

ism. Included in the exhibition are twenty-two ^{Noh Theater con't from page 1} Noh masks, a pair of two-panel screens and approximately thirty-six prints that depict Noh actors on stage. The prints in the exhibition were published by Matsuki Heikichi, who aimed to revive the tradition of fine Japanese woodblock prints, which production reached its peak in the eighteenth century. Matsuki commissioned a painter, Tsukio-ka Kōgyo, an avid fan of Noh theater himself, who successfully captured the quintessential moments in Noh dramas in these prints. Done on high-quality paper with some silver and gold accents, the prints show that the woodblock carvers and printers masterfully recreated the delicate touch of brushwork by Kōgyo. The exhibition will also include prints by Kōgyo's daughter who carried on this tradition.

The carved wooden masks are from the pre-modern and early modern eras, and encompass a wide variety of specimens, from a quiet male figure to an angry female demon. The non-human characters include divine, demonic and animal characters. Together they reveal how such a mask with its emblematic expression contributes to a subtle performance of Noh. In some roles, an actor wearing a mask can express different emotion by varying the tilt of the wearer's head. Museum visitors can witness this effect by viewing the images of one of the masks photographed from three different angles.

The exhibition is part of the three-year project, *Japan in Global Context*, organized by ASU and funded by the Japan Foundation. Phoenix Art Museum is one of the participants in this grant project. The Museum will host a gallery talk on June 4th at noon and live performances and workshops on June 28 & 29. An online catalog authored by Dr. Joni M. Koehn will be available.



Unknown, Japan
Noh mask for Okina
18th-20th century
painted wood
7 3/4 X 6 in. (19.7 X 15.2 cm)
Collection of Phoenix Art Museum,
Gift of Roger Dunn
2010.329



Unknown, Japan
Noh mask for Ebisu
18th-20th century
painted wood
Collection of Phoenix Art Museum,
Gift of Roger Dunn
2010.329

A Note from the Vice President:

Dear AAC Members,
March is an exciting time for the Phoenix Art Museum with "Hollywood Costume" arriving in Phoenix from the Victoria and Albert Museum of London. The anticipation and excitement is building fast. Make sure to keep checking the museum calendar and the AAC website for upcoming events and lectures. Do not miss an opportunity to immerse yourself in more than 100 of the world's most iconic costumes from a century of filmmaking!

A Commemorative Journal will be distributed to the Hollywood Gala attendees, PAM membership, and Luxe Magazine's 38,000 households. Your Board of Directors sponsored an ad for the upcoming exhibition, "Quiet Rage, Gentle Wail: Prints and Masks of Japanese Noh Theatre", to be held at Phoenix Art Museum, June 4 - September 28, 2014. The Journal's wide circulation will help us to showcase our impressive collection!

We've got a lot going on in March. Learn about a collector's passion for Yixing teapots and their connection to the traditions of tea drinking in China at our First Wednesday Program. "The Chinese Scholar's Rock" will be featured as Object of the Month at PAM. Be sure to check your mailboxes as the AAC Membership Directory will be arriving shortly. The Board is busy, productive and good things are happening.

Natalie Kaan
Vice President, Asian Arts Council



Natalie Kaan, Larry and Jacque Burbine at Asia Now

Calendar of Events

March

5 First Wednesday
12 noon Asian Gallery

April

5 First Wednesday
12 noon Asian Gallery

May

7 Annual General Meeting
TBD

Patron Event

The second Patrons Event of the season took place on Feb.22nd at the beautiful home of Ana and Jim Melikian. As the "Season Finale" it was a truly smashing event. Jim Melikian spoke about his collection as the confessor of an obsessive collector as he is. He showed some of his prized items still at their home, as most of the collection is on loan at the ASU Museum of Arts and the Phoenix Art Museum.

The attendance exceeded the limit. We were treated to not only a great presentation, but a most delicious gourmet dinner in a formal setting under the stars overlooking the dazzling evening panorama of Phoenix. It was an unsurpassable experience for the lucky Patrons. Appropriate closing of this wonderful year!

Thank you Ana and Jim for your most gracious hospitality on this unforgettable evening. This quality of Patrons Events certainly gives you an incentive to upgrade your Membership to the Patrons level.

Patrons Event Chairs,
Kati Festy-Sandor
Leena Raval

An Exclusive Evening with Bollywood Celebrity Abhijat Joshi

The first in the series 'Makers of Bollywood' we celebrated with Bollywood's youngest maker **Abhijat Joshi** - the many award-winning celebrity screenwriter of legendary Bollywood films '3 Idiots' & 'Lage Raho Munnabhai', An Audio-Visual Presentation "Being an Insider and Outsider in Bollywood", was followed by dinner at an Indian restaurant on January 18th, 3:00pm to 8:00pm. While embracing the Bollywood genre-cinema with songs, set pieces, and emotions, Abhijat shared how he also defies its conventions.

