

MINUTES
ASIAN ART COMMISSION
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Koret Education Center and via Zoom

Commissioners Present:	Salle Yoo, Chair (EC) Michelle Alioto Claudine Cheng Tiffany Deng Virginia Foo (EC) Jacqueline Francis	Fred Levin (EC) Nanci Nishimura (EC) Merrill Randol France Viana Kenneth P. Wilcox (EC)
Commissioners Absent:	William Mathews Brooks Mathew Bissinger Denise Bradley-Tyson Vaishali Chadha Yogen Dalal Thao Dodson Martha Hertelendy	Michael Hormel Timothy F. Kahn Jennifer Kao Kiki Kapany Chong-Moon Lee Anthony Sun
Trustees in Attendance:	Paul Antebi Cori Bates (Z) Huifen Chan Patty Chu Lillian Chun Charles Huang Marie Oh Huber Gorretti Lo Lui Dipti Mathur	Amanda Minami Hema Mohan Anjali Pichai Varsha Rao Vijay Shriram Mindy Lin Sun Michelle Tai Akiko Yamazaki Richard Yen
Also Present:	Abby Chen Naz Cuguoglu Sheila Dowell Tim Hallman Reuben Kim Sara Lee Soyoung Lee Padma Dorje Maitland	Robert Mintz Lilan Qian Natasha Reichle Mark Sabb Daphne Tooke Emiko Usui Fan Zhang Laura Hathhorn

Call to Order and Chair’s Comments. Chair Salle Yoo called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., a quorum being present. Minutes from September 24, 2025, were unanimously approved.

Welcoming everyone in person and on Zoom, Salle reflected on the past year, noting in January 2025, the board fulfilled one of its duties which was to hire a museum director by announcing the hire of Dr. Soyoung Lee with an official start date of April. Salle said another board duty, in collaboration with the director, is to set the strategy for the museum, and noted two strategic goals that Soyoung presented at the September annual meeting: to enhance our global voice and to increase our local audience. Salle said the day’s meeting content would include museum leadership’s presentation of how the museum is increasing its global voice and their efforts to reach new audiences via social media, new content creation and bringing new groups to the museum. She noted the board’s support would not only be financial but also include connection to their networks and platforms to amplify the museum. She also asked committee chairs to align their work to support the strategic initiatives. Salle announced that since July 1, \$10 million had been raised to advance the

mission of the museum, noting the funds were in addition to board giving, corporate sponsorship and the gala. Salle thanked 2025 Gala Chair Lillian Chun for her leadership of “A New Dawn”, noting 1100 attendees and \$1.6 million raised, and she announced the 2026 Gala Co-Chairs, Martha Hertelendy and Lilian Qian, noting the date would be October 29, 2026. She thanked everyone for their time, talent and resources to take the museum to the next stage.

Director’s Report. Dr. Soyoung Lee welcomed everyone and reflected on the past nine months as director, expressing gratitude and enthusiasm. She introduced Eunice Lee, Chief Philanthropy Officer, who joined the museum in December, announcing her executive team was complete. Soyoung talked about SF Art Week and events beginning Jan 22 and travels in late March to Art Basel in Hong Kong, including a dinner hosted by Trustee Patty Chu, and to Taipei. Expressing sincere appreciation to Commissioner and Trustee Thao Dodson, Soyoung announced an endowment pledge of \$5 million from the Dodson Family, of which \$1 would be designated for Free Sundays. An exhibitions update included highlights of programming for *Rave into the Future*, School Tours, and special exhibitions in the Yamazaki Yang Pavilion and Osher Gallery for fiscal years 2025 through 2027. Before calling on Head of Digital Mark Sabb and Content Strategy Manager Rueben Kim who gave an in depth presentation on social media and a Web update on digital content, Soyoung reviewed upcoming exhibitions, including: (i) *Chiharu Shiota: Two Home Countries*, (ii) *Ha Chong-Hyun*, (iii) *Vishnu’s Cosmic Ocean*, and (iv) *Imaginary Institutions of India: Art 1975-1998*. In closing, Soyoung expressed excitement, energy, and focus that the museum is building its reputation as a global voice for Asia, and noted the museum will build out its local audiences (acknowledging challenges). She talked about relationship building with the Mayor and the administration and connections with individuals and organizations that the board introduced her to. She stressed the importance of expanding relationships with people who will commit to the institution at all levels to help build its reputation, noting it is the most enjoyable part of her role.

