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Death, Sex, Music, and Hotpots Bring the Pleasures of *Tomb Treasures to Life*

San Francisco, February 1 — The unbridled luxury of the ancient Chinese royal courts is on full display in *Tomb Treasures: New Discoveries from China's Han Dynasty*, the Asian Art Museum's original exhibition of burial art recently unearthed from royal graves near present-day Shanghai (on view Feb. 17 – May 28, 2017). This presentation of mystical jade body suits, lacquer coffins, ritual bells that still chime and much more together paint a richly detailed portrait of life — and visions for the afterlife — in China 2,000 years ago.

With the opening of *Tomb Treasures*, the Asian Art Museum has organized a series of day and evening programs to unearth the untold stories and unexpectedly modern appetites of Han elites, who were as fascinated by pleasure in this life as the next.

“Tomb Pleasures” – self-guided tour with contemporary experts

Free, daily, available for download on mobile devices.

An underground exploration for visitors curious to learn more about the mysteries and histories of 10 surprising highlights in the exhibition. Showcasing intriguingly contemporary objects, “Tomb Pleasures” provides an intimate peek into how the Han nobility cared for their bodies and hearts — from hotpots, latrines, wine warmers, silver love tokens... to a pair of usable bronze dildos!

Commentary from a range of experts and museum-enthusiasts, like *Sex with Emily's* Dr. Emily Morse, Good Vibrations' resident sexologist Dr. Carol Queen, San Francisco Ballet principal dancer Yuan Yuan Tan, fashion and beauty vlogger Jenn Im of *ClothesEncounters*, and local food and wine authorities, offer an engaging, unique perspective into how we relate to the past, today.



Tasting Menu: Chinese Medicine and Healing Foods

Thursday, Mar 16/Apr 4

6:30–9 PM; See signs for detailed schedule.

Samsung Hall, North Court

\$10 general (includes museum admission); \$5 for members

The American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine presents an overview of the five elements of wood, earth, metal, fire and water. By understanding their body types, visitors can begin to identify “their” element. Enjoy a lively talk on these practices and discover more about health and longevity. Follow up with a sample bite from suggested diet pairings and see if it’s a fit.

Music for the Afterlife

Sunday, Mar 19, Apr 16, and May 21

12 and 2 PM

North Court

Free with museum admission

Local instrument inventor group Pet the Tiger will team up with Gamelan Encinal, a celebrated off-beat musical ensemble, for a presentation featuring three centuries of musical innovation. Custom-built instruments by musician Bart Hopkin, designed with the same tuning as the Han dynasty *Bianzhong* bronze bells, like those on display in *Tomb Treasures*, will come together to create a contemporary symphony.

Each performance features percussion and wind instruments in rearrangements of traditional gamelan melodies, the graphic score of “Yantra Meditation” by local composer David Samas, and new compositions for special guest artists.

Audiences of all ages are invited to join the orchestra by building their own instruments from everyday objects in the Education Studios: Construct a soda straw oboe or boba straw pan pipes that can be tuned to the ancient scales of the bronze bells.

Reviving the Environment: Ways to Honor the Dead and Living

Thursday, April 27

Samsung Hall

7–8:30 PM

Free with museum admission (\$5 after 5 PM)

At a time when environmental awareness is so crucial, specialists and scientists are considering ways of burying the dead that are more environmentally friendly but still effectively honor an individual’s life. Katrina Spade, founder of the Urban Death Project, and Karla Maria Rothstein of Columbia University’s DeathLAB start a conversation of new urban development projects envisioned to achieve this purpose. Angela Hennessy,

artist and associate professor at California College of the Arts, joins the discussion with perspectives on historical and contemporary funeral practices, and also how art can be used to respond to grief and loss.

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 from throughout Asia 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

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 through September. Closed Mondays, as well as New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Special Exhibition 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 and on Thursday evenings, 5-9 PM, admission to the exhibition is \$10.

General Admission: FREE for museum members, \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (65+), college students with ID, and youth (13–17). FREE for children under 12 and SFUSD students with ID. General admission is FREE to all on Target First Free Sundays (the first Sunday of every month). On Thursday evenings, Feb. 23 – Sep. 28, 2017, 5–9 PM, \$10 general admission.

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

www.asianart.org

Never miss a moment: @asianartmuseum #TombPleasures

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