

Asia Week

A Banner Year For Asia Week As Met Celebrates A Centennial

*Asia Week
New York
Is March 13–21*

NEW YORK CITY — Asian art is basking in the sun this year. While 42 extraordinary galleries from around the globe open their doors with one-of-a-kind exhibitions during Asia Week New York, the Metropolitan Museum of Art is celebrating the centennial of its renowned department of Asian art. Even *Vogue* editor-in-chief Anna Wintour jumped on the bandwagon as she recently visited Beijing to promote the Met Costume Institute's upcoming exhibition "China: Through the Looking Glass."

Works of art from all over the

Asian continent and spanning over four millennia will be shown throughout Manhattan by international Asian art specialists during Asia Week New York March 13–21. Art lovers can take in museum-caliber treasures, including the rarest and finest Asian examples of painting, sculpture, bronzes, ceramics, jewelry, jade, textiles, prints and photographs from all over Asia.

Says Carol Conover, chairman of Asia Week New York 2015, "This year is especially meaningful for Asia Week New York, since it coincides with the 100th anniversary of the incomparable department of Asian art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Asia Week New York always creates excitement, and never more than this year. For six years, Asia Week New York has pursued its singular mission of integrating Asian art into the cultural fabric of New York and promoting its unique appeal worldwide."

Chinese Art

Among the dealers specializing in Chinese art will be Los Angeles-based Asian Art Studio presenting the exhibition "Treasures from the Middle Kingdom," featuring a pair of rare, Eighteenth Century imperial spinach-green jade screens on the seventh floor of the Fuller Building, 41 East 57th Street, and Ralph M. Chait Galleries, 12th floor, Crown Building, 730 Fifth Avenue, showcasing a 14-inch Chinese stucco figure of an immortal, modeled in the three-quarter round, the Yuan-Ming dynasty, circa Fourteenth–Sixteenth Century.

China 2000 Fine Art, 177 East 87th Street, will spotlight "Prowling Tiger," one of the works in an exhibition devoted to artist An Ho titled "Two Sides of the Same Coin," while a Chinese contemporary ink painting show, "Winter Lotus Garden" at the Chinese Porce-



Joan B. Mirviss, Ltd, New York City, will feature Shigaraki stoneware tsubo with upraised neck, Fifteenth–Sixteenth Century, glazed stoneware, 16¼ by 15⅞ inches.

lain Company at 475 Park Avenue, highlights newest gallery artist Zhao Xu of Beijing whose "Lotus Pod II" depicts a massive lotus pod during winter in China in exacting detail.

Other exhibitors in this genre include Nicholas Grindley Works of Art Ltd, which will show Chinese furniture, sculpture and scholars' objects at Hazlitt, Gooden & Fox Ltd, 17 East 76th Street; Michael C. Hughes LLC presenting "Chinese, Indian and Korean Works of Art" at Shepherd W&K Galleries, 58 East 79th Street; and Jadestone of Portland, Ore., pulling the curtain back on a painting dating from 1733 as part of a "Scholarly Pursuits" exhibition in Suite 704 of the Fuller Building, 41 East 57th Street.

Southeast Asia, Indian, Himalayan

Featuring Southeast Asia, Indian and Himalayan arts will be Walter Arader Himalayan Art, 1016 Madison Avenue, which has singled out a Sitatapatra for his exhibition "Fine Himalayan Art"; more than 20 paintings will be on

view in "The Feminine Mystique in Indian Art," presented by San Francisco's Art Passages at Isselbacher Gallery, 41 East 78th Street.

Also in this category are Dr Robert R. Bigler of Switzerland staging "Before Yongle: Chinese and Tibeto-Chinese Buddhist Sculpture of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries" at Dickinson Roundell, Inc, East 66th Street; London's Prahlad Bubbar presenting "The Flower Garden: Indian Paintings, 1600–1850" at Arader Galleries, 1016 Madison Avenue; and Navin Kumar Gallery, Suite 4F, 24 East 73rd Street showing "Indian and Himalayan Art."

Japanese

"The Three Landscapes of Japan" by Tanomura Chokunyu (1814–1907) and Tomioka Tessai (1836–1924) claim special attention in "Japanese Art|Pre-Modern and Beyond," an exhibition BachmannEckenstein Japanese Art of Basel, Switzerland, presents at Gallery Schlesinger, second floor, 24 East 73rd Street, while New York's Dai Ichi Arts, Ltd, hosts "The Grandeur of Japan-



Buddhist Art, Berlin, Germany, will present a marble Buddha Baisajyaguru (medicine Buddha), early Ming dynasty, that originates from Diamond Seat Pagoda in Beijing, China.

ese Ceramics: From Tea Ware to Sculpture" at Hollis Taggart Galleries, 958 Madison Avenue.