To quote a few comments from the participants: "... Without a doubt, Abhijat Joshi was the best speaker we have ever had address the group! He was funny, beautifully spoken, interesting and obviously has a way with words." "Mr. Joshi was a marvelous and engaging speaker who is clearly well-known and respected among those already familiar with his work. For those who were not, they became instant fans..."

We hope to continue with other such successful talks in the future!



Dr. Janet Baker, Abhijat Joshi, and Leena Raval

First Wednesdays

Our January and February First Wednesday's were an enormous success. In January, Jim Melikian did a wonderful job sharing his collection with the group via power point. We were thrilled to hear how a major collector builds his collection/obsession. February 5, Laurie Petrie Rogers gave us an outstanding lecture on Darlene Gotto's wonderful woodblock prints of the Namazu-e (catfish that cause earthquakes). It was not only a humorous lecture, but it dealt with the social, economic, political, and religious influence of the period. The woodblock prints were mid 19th century from the Edo period.

Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at noon

Place: Asian Arts Gallery

Speakers: James T Bialac, collector

Dr. Janet Baker, curator

Title: A Selection of Contemporary Yixing Teapots from the James T. Bialac Collection

Summary: James Bialac's passion for these sculpture-like teapots grew out of his travels to China, where he visited Yixing and saw potters work with great precision. Dr. Baker's interest in Yixing teapots led her to explore their history and connection to the traditions of tea drinking in China. Enjoy both the collector's and curator's perspectives in this gallery talk!

Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at noon

Place: Asian Arts Gallery

Speaker: Dr. Claudia Brown

Title: What's Different about Qing Painting?

Summary: Dr. Claudia Brown will discuss paintings of China's Qing Dynasty, 1644-1911, with reference to works from the Marilyn and Roy Papp now on view in the Phoenix Art Museum's Asian Arts Galleries. Highlights include a folding screen of Horses in a Landscape and a series of eighteenth century scrolls. These are featured in Dr. Brown's forthcoming book, *Great Qing: Painting in China 1644-1911*, to be published by the University of Washington Press.

The purpose of the Asian Arts Council is to promote interest in and understanding of Asian art, including but not limited to Chinese, Japanese, and Indian art. In conjunction with the Phoenix Art Museum, the organization will provide educational programs, help sponsor exhibitions, encourage acquisitions, and provide activities for individuals interested in collecting Asian art.



Phoenix Art Museum ASIAN ARTS COUNCIL

Spring 2014 Volume 10 Number 3

AAC Board 2013-2014

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The Annual General
Membership Meeting
will be held
Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Watch for details!!

QUIET RAGE, GENTLE WAIL: PRINTS AND MASKS OF JAPANESE NOH THEATER

Lyon Gallery, June 4 – September 28, 2014



Tsukioka Kogyo

Scene from the *Okinashiki Sansozu*, from the series *One Hundred Noh Plays*

1922-1925

woodblock print on paper

Collection of Phoenix Art Museum, Gift of Gene Koeneman and Sherri Beadles in honor of the Museum's 50th Anniversary
2009.28

Drawn from the recent gifts to the museum, this exhibition will explore Noh, the traditional Japanese theater form that incorporates music, dance and drama. Noh Theater was established during the fourteenth century when a few talented writer-actors transformed the popular entertainment into a sophisticated, intellectual art backed by the ruling class. Through the stories adopted from well-known myths, historical events, and classical literatures, Noh dramas explore profound human emotions with subtle and symbolic performances. For contemporary Japanese as much as foreigners, Noh theater is a thought-provoking, yet complex art that is often hard to comprehend. The wooden stage is spare, with only a painting of a pine tree at the back. The texts are poetic and filled with allusion. The singing is in a limited tonal range, with lengthy, repetitive passages.

Bringing together different media that relate to Noh Theater, this exhibition will have a multi-dimensional approach to appreciate Noh and its aesthetics: simplicity, nuance and the distaste for real-

ASIAN ARTS COUNCIL
PHOENIX ART MUSEUM
1625 NORTH CENTRAL AVE
PHOENIX, AZ 85004-1685

Asia Now Successful Fundraiser!

Asia Now, our annual fundraiser party, was held at the Great Wall Restaurant on January 24 to celebrate the Year of the Horse. Our guests were treated to an eight-course Chinese cuisine dinner, a traditional lion dance performance to bring good fortune to the New Year. We also had beautiful silent auction items that were donated by many merchants who continue to support AAC on an annual basis. All the money raised from this event will further benefit Asian art, exhibition, education, and art acquisitions at the Phoenix Art Museum. We would like to express our appreciation and thanks to all the committee members, underwriters, table hosts, and silent auction donors for their generosity and contributions in making this such a successful and rewarding event.

Co-Chairmen,
Eileen Yeung and Lily Yee



Eileen Yeung and Lily Yee



4 Doris Ong, Lynne Smith, Sherrell Miller and Madge Kunkel



Tellyen Tang and Carolyn Young



Amy Clague, Dr. and Mrs. Ju-hsi Chou