

ASIAN ART MUSEUM
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for Asian Art & Culture
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Asian

News



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PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Seduction: Japan's Floating World The Printer's Eye: Ukiyo-e from the Grabhorn Collection Feb. 20–May 10, 2015

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17, 2015— Dive into Asian Art Museum's public programs dedicated to *Seduction: Japan's Floating World* and *The Printer's Eye: Ukiyo-e from the Grabhorn Collection*, on view Feb. 20 through May 10. The Asian Art Museum opens its special exhibition *Seduction* with the "Courtesans, Cooks, Samurai and Servants" party on Thursday, Feb. 19, where visitors can get a first peek of the exhibition. On March 14, Theatre of Yugen bridges the old and new in an intriguing reinterpretation of Japanese Noh-Kyogen theater. On March 19, hear from musician, filmmaker and professor Tatsu Aoki and delve into a world of a boy who grew up in his grandmother's geisha house in Tokyo. Over the course of the exhibition, the museum will host lectures, performances, art activities, Family Fun Days and docent-led tours.

In Edo-period Japan (1615–1868), the phrase "floating world" evoked a pleasure-seeking way of life, often associated with the entertainment districts of Edo (present-day Tokyo). *Seduction* reveals the floating world through more than 60 works of art, including paintings, woodblock prints, kimonos and an almost 58-foot-long handscroll vividly portraying a visit to the Yoshiwara—Edo's most celebrated pleasure quarter. The museum's concurrent exhibition, *The Printer's Eye* delves further into the floating world with a superb assemblage of 88 rarely seen Japanese woodblock prints.

TALKS

Seductive Idea: Celebrity and Gender from Ukiyo-e to Anime With Miryam Sas

Thursday, Feb. 26, 7 PM

Meet at the information desk, free with admission

Miryam Sas, professor of Comparative Literature and Film & Media at UC Berkeley, explains why people loved and copied Edo-period style and (sometimes deviant) gender arts, with examples from Edo comics; the great "how-to" style book (*The Structure of Iki*

MORE

[Style] by Kuki Shūzō); experimental theater (Kara Jūrō) and Superflat art, and from recent anime that reveal the workings of celebrity and sexuality today.

Seductive Idea talks are informal, impromptu in-gallery conversations facilitated by scholars, artists, filmmakers and writers who explore ideas arising from the artwork on view in the exhibition *Seduction: Japan's Floating World*. Each facilitator will present an idea that piques his or her curiosity and host a session to investigate it through two or three artworks.

A Child Like Me: Yuki Morishima in Conversation with Tatsu Aoki

Thursday, March 19, 7–8:30 PM

Samsung Hall, free with museum admission

Think you know about geisha culture? Think again. Musician and performer Tatsu Aoki was born and raised in a geisha house in Tokyo. On March 19, he'll appear in conversation with the Asian Art Museum's assistant curator of Japanese art, Yuki Morishima, to discuss fantasy, constructed realities and the many misconceptions surrounding Japan's pleasure quarter. A perfect complement to *Seduction: Japan's Floating World*, the talk will introduce museum audiences to the unique perspective of an artist—male, in particular—with intimate knowledge of modern geisha culture. You'll also learn about the rigorous artistic training of geisha—an early influence on Aoki's musical development.

Musician, filmmaker and professor Tatsu Aoki grew up in a family that booked and trained geisha in downtown Tokyo. Before the economic and social changes of the 1960s forced many family businesses to close, Aoki received geisha cultural training and became part of the family's performing crew at the age of four. Aoki performed in the early 1970s during the Tokyo underground arts movement, joining the Japanese experimental music ensemble Gintenkai. After coming to the U.S. in 1977, Aoki studied experimental filmmaking at School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he is a professor of film, video and new media.

In-Gallery Talk with the Curator

Friday, April 17, 3:30–4:15 PM

Meet at the information desk, free with museum admission

Explore *Seduction: Japan's Floating World* with Laura Allen, curator of Japanese art, and discover the ins and outs of presenting a stunning, though complicated, exhibition.

Seductive Idea: A Kabuki Tour of the Yoshiwara

Thursday, April 23, 7–8 PM

Meet at the information desk, free with museum admission

Mark Frey, director of JETAANC Kabuki Club, takes you on an intimate tour of the Yoshiwara or pleasure quarters through the lens of Kabuki theatre. Supplemented with

video excerpts from popular Kabuki plays, visitors will see artworks in the exhibition come to life as the Kabuki actors, themselves celebrated denizens of the floating world, recreate the Yoshiwara's intoxicating mix of seduction, commerce and betrayal.

