

MINUTES
Asian Art Commission – Ethics Committee
Tuesday, September 20, 2016, 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Education Classrooms, Ground Floor
Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, California

Present: Alexander D. Calhoun, Chair
Nanci Nishimura
Jane Tom

Absent: Anthony Sun

Others Present: Forrest McGill
Kim Bush Tomio
Laura Hathorn

Call to Order

Chair Alexander D. Calhoun called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m., a quorum being present. He welcomed new committee member Nanci Nishimura.

Minutes from the October 28, 2014 Ethics Committee meeting were approved.

Mr. Calhoun introduced discussion regarding the upcoming exhibition, *The Rama Epic: Hero, Heroine, Ally, Foe* (October 21, 2016 – January 15, 2017) and loans from three individuals, as noted below. Forrest McGill and Kim Bush Tomio reviewed the individuals, their relationship to the museum and the objects to be on loan.

Mr. Calhoun referenced Section 8.09 (Loans) of the museum's Ethical Stewardship and Collections Management Policy governing exhibitions involving loans from individuals, highlighting two important policy items related to the proposed exhibition: (i) the purpose of the exhibition is to further the purposes and activities of the museum, and (ii) the museum shall retain control of the selection of objects, their presentation and the way the show is presented. It was also noted that the exhibition would not be intended to enhance the value of the objects loaned so that the owner could profit thereby.

Following thorough discussion, the committee unanimously acknowledged that the proposed exhibition displays from individual private collections were in compliance with the museum's Ethical Stewardship and Collections Management Policy, and granted approval in that regard.

Lender: Robert J. del Bontà

Relationship to AAM: significant scholar and researcher in Indian art, and personal friend of Forrest's since grad school

Hanuman, approx. 1920–1950

Published by Anant Shivaji Desai (Indian, b. 1853)
Chromolithograph

Rama and his forces invade Lanka, approx. 1700–1740

India; Uttarakhand state, former kingdom of Mankot
Ink and opaque watercolors on paper
(note: this is also a promised gift to the AAM)

Rama of the Ramakatha or Dasharatha Rama, the seventh avatar (Rams of Ram Katas anders Dajerratha Ramas Autaer de zevende), approx. 1672

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By Jacob van Meurs (Dutch, 1619/1620–1680)
Engraving, ink on paper

Lender: Catherine Benkaim

Relationship to AAM: major scholar with a very important collection and museum Senior-Level member

Ravana's sister reports to him of her maltreatment by Rama and Lakshmana, and of Sita's beauty, a page from the "Shangri" Ramayana, approx. 1690–1710
India; Jammu and Kashmir state, former kingdom of Kulu or Bahu
Opaque watercolor on paper

Lender: Louise Russell

Relationship to AAM: Jade Circle and SAA member

Vibhishana offers his service to Rama, page from a dispersed Ramayana series, approx. 1675–1700
Central India
Ink and opaque watercolor on paper

During the discussion Kim Bush Tomio noted she would send an email to the committee members with a copy of the museum's current Incoming Loan Agreement form, including conditions governing incoming loans.

Public Comment – Members of the public were invited to address the Commission on items that were within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Asian Art Commission Ethics Committee. The public may address the Committee for up to three minutes and the chair may limit total testimony to thirty minutes.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.