Prior to calling on committee reports, Foundation President Anjali Pichai spoke about growing the number of Trustees and requested people contact her, Vijay, Salle, or Eunice if they know of potential candidates who are aligned with the museum’s vision, its path, and love art, so that the Committee on Trustees can vet them to see if they would be amazing partners. She also noted she and Salle were working with Eunice to redefine what the museum’s giving circles look like, and she extended an invitation for those interested in helping form the vision to please join them.

Committee Reports.

Budget & Finance Committee Report. Anjali Pichai called on Chief Financial Officer Sara Lee for the Budget & Finance Committee report. Ms. Lee presented the operating performance for the first quarter of the fiscal year through September 30, and an update on the City Budget Process, including the City’s schedule through July 28, 2026. Ken Wilcox, committee chair, made summary comments noting he believes the museum is moving in a positive direction and that we are going to ultimately see that reflected in the numbers for eight reasons, including: (i) the museum’s new leadership team, (ii) optimism about the exhibition schedule, (iii) visitorship is consistently moving in the right direction, (iv) quality of communication is moving in the right direction – highlighting social media, etc., (v) Eunice Lee, the new Chief Philanthropy Officer, (vi) the board, (vii) a new Mayor, and (viii) level of enthusiasm and optimism is on the increase.

Acquisitions Committee – Deputy Director Art & Programs Rob Mintz who presented items recommended by the Acquisitions Committee to the Commission for action later in the meeting.

Nominating Committee Report. Nominating Committee Member Fred Levin gave the report on behalf of Committee Chair Martha Hertelendy and fellow members including Thao Dodson, Virginia Foo and Merrill Randol, noting the committee’s action on January 8 nominating Mindy Lin Sun for consideration by the Commission at the January 20 meeting. He reviewed the committee’s remaining meeting dates and noted that in addition to discussing future candidates they would review officers and current Commissioners whose terms will expire at the September annual meeting.

Consideration and Possible Action Items of the Commission – Virginia Foo, Commission Vice Chair

Prior to the call for approval of condolences, Nanci Nishimura and Rob Mintz honored Mr. Calhoun, Ms. Miller and Ms. Tateuchi with comments about their dedication and service to the museum.

a. Condolences to the Families of Alexander D. Calhoun, Constance Miller and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi

RESOLVED, On behalf of the entire museum family, the Commissioners and Trustees of the Asian Art Museum wish to express their deepest condolences to the families of:

Alexander D. Calhoun, beloved founding member of the Commission and Foundation, who passed away on November 25, 2025; and

Constance Miller, former Commissioner and Trustee, and Museum Docent, who passed away on October 23, 2025. Connie's service on the board spanned from 1993 to 2020; and

Ina Goodwin Tateuchi, Foundation Trustee, who passed away on August 3, 2025. She and her husband, former Foundation Trustee Atsuhiko Tateuchi, established the Atsuhiko Tateuchi and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Japan Galleries on the second floor of the Museum.

b. Approval of Nomination of Mindy Lin Sun to the Asian Art Commission

WHEREAS, The Nominating Committee recommends the election of Mindy Lin Sun to the Asian Art Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Commission hereby endorses the nomination of Mindy Lin Sun and respectfully submits the recommendation to Mayor Lurie for final appointment.

