

ASIAN ART MUSEUM  
Chong-Moon Lee Center  
For Asian Art & Culture  
[www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org)



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## News



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## BE PART OF OUR HISTORY

### Join the 50th Anniversary Festivities at the Asian Art Museum

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 29, 2015—During its golden anniversary year, the Asian Art Museum will celebrate with an array of activities and public events.

On Jan. 15, 2016, the museum will debut a 50th anniversary timeline installation titled Zero to 50+ that traces the history of the museum. Accompanying the installation is an online experience, inviting the public to share museum memories that build on the timeline. The public may also vote for their favorite artwork in the museum's collection of more than 18,000 objects via the 50 Favorite Artworks website.

Special events will include the Japanese New Year's bell-ringing ceremony; a demonstration and lecture with internationally renowned dance troupe Cloud Gate Dance Theatre; and a gold-themed public party in honor of the museum's golden anniversary.

Here's an early look of the some of the exciting events planned for 2016:

### 50th Anniversary Programs

#### Memories & Milestones

<http://memories.asianart.org/>

The Memories & Milestones website invites the public to share favorite museum memories that build on the Zero to 50+ timeline. From programming and events to celebrity sightings and first dates, this special online experience celebrates the unique place the museum has in our lives.

#### 50 Favorite Artworks

<http://5Ofaves.asianart.org>

What's your favorite artwork in our collection? Whether you know the object of your affection or you're new to the museum, you can chime in. This simple process is a treat for your eyes and a fantastic way to be part of the museum's 50th anniversary celebration. To get started, head to [5Ofaves.asianart.org](http://5Ofaves.asianart.org) right now.

MORE

Then, tell your family and friends to vote for their favorites, too. Keep your eyes peeled for the results in January.

**Zero to 50+**

Daily, Friday, Jan. 15–Friday, July 1, 2016

Nancy B. Hamon Arcade, free with museum admission

Take a walk through history. A 50th anniversary timeline installation on the museum's first floor will let you trace the history of the Asian Art Museum along with major events in San Francisco and beyond. The installation, featuring photographs and video displays, will show the linked history of the museum and its home city. An interactive feature will invite visitors to contribute their own memories.

**Golden Gala: A 50th Anniversary Benefit**

Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016

To honor our 50th anniversary, the Asian Art Museum will host the Golden Gala, a grand celebratory benefit. Chaired by Akiko Yamazaki and co-chaired by Helina Au, Bill Kim, Nancy Nishimura and Ken Wilcox, this gala event will celebrate the history and Pan-Asian cultures of the museum while raising funds to ensure the museum's ability to continue to present world-class exhibitions and education programs.

**Member Big Thank You Party**

Saturday, June 11, 2016

Members make museum magic possible—and the museum is saying thank you with one big party! Join the museum on the 50th anniversary of its grand opening in Golden Gate Park as the museum applauds all members, past and present. The day-long festivities include: live music, special gallery tours, craft and activities, and a Rhino Club kids parade.

**Exhibition and Art Programs**

**Cloud Gate Dance Theatre Lecture and Demonstration**

Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 15–16, 2016, 2–3 PM

Samsung Hall, Grand Staircase, \$20 (advance purchase required)

In advance of the summer 2016 exhibition *Emperors' Treasures: Chinese Art from the National Palace Museum, Taipei*, the Asian Art Museum hosts Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan in two presentations showcasing the company's process and inspiration led by founding director Lin Hwai-min. This lecture-demonstration will take you inside the practice of one of today's most celebrated international dance companies and reveal their artistic influences, including Chinese calligraphy, meditation and martial arts traditions. After the talk, members of Cloud Gate will dance through the Loggia and grand staircase in a short movement piece inspired

by the museum collection. Seating is limited. Cloud Gate's Bay Area residency is presented in conjunction with the Cal Performances 2016 spring season.

### **Solid Gold**

#### **Opening Party for *Hidden Gold: Mining Its Meaning in Asian Art***

Thursday, March 3, 2016, 7–11 PM

Museum-wide

The Asian Art Museum will unveil its anniversary exhibition, *Hidden Gold: Mining Its Meaning in Asian Art*, with a high-energy “Solid Gold” public party with dancers, DJs and more.