Joan B. Mirviss, Ltd, 39 East 78th Street, features "Tsubo: The Art of the Vessel," celebrating the history of Japanese ceramics, while Onishi Gallery's "Heritage: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics and Metalwork" features female metal artists in Japan (an uncommon thing) at Erarta Galleries, first floor, 1043 Madison Avenue.

At age 37, Okada Yoshio's mastery of artistry in lacquer is on view in "Taisho Era Screens and Scrolls," an exhibition at Erik Thomsen Gallery, fourth floor, 23 East 67th Street.

Korean

"Happy Modern and Contemporary Korean Paintings" will be presented at Kang Collection Korean Art, third floor, 9 East 82nd Street, while KooNewYork's will mount the exhibition "Choson and Contemporary Korean Art," ground floor, Tambaran Gallery, 5 East 82nd Street.

For additional information, www.asiaweekny.com.



Ralph M. Chait Galleries, Inc, New York City, will show a Chinese stucco figure of an immortal, modeled in the three-quarter round, wearing a jeweled tiara and holding a guei (tablet of rank), Yuan/Ming dynasty, circa Fourteenth–Sixteenth Century, 14¼ inches overall, ex private American collection, ex Ralph M. Chait Galleries.

Cats, Cats And More Cats: Bevy Of Feline Beauties On View

NEW YORK CITY — Since arriving in Japan aboard Chinese ships transporting sacred Buddhist scriptures in the mid-Sixth Century, cats have proceeded to purr and paw their way into the heart of Japanese life, folklore and art. On view at Japan Society Gallery March

13–June 7, "Life of Cats: Selections from the Hiraki Ukiyo-e Collection" illustrates the depth of this mutual attraction by mining the wealth of bravura depictions of cats to be found in ukiyo-e woodblock prints of the Edo period (1615–1867).

"Much that is fundamental to the Japanese character can be gleaned from these historic popular prints that feature cats in everyday life and lore," said Dr Miwako Tezuka, director of the Japan Society Gallery. For the showing, Tezuka has selected a mix of both iconic and little-known prints, 90 in all, from the world-renowned collection of the Hiraki Ukiyo-e Foundation in Tokyo: roughly half will be on view through April 26; then the other half will be presented April 29–June 7.

The exhibition opens with the longest-lasting image of a cat in Japanese literature, from the early Eleventh Century classic, *The Tale of Genji* by Lady Murasaki Shikibu. As illustrated by Utagawa Kunisada, the woodblock print, "The Third Princess," depicts the erotic moment after a kara neko, or cat originally brought from China, pulls up a hanging blind while playing, revealing the beautiful third daughter of the ruling emperor to a young courtier. Also in this early section is Utagawa Hiroshige's iconic "Visit to the Tori no machi Festival, Rice Fields in Asakusa," from the series "100 Famous Views of Edo," 1857. Hiroshige's depiction of a white cat perched on a windowsill, gazing out toward the sunset, is one of the most

reproduced images by an ukiyo-e master.

The final section of "Life of Cats" is devoted to one of the most charming genres of Japanese art, omocha-e or toy pictures, created to teach children to read, memorize and count, as well as to convey lessons about morality and social conduct. These toy pictures are rare today because they were heavily used, cheaply mass-produced and often created by anonymous artists. The Hiraki Ukiyo-e Collection, however, has a large holding of well-preserved omocha-e that Japan Society Gallery has tapped to present 12 rarely seen prints, including Utagawa Yoshifuji's "A Picture of a Popular Hot Spring," 1880, where cats enact a cross section of daily activities, from bathing to daintily taking tea to selling items on the street.

The Japan Society Gallery will transform the Hiraki Ukiyo-e Collection's existing catalog of master ukiyo-e prints featuring cats into the picture album book *Life of Cats: Selections from the Hiraki Ukiyo-e Collection* with highlights of images from the exhibition. Softcover; \$20/15 members.

Japan Society is at 333 East 47th Street between First and Second Avenues. For further information, 212-832-1155 or www.japansociety.org.



Utagawa Hiroshige (1797–1858), "Cat Crossing to Eat," 1830–44; color woodblock print, 22½ by 16 inches. Courtesy Hiraki Ukiyo-e Foundation.



Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (1839–1892), "Looking Tiresome: The Appearance of a Virgin of the Kansei Era" from the series "Thirty-two Aspects of Customs and Manners," 1888; color woodblock print, 22½ by 16 inches. Courtesy Hiraki Ukiyo-e Foundation.