Mindy Lin Sun was born in Taiwan and graduated from Ming Chuan University. She also has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California. Mindy is the founder and partner of Highland Partners, a real estate company in Piedmont, California. She has been interested in real estate since she was a child. Her father was a very successful real estate developer in Taiwan. Mindy has invested in and managed real estate in many major cities in the United States, the Caribbean, and Taiwan. Her philanthropic interests have included serving as the Chair of the Chinese New Year Concert event at the San Francisco Symphony in 2013 and 2014. She has also been active in fundraising for UCSF Children's Hospital and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Mindy's husband, Peter, is the Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at UCSF Oakland Children's Hospital. They have been married for 34 years and have two sons, Austin & Jason. Austin graduated from Harvard University Graduate School of Design and works in San Francisco. Jason graduated from Princeton and works in New York City. (01/13/26)

c. Approval of Object to be Purchased for the City Collection

WHEREAS, The object listed below, fully researched by the Curators and Conservators, was recommended to the Acquisitions Committee on December 11, 2025, by the Director and Chief Curatorial Director to be purchased and proposed to the Commission for accession into the City Collection; and

CONTEMPORARY ART

IL2025.5

Sculpture

Yeesookyung (Korean, b. 1963)

Translated Vase_2023 TVB 1

2023

Ceramic shards, epoxy, 24K gold leaf

H. 61 7/16 in. × W. 57 1/16 in. × D. 56

5/16 in. (H. 156 cm × W. 145 cm × D.

143 cm)

Seller: Yeesookyung Studio

Price: \$270,000

WHEREAS, The Acquisitions Committee recommends to the Commission that the object be accessioned into the City Collection; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Asian Art Commission approves the object for the City Collection, with thanks to the Donors of Funds.

d. Approval of Gifts Recommended to be Accessioned into the City Collection

WHEREAS, The objects (gifts) listed below, fully researched by the Curators and Conservators, were recommended to the Acquisitions Committee on December 11, 2025, by the Director and Chief Curatorial Director to be accessioned into the City Collection; and

WHEREAS, The Acquisitions Committee recommends to the Commission that the objects be accessioned into the City Collection; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Asian Art Commission approves the objects for the City Collection, with thanks to the Donors.

CONTEMPORARY ART

R2025.20.1

Painting

Liu Sheng (Chinese, b. 1971)

A Drunk Village Chief 村長醉酒

2023

Oil on canvas

H. 35 7/16 in. × W. 47 1/4 in. (H. 90 cm × W. 120

cm)

Donor: Polygroup North

America (Lewis Cheng)

R2025.20.2

Painting

Liu Sheng (Chinese, b. 1971)

The Cold Within 明雪重

2023

Oil on canvas

H. 47 1/4 in. × W. 35 7/16 in. (H. 120 cm × W. 90 cm)

Donor: Polygroup North
America (Lewis Cheng)

SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART

R2025.23

Sculpture

Sopheap Pich (Cambodian, b. 1971)

Junk Nutrients

2009

Bamboo, rattan, wire, plastic, rubber, metal, cloth,
resin

H. 29 in. × W. 65 in. × D. 49 in. (H. 73.7 cm × W.
165.1 cm × D. 124.5 cm)

Donor: Dipti and Rakesh
Mathur

e. Approval of Objects Currently in the Foundation Collection Recommended for the City Collection

WHEREAS, The objects from the Foundation Collection listed below, fully researched by the Curators and Conservators, were recommended to the Acquisitions Committee on December 11, 2025, by the Director and Chief Curatorial Director to be accessioned into the City Collection; and

WHEREAS, The Acquisitions Committee recommends to the Commission that the objects be accessioned into the City Collection; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Asian Art Commission approves the objects for the City Collection, with thanks to the Donors.

JAPANESE ART

F2011.50.1

Prints And Drawings

Paul Jacoulet (French, 1896-1960)

*The Mandarin with Glasses, Manchukuo (Le
Mandarin Aux Lunettes, Mandchoukuo)*

1950

Woodblock print; Ink, colors, and mica on
paper

Image: H. 15 in x W. 11 1/2 in, H. 38.1 cm x
W. 29.2 cm

Donor: Eiko W. Tom

F2011.50.2

Donor: Eiko W. Tom

Prints And Drawings

Paul Jacoulet (French, 1896-1960)

Snowy Night, Korea (Nuite de Neige, Coree)

1939

Woodblock print; Ink and colors on paper

Overall: H. 18 1/2 in x W. 14 1/4 in, H.

47.0 cm x W. 36.2 cm

Image: H. 15 1/2 in x W. 11 7/8 in, H. 39.4

cm x W. 30.2 cm

Adjournment. There being no public comment or other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.