only
- 6:00 PM: Light refreshments in the Warren Foyer and access to Chinese galleries
- 6:30 PM: Program begins

Please join us for our annual walk through the Asian galleries to see what's on view. Curator Maribeth Graybill will speak about selected works from the Netsuke Menagerie; a recent rotation of Chinese paintings and prints, featuring some contemporary prints on view for the first time; Japanese screen paintings and ceramics; and a small but wonderful group of Iranian 'portraits' of dandies at the Safavid court. One of the highlights of the exhibition will be a spectacular Japanese screen of Flower Carts that was recently completely restored with grant funding from the Sumitomo and Cowles foundations.



- **There is no charge for this event**, and you are welcome to bring guests. To help us plan the refreshments, [please let us know that you are coming by calling 503-276-4267 #1](tel:503-276-4267). Please state your name clearly and the number in your party.

Book Club for April

April 13, Wednesday, at 11:40 AM

West Conference Room, Mark Building

The Birth of Korean Cool: How One Nation Is Conquering the World Through Pop Culture, by Euny Hong



The Rediscovery of a Gem in the PAM Collections: Donald Jenkins Decodes Asai Chû

May 4, Wednesday at 6 PM

Miller Room, Mark Building

6:00 reception

6:30 program

Followed by a no-host dinner at West Café

Asai Chû (1856-1907) is known to every Japanese high school student in Japan as one of that country's first masters of oil painting. So good, in fact, that he was invited to become a professor at the Imperial College of Fine Arts, the most prestigious art school in Japan. But he walked away

from fame to spend two years studying Impressionism at its source, in France. After his return in 1902, he chose to go to Kyoto, rather than Tokyo, and taught at the Kyoto Higher School of Arts and Crafts. Kyoto was then, as now, the heart of Japanese craft and design traditions. Asai embraced this history and eagerly experimented with a wide variety of media. Perhaps the most delightful product of his time in Kyoto—cut short by his premature death in 1907—is his illustrations for *A Poetry Contest on Contemporary Customs in Fifty Turns*. A collaborative project with his friend and poet Ikegami Tōen, the book presents 50 pairs of figures representing a wide swath of Meiji-period occupations, all done with insight and gentle humor. (The pair shown here are a traditional painter, seated in his studio with a brush; and a ‘modern’ Western-style painter, heading off to make sketches in nature.) Donald Jenkins has loved this work ever since he purchased a copy for the Museum in 1989. In the past year, he has devoted himself to both deciphering and translating the poetic texts of this work, and to tracking down Asai Chū. He has just submitted a major article on Asai and the *Poetry Contest* for publication. He will recount his journey of discovery for us in this special illustrated talk.

- The lecture is open to the public without charge, but as always, please let us know that you are coming by calling 503-276-4267 #1. Please state your name clearly and the number in your party.
- AAC Members are invited to join Donald Jenkins after the lecture for a no-host dinner at West Café. Space limited to 25 persons; places reserved on a first-come, first-served basis on the receipt of your check for \$35/person. Please send your checks NO LATER THAN Thursday, April 28th, to PAM-AAC, Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland OR 97205.

Book Club for May

April 11, Wednesday, at 11:40 AM

West Conference Room, Mark Building

Fresh Ink: Ten Takes on Chinese Tradition. The catalogue of an exhibition organized at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in 2011; co-authored by exhibition curators Hao Sheng and Joseph Scheier-Dolberg.

AAC Trip to Los Angeles

May 17–20

This trip will center on a once-in-a-lifetime exhibition at the Getty Art Center, focused on the art of the famous Buddhist caves at Dunhuang. Located at the furthest western reach of traditional China, Dunhuang is one of the great pilgrimage sites of the world. Monks and traders who traversed the harsh Taklamakan Desert found refuge in the Dunhuang oasis—and for a thousand years, they carved cave shrines in the sandstone cliffs nearby. Dunhuang is a repository of Buddhist art from the fourth to the fourteenth centuries, with magnificent sculptures and paintings preserved in the dry desert air.

Itinerary:

- Tuesday May 17: morning flight to LAX (we strongly recommend that everyone take the same flight, unless you have gone down to L.A. early); gather at the airport and bus to LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art). Lunch @ LACMA, curator-led tours of various Asian galleries. Bus onward to hotel in Pasadena. Overnight in Pasadena.

- Wednesday May 18: a full day in Pasadena, including guided tours of the Chinese and Japanese gardens at The Huntington Library; the world-class collection of Buddhist and Hindu sculpture at the Norton Simon Museum; and exhibitions of *Royal Taste: The Art of Princely Courts in Fifteenth-Century China* and *The View from a Scholar's Studio: Japanese Literati Paintings from Tiezudingzhai Collection*. End the day with a fabulous dinner in a renowned restaurant. Overnight in Pasadena.
- Thursday May 19: after a morning tour of the Gamble House, one of the finest examples of the California Arts and Crafts architecture, we will transfer by bus to the west side of L.A., deposit our luggage at the hotel, and then move on to the Getty Art Museum. The afternoon is for exploring *Cave Temples of Dunhuang: Buddhist Art on China's Silk Road* in depth. That evening, we will attend a special lecture on Dunhuang's importance in world culture. Overnight in L.A. near the Getty.
- Friday May 20: the tour disperses.

COST: \$1025/person, including \$250 tax-deductible contribution to the Asian Art Council

What's covered: All admission fees to museums and lectures listed on the itinerary; hospitality to our curatorial hosts; bus travel to all sites on itinerary beginning at noon Tuesday May 17 through noon Thursday May 19; lunch and dinner on Wednesday May 18th.

What's NOT covered: round-trip airfare PDX-LAX; ground transportation from hotel to LAX on Friday May 20; hotel lodgings; any meals not listed on the itinerary; related gratuities.

We can make this trip happen with 10 participants—but we need to hear from you ASAP. Once we have 10, we will let you know and ask you to book your own flight and hotel reservations.

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE contact Jan Quivey by email at jan.quivey@pam.org or by phone at 503-276-4242, by MONDAY APRIL 4th.

AAC Annual Meeting and Dinner

June 7, Tuesday, at the Town Club. SAVE THE DATE! Invitations will go out in early May.