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Talk: Japanese Theater

Saturday, May 2, 1–2:30 PM

Samsung Hall, free with museum admission

The artistic director of the San Francisco-based theater company Theater of Yugen, Tanroh Ishida, presents an informal talk on Japanese theater tradition of noh and kyogen. Ishida was trained from the age of three in traditional Japanese theater and has performed at theaters in Japan, at Carnegie Hall in New York and Shakespeare's Globe in London. He studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and formed his own critically acclaimed theater company "Tea Leaf Theatre" after graduation. He has also been featured in movies, such as *47 Ronin*, *Gambit* and *The Railway Man*.

ASIAALIVE

AsiaAlive: Noh-Kyogen Now

Saturdays, March 14 and 28, Noon–4 PM

North Court, free with museum admission

Actors from the renowned ensemble Theatre of Yugen present an intriguing reinterpretation of Japanese Noh-Kyogen theater in this interactive demonstration. Classical kyogen plays are performed along with new contemporary counterparts, inspired by the plots and characters of classic plays. With updated language, context and style, the reinterpretations reflect the growth of traditional into the contemporary, the bridging of old and new.

For more than 35 years, Theatre of Yugen has consistently provided experiences in Noh-Kyogen theater, sharing appreciation for these forms with an increasingly diverse array of audiences. Whether classical or contemporary, serious or comedic, the performances strive to project the aesthetic quality of yugen (mysterious elegance), which gives the work a distinctive style. For more information, visit www.theatreofyugen.org.

PERFORMANCES, DEMONSTRATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Courtesans, Cooks, Samurai and Servants: Seduction Opening Party

Thursday, Feb. 19, 7–11 PM

\$20 regular, \$10 students with valid ID, members free

[Get tickets](#)

In Edo-period Japan (1615–1868), the most celebrated destination for hedonists was the Yoshiwara—a walled and moated pleasure district where patrons could abandon the rigors of daily life in pursuit of sensual delights. With more than 60 works of art, *Seduction: Japan's Floating World | The John C. Weber Collection* examines the decadent lifestyle associated with Edo's (present-day Tokyo) entertainment districts and the enticing, though complicated, world of the Yoshiwara.

Our opening party brings the art of *Seduction* to life.

Interdisciplinary artist Midori will return to the Asian Art Museum armed with cardboard props, wigs and a frisky cast of characters to pepper the party with scenes from *Seduction's* centerpiece—a 58-foot scroll depicting a lively visit to the Yoshiwara. Follow a detailed map of performances throughout the museum, or grab a cocktail and see where the night takes you. This bold and bawdy event—DJed by Proof (Massive Selector)—is your invitation to take in the exhibition, drink and dance, and experience the intersection of art and desire.

**Gen: Legacies in Transformation
Collision of Tradition and the Avant-Garde**

Thursday, April 9, 7–8:30 PM

Samsung Hall, free with museum admission (\$5 after 5 PM)

Join us for a performance that explores the portrayal of women in Japanese and American music and art. Celebrating 20 years of collaboration, GenRyu Arts once again brings together a stellar cast of musicians and dancers from Chicago, San Francisco and Tokyo. This interdisciplinary performance features taiko (Japanese drums), jazz, dance, text and visual projections. Tatsu Aoki and Kevin Bean's visual artwork provides the backdrop for two special guests from Japan: Shamisen Grand Master Chizuru Kineya and Master Dancer Michikaoru Hanayagi. Tatsu Aoki and Kioto Aoki, from Chicago, will share the stage with the San Francisco-based musicians Francis Wong, Megan Lee, Wesley Hitomo Yee and Melody Takata.

Founded as Gen Taiko in 1995 and incorporated as GenRyu Arts in 2008, the group's mission is to promote, present and participate in Japanese and Japanese American culture through taiko drumming and other traditional and contemporary art forms. Deeply rooted in San Francisco's Japantown and in the Asian American Community, GenRyu Arts merges Japanese cultural forms—taiko, dance and folk songs—with new music, spoken word and visual design. These singular expressions honor community heritage and address key issues stemming from the legacy of internment and redevelopment, both of which continue to impact San Francisco's Japanese American community.

20 Years of GenRyu Arts Anniversary Performance

Saturday, April 11, 1–3 PM

Samsung Hall, free with museum admission

Melody Takata, founder of GenRyu Arts, will take audiences on an aural and visual adventure based on the classic tale of *The Monkey King*. This special afternoon celebration brings dance, drumming and jazz to the museum in both traditional and contemporary arrangements—featuring GenRyu Arts' intergenerational performers in an affirmation of our connection to nature, family and community. The event will showcase JCCCNC's GenRyu Arts school of dance and taiko, Gen ensemble, Gen Taiko alumni, master artist Hideko Nakajima, and special guests Tatsu Aoki and Kioto Aoki, visiting from Chicago.