### **Artists Drawing Club**

Select Thursday evenings, April–August 2016 (April 21, May 26, June 30, July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 22)

Museum-wide, free with museum admission

The Artists Drawing Club series invites artists to create new artwork using the museum as a platform to draw connections between ideas, times, cultures and the broader world. The 2016 series will feature artists Nick Dong, Kota Ezawa, Eliza Gregory, Hayv Kahraman and Jerome Reyes, among others.

## **Cultural and Community Events**

### **30th Annual Japanese New Year's Bell-Ringing Ceremony**

Thursday, Dec. 31, 2015, 9:30 AM (Members only), 11:30 AM (Open to the public)

Samsung Hall, free with museum admission

Ring in the New Year by taking a swing at a 2,100-pound, 16th-century Japanese temple bell. Led by Rev. Gengo Akiba, with opening remarks about the Japanese New Year by community leader Yoshie Akiba, this inspiring ceremony will include a purification ritual and chanting of the Buddhist Heart Sutra. Rev. Akiba will begin the bell-ringing, and participants may then take turns ringing the bell to leave behind any unfortunate experiences, regrettable deeds or ill luck from the previous year. The bell will be struck 108 times on New Year's Eve to usher in the New Year and curb the 108 mortal desires (*bonno*) that, according to Buddhist belief, torment humankind.

First come, first served. Pick up tickets to ring the bell at the admissions desk. Members can enjoy earlier admission to this event.

*We make every effort to allow all our visitors an opportunity to participate in this ceremony. However, to ensure you have a chance to ring the bell, it is recommended that you arrive at Samsung Hall no later than 12 PM.*

**Omochitsuki!**

Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016, 12–1 PM

Samsung Hall, free with museum admission

Welcome the New Year with Kagami Kai, an acclaimed local mochi-pounding group. Enjoy the colorful and exciting Japanese New Year's tradition of mochi pounding to make delectably sweet rice cakes, with lively music, energetic dance and traditional costumes.

**Lunar New Year Celebration**

Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016

Museum-wide, free with museum admission

Join us at the Asian Art Museum as we bid farewell to the Year of the Ram and welcome the Year of the Monkey with a variety of special events, family-friendly activities and unique merchandise in the store.

**SFUSD Art Festival**

Thursday, April 28–Friday, May 6, 2016

Museum-wide, free with museum admission

The San Francisco Unified School District proudly presents the SFUSD Arts Festival, a celebration of student creativity in visual, literary, media and performing arts hosted by the Asian Art Museum.

**May Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration**

Sunday, May 1 & 15, 2016

Museum-wide, free with museum admission

Celebrate Asian American Pacific Heritage Month at the Asian Art Museum with yoga classes, art making, tours and storytelling.

**Korea Day**

Sunday, Aug. 21, 2016

Museum-wide

Enjoy the breadth of Korean and Korean American arts and culture at the Asian Art Museum's eighth annual Korea Day. Korea Day offers a variety of performances, gallery tours, arts and crafts activities, and food tastings inspired by traditional and contemporary Korean culture.

**Filipino American History Month Celebration**

Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016

Museum-wide, free with museum admission

This annual celebration of Filipino American heritage explores the past, present and future of Filipino art and culture in the Bay Area. Enjoy performances, talks, arts and food tastings at this annual festival.

Programs are subject to change. For updates, please visit [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org) or call 415.581.3500.

### **ABOUT THE ASIAN ART MUSEUM**

The Asian Art Museum—Chong-Moon Lee Center for Asian Art and Culture is one of San Francisco's premier arts institutions and home to a world-renowned collection of more than 18,000 Asian art treasures spanning 6,000 years of history. Through rich art experiences, centered on historic and contemporary artworks, the Asian Art Museum unlocks the past for visitors, bringing it to life while serving as a catalyst for new art, new creativity and new thinking.

Information: 415.581.3500 or [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org)

Location: 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

Hours: The museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 AM to 5 PM. Hours are extended on Thursdays until 9 PM starting Feb. 26 through Oct. 8. Closed Mondays, as well as New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

General Admission: FREE for museum members, \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (65+), college students with ID, and youths (13–17). FREE for children under 12 and SFUSD students with ID. General admission on Thursdays after 5 PM is \$5 for all visitors (except those under 12, SFUSD students and museum members, who are always admitted FREE). General admission is FREE to all on Target First Free Sundays (the first Sunday of every month). A surcharge may apply for admission to special exhibitions.

Access: The Asian Art Museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information regarding access: 415.581.3598; TDD: 415.861.2035.

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