

ACKLANDARTMUSEUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Ackland Art Museum Reimagines – and Reinstalls – Galleries of Asian Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 21 December 2016

Contact: Emily Bowles, Director of Communications, 919.843.3675, emily.bowles@unc.edu

Chapel Hill, N.C. — The Ackland Art Museum’s galleries of Asian art have reopened following a groundbreaking reinstallation, the first since August 2011. Collectively called *The Asian Galleries Reimagined*, the spaces include an unprecedented chromatic arrangement of artworks, as well as rotating themes, with pieces on view ranging from Neolithic burial urns and Chinese Imperial porcelains to contemporary Cambodian art and Japanese Art Deco screens.

“The Asian galleries’ redesign spotlights the Museum’s outstanding collection of art from across the Asian continent, while also elucidating the interconnectedness of the cultures, traditions, and arts of Asia and beyond,” said Bradley Bailey, associate curator of Asian art.

The new installations will include a number of important recent acquisitions and rarely seen works. Highlights include Chinese export porcelains donated by Richard S. Pardue, Chinese ceramics given by Smith Freeman, gifts and loans of contemporary Japanese ceramics from Carol and Jeffery Horvitz, and major pieces from benefactors such as the Tyche Foundation, Herbert and Eunice Shatzman, Beatrice Cummings Mayer, and the Rubin Ladd Foundation.

“With this reinstallation, we celebrate our collection’s remarkable legacy and its significance to the University, the Triangle, our state, and the wider art world,” said Ackland director Katie Ziglar.



Occupying the larger of the Ackland’s two Asian art galleries, the exhibition *Color Across Asia* (through 13 May 2018) displays several millennia of art, showcasing a rich history of innovation, invention, and imitation. From the pure white of Chinese kaolin clay to the rich black of Japanese lacquers—and all the colors in between—Ackland visitors will see how pigments, decorative motifs, and glazing techniques made their way from Iranian grand bazaars to Indian temples, Chinese palaces, Japanese teahouses, and beyond.

Color Across Asia has been made possible in part by The Ruth and Sherman Lee Fund for Asian Art and the Lee Family, Philip and Linda Carl, and James Keith Brown and Eric Diefenbach.

Opening alongside *Color Across Asia*, ***Flora and Fauna*** (through 14 May 2017) examines the importance of animals, plants, and flowers in Asian art. The show features Hindu statues, Mughal miniatures, Chinese scrolls, and newly-acquired Japanese screens. The show's centerpiece is a large-scale contemporary hanging sculpture by Sopheap Pich depicting a cascade of vine-like flower clusters.

Debuting in spring 2017, ***Court and Capital*** (31 May – 10 December) will present the grand customs and fashions of Asian capital cities, examining their transition from feudal seats to modern cultural centers. From the splendor of the Mughal court to the bustling metropolis of nineteenth-century Edo to contemporary Hong Kong, *Court and Capital* celebrates the art of some of the largest and greatest cities in history.

Asia is the birthplace of many of the world's major systems of belief, and reflects the religious diversity of the planet. The third thematic installation, ***Religion and Ritual*** (3 January – 13 May 2018), will present the deities and artistic traditions of the world's most populous continent, representing Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and more.



Events

Color Across Asia will be enhanced by a series of eight thematic talks—one for each featured color—by guest experts including artists, curators, historians, and art dealers.

The Ackland's annual ARTINI will take place on Friday, 3 March 2017, at 7:00PM. The ticketed event will feature cocktails and hors d'oeuvres reflecting the spectrum of *Color Across Asia*.

Throughout 2017, the Ackland will celebrate many of the festivals of Asia including Indian Holi, Japanese Tanabata, Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, and pan-Asian holidays like Lunar New Year.

Details about these and other programs related to *The Asian Galleries Reimagined* will be announced on ackland.org.

About the Ackland

Featuring a year-round calendar of special exhibitions and dynamic public programs, the Ackland Art Museum—located on the historic campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—encourages visitors to engage with the rich legacy of the artistic past as well as with living artists from around the world.

The Ackland's holdings consist of more than 18,000 works of art, featuring significant collections of European masterworks, twentieth-century and contemporary art, African art, North Carolina pottery, and folk art. In addition, the Ackland has North Carolina's premier collections of Asian art and works on

paper (drawings, prints, and photographs). This universal collection of artworks from antiquity to the present makes the Ackland uniquely able to advance the teaching and research missions of the University.

The Ackland Art Museum is located at 101 South Columbia Street on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus.

Museum hours are Wednesday, Thursdays, and second Fridays 10-9, all other Fridays 10-5, Saturdays 10-5, and Sundays 1-5. Admission is free.

More information is available at ackland.org.

###

Color Across Asia - All images are details of objects from the collection of the Ackland Art Museum, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill:

Hill Jar, Chinese, n.d.; glazed earthenware with molded decoration. Ackland Fund, 88.28ab.

Pitcher with Handle, Persian, possibly Nishapur, 12th century or earlier; earthenware with turquoise glaze. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Peter P. Williams, 60.29.16.

Fujikasa Satoko, Japanese, born 1980: *Flow*, 2013; white slip with sand glazing. Promised Gift of Carol & Jeffrey Horvitz, L2014.1.2.

'Yingqing' Stem Cup and Cup Stand, Chinese, Southern Song Dynasty, A.D. 1127-1279; glazed porcelain. Gift of Smith Freeman, 2009.26.2.

Saucer Dish with Lotus Pattern in Rose, Chinese, c. 1760; porcelain. Gift of Richard D. Pardue, 2014.39.8.

Tankard, Chinese, Kangxi reign, c. 1720; porcelain, iron red (rouge-de-fer) and gold decoration. Gift of Richard D. Pardue in honor of Amanda M. Hughes, 2014.39.3.

Tea Bowl with Tortoiseshell Glaze, Chinese, 12th or 13th century; glazed stoneware, Jizhou ware. Gift of F. Eunice and Herbert F. Shatzman, 2003.28.27.

Myochin Munefusa, Japanese, 18th century: *Mask (E-mi somen)*; russet iron with traces of black lacquer. Gift of the Tyche Foundation, 2010.25.

Flora and Fauna:

Foreground: Sopheap Pich, Cambodian, born 1971: *Rang Phnom Flower No. 5*, 2016; bamboo and metal wire. Courtesy of the Artist and Tyler Rollins Fine Art, L2016.13.