First Thursday**Big Taste: Sake and “Lucky Chow”**

Thursday, May 7, 6–9 PM

Museum-wide, free with museum admission (\$5 after 5 PM)

The museum invites you to a night that will delight your sense of taste and explore the rich intersection between art, culture, food and spirits. The evening begins with a presentation by docent Kirsten Shilakes, exploring a flight of three sakes, each of which has been paired with an artwork featured in the exhibition *Seduction: Japan's Floating World*. Sake flights are available for purchase to experience the tasting as Kirsten discusses each pairing between the spirit and the art.

The evening continues with a sneak preview screening of “Lucky Chow,” a new PBS television series produced by the Center for Asian American Media before it airs on KQED. “Lucky Chow” follows LUCKYRICE culinary festival founder Danielle Chang as she travels across America exploring the Asian food landscape. The series features many of the country's most renowned chefs and culinary stars such as “Top Chef” winner Kristen Kish, YouTube sensation Maangchi and Bay Area favorite Ramen Shop. Join Danielle Chang and special guests after the screening for a conversation and audience Q&A.

Grab a drink with friends, listen to fresh music, and see *Seduction: Japan's Floating Worlds* and *The Printer's Eye* before the exhibitions close.

Schedule

6:45–7:15 PM: Sake presentation and tasting.

7:15–9 PM: Screening of Lucky Chow and conversation with series host Danielle Chang and special guests.

This program is presented in collaboration with the Center for Asian American Media.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Family Fun Day

First and third Sundays, March 1 and 15; April 5 and 19; May 3 and 17
10:30 AM–2:30 PM (10:30–11 AM stART Tour for kids ages 3–6; 11 AM–2 PM art making and self-guided activities)
North Court, free with museum admission

Discover and play as a family at the Asian Art Museum. On Family Fun Days, our immersive storytelling, fun gallery activities, creative art making opportunities, and more, will encourage you and your family to look more closely at the art and have some fun while doing so.

Themes and projects change regularly. On March 1, parents and kids explore and play through the Box Project with local artist Eliza Gregory and early-childhood educator Nancy Gapasin Gnass (check website for detailed program information). March 15–May 3, learn to print without a press, transferring images to stickers, badges, buttons and small bags, and discover the art of Japanese woodblock printmaking in the special exhibitions, *Seduction: Japan's Floating World | The John C. Weber Collection* and *The Printer's Eye: Ukiyo-e from the Grabhorn Collection*.

Stories! The Wicked, the Wily, the Wise

Sundays, 1–1:45 PM (suggested for ages 7 and up); first Sundays stART tour
10:30–11 AM are part of Family Fun Days (ages 3–6) and 3–3:45 PM (ages 7 and up)
Meet near the information desk
Free with museum admission (kids 12 and younger always get in free)

Want to hear stories about heroic girls and boys, animal legends and tales about dynamic deities? Join a storytelling tour and listen to myths and tales from Asia. While family friendly, these stories are not just for kids!

Explorer Packs

Daily
Pick one up at the information desk, free with museum admission

Learn more about the elements of art while searching the Asian Art Museum collection with an Elements of Art Explorer Pack. Designed for kids 5 and older, the packs use props and playthings to introduce line, shape, color and texture to young visitors. You can pick up Elements of Art Explorer Packs at the information desk in South Court.

Art Cards

Daily
Pick one up at the information desk, free with museum admission

Discover artworks and animals in the Asian Art Museum collection with Art Cards, designed for kids ages 3–6. Families use Art Cards as a tool for closer looking at artworks and exploring the galleries together in a fun and playful way.

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Teacher Workshop: *Seduction and The Printer's Eye*

Saturday, April 18, 9:30 AM–12:30 PM

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

Deepen your understanding of Edo-period Japan's (1615–1868) “floating world” and consider the various ways that representations in art can distort reality. Draw inspiration for your own print from the exquisite woodblock prints on display in *Seduction: Japan's Floating World* and *The Printer's Eye*. This program is made possible by generous support from The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation.

Pre-registration is required, so visit education.asianart.org to get started.

TOURS

Docent Tours: *Seduction and The Printer's Eye*

Daily, beginning Feb. 20

10:30 AM and 2 PM (45 minutes each)

Meet near the information desk, free with museum admission

Kids' Tours

Saturdays and Sundays, Feb. 21–May 10, 2:30–3 PM

Suggested for families with children ages 7–10

Meet at the information desk, free with museum admission (kids 12 and younger always get in free)

Kids' Tours help children and parents look at and discuss art, using engaging prompts to encourage closer viewing of the objects. Search for hidden treasures in the museum's Japanese collection with a docent-led tour of artwork featuring animals, people and daily life in Japan.

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

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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