

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



200 Larkin Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
T 415.581.3711  
[pr@asianart.org](mailto:pr@asianart.org)

## News



PRESS CONTACTS:  
Tim Hallman  
415.581.3711  
[pr@asianart.org](mailto:pr@asianart.org)

Annie Tsang  
415.581.3560  
[annietsang@asianart.org](mailto:annietsang@asianart.org)

### PUBLIC PROGRAMS

#### **Looking East: How Japan Inspired Monet, Van Gogh, and Other Western Artists** **Oct. 30, 2015-Feb. 7, 2016**

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 28, 2015—The Asian Art Museum offers a range of public programs to accompany the special exhibition *Looking East: How Japan Inspired Monet, Van Gogh, and Other Western Artists*. Visitors can delve further into the exhibition topic through in-gallery talks, music performances, art activities and docent-led tours.

Japan's opening to international trade in the 1850s after centuries of self-imposed isolation set off a craze for all things Japanese among European and North American collectors, artists and designers. The phenomenon, dubbed *japonisme* by French writers, radically altered the course of Western art in the modern era. San Francisco's Asian Art Museum surveys into this sweeping development in the traveling exhibition *Looking East*. The exhibition will be on view from Oct. 30, 2015–Feb. 7, 2016 with the exhibition's final weeks marking the start of the museum's 50th anniversary in 2016.

### IN-GALLERY TALKS & LECTURES

#### **Looking East-Looking West with Helen Burnham**

Thursday, Oct. 29, 2–3:30 PM, Samsung Hall

Society for Asian Art, \$15 member, \$20 non-member (after museum admission)

The art and culture of Japan inspired leading modern artists, including Van Gogh and Monet, to create works of renewed vision and singular beauty beginning in the late 19th century. Join exhibition curator Helen Burnham, the Pamela and Peter Voss Curator at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, for a lively introduction to the phenomenon known as *japonisme*, including many of the renowned masterpieces presently on view in *Looking East: How Japan Inspired Monet, Van Gogh, and Other Western Artists*.

*Helen Burnham's primary area of expertise is the art of 19th century France. She has a Ph.D from NYU. Prior to joining the MFA she was assistant curator at the Musee d'Art American in Giverny. Currently she is preparing a loan exhibition on Henri Matisse and*

MORE

*his personal collection. At the MFA she has organized a number of exhibitions from their collection.*

### **In-Gallery Talk with Dr. Helen Burnham, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**

Friday, Oct. 30, 2–2:30 PM

Special exhibition ticket required. Space is limited. Sign up and meet at the information desk.

Dr. Helen Burnham, Pamela and Peter Voss Curator of Prints and Drawings at the MFA Boston, will discuss the role of women as both subjects and artists during the period of fascination with Japan covered by the special exhibition *Looking East: How Japan Inspired Monet, Van Gogh, and Other Western Artists*. Space is limited.

## **PERFORMANCES, DEMONSTRATIONS & ACTIVITIES**

### **Art Lounge**

Daily, Oct. 30, 2015–Feb. 7, 10 AM–5 PM

Resource Center, free with museum admission

Appropriation or Appreciation? What's your take? Explore how a variety of artists address cultural exchange and appropriation in their work. Experience the work of Tina Takemoto, James Luna, Guillermo Gómez-Peña and Iona Rozeal Brown, among others. Share your personal perspectives and offer examples to contribute to the dialogue. Then, delve deeper into the process of woodblock-print design by composing an original artwork inspired by the museum's Art Speak teens under the guidance of artist and professor Imin Yeh.

### **Family Fun Day**

First and third Sundays, 10:30 AM–2:30 PM (stART Tour for kids ages 3–6: 10:30–11 AM; art making and self-guided activities: 11 AM–2 PM)

North Court, free with museum admission

Discover and play as a family at the Asian Art Museum. On Family Fun Days, our gallery activities, creative art projects and immersive storytelling make art appreciation into a lively, family-friendly event. Themes and projects change regularly, so visit again and again.

From November to early February, families are invited to discover the special exhibition *Looking East: How Japan Inspired Monet, Van Gogh, and Other Western Artists*. Through engaging exercises and drop-in art projects, the museum's Art Speak high school interns lead young visitors in interactive activities using the tools and techniques artists employ for structuring composition and creating designs. Make patterns with stamps, print using woodblocks, carve your own small stamp, or produce a postcard—there is truly something for everyone.

Please note: Street parking is free on Sundays, making a visit to the museum both fun and affordable.

### **Looking North: Traditional Music from Northern Japan**

Saturday, Nov. 14, 1:30–4 PM

Permanent galleries and Samsung Hall, free with museum admission

Enjoy a *shakuhachi* (bamboo flute) performance in the museum's galleries at 1:30 PM, then follow musician Baisho Matsumoto into Samsung Hall at 2 PM for a short talk and concert featuring traditional instruments, to include “Tsugaru Jongara-Bushi,” a popular Japanese folk song. For more than 35 years, Matsumoto has performed all over the world in the folk music style associated with Northern Japan. He plays *tsugaru-jamisen*, a version of a traditional Japanese stringed instrument that has a thicker neck and is played in a percussive and powerful manner.

This program is co-sponsored by Satsuki-Kai, a Japanese organization devoted to sharing Japanese culture with Bay Area communities.

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

Thursday, Dec. 31, 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, 12–1 PM

Samsung Hall, free with museum admission

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

***After the War Blues* and the Japanese American Experience**

Saturday, Feb. 6, 2-3:30 PM

Samsung Hall, free with museum admission

Speaker: Philip Kan Gotanda

Moderator: Michael Omi, Ethnic Studies Department, Asian American Studies

Join playwright Philip Kan Gotanda and Michael Omi of UC Berkeley as they discuss Kan Gotanda's body of work such as, *After the War Blues* and other productions, which address the developing and changing attitudes toward Japanese and Japanese Americans in the Bay Area from 1900 to after WWII. To set the stage, this program features excerpts from Kan Gotanda's plays with local actors and a Q&A with the audience.

## TEACHER WORKSHOP

**Teacher Workshop: *Looking East***

Saturday, Nov. 21, 9:30 AM–12:30 PM

\$10, pre-registration required at [asianart.org](http://asianart.org)

Explore the special exhibition *Looking East: How Japan Inspired Monet, Van Gogh, and Other Western Artists* through a gallery tour, curriculum materials and an art experience with artist Imin Yeh.

## TOURS

**Docent Tours**

***Looking East:*** Daily, Friday, Oct. 30, 2015–Sunday, Feb. 7, 2016, noon and 3 PM (45 minutes each)

Meet at the information desk, free with museum admission

**Kids' Tours**

Saturdays, Oct. 30–Feb. 6, 1–1:30 PM

Meet at the information desk, suggested for families with children ages 7–10  
Free with museum admission (kids 12 and younger always get in free)

Kids' Tours help children and parents view and discuss art, using engaging prompts to encourage closer viewing of the objects. Learn about Japanese art and design, as well as the Western artists who were inspired by Japanese forms and themes, while searching for hidden treasures from the museum's permanent collection and the special exhibition *Looking East: How Japan Inspired Monet, Van Gogh, and Other Western Artists*.

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. From Feb. 26 through Oct. 8, 2015, hours are extended on Thursdays until 9 PM. Closed Mondays, as well as New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

*Looking East* Admission: FREE for museum members and children (12 & under). On weekdays, \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors (65 & over), youth (13–17) and college students (with ID). On weekends, \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors (65 & over), youth (13–17) and college students (with ID). On Target First Free Sundays, admission is \$10.

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 \$5 weekday and \$10 weekend surcharge will apply for admission to the 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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