

May 2025

Treasure House News



President's Message

To my Fellow Docents:

We were all very saddened to hear about the departure of Rebecca Hall from the Museum staff. As our curator she was always willing to share her vast store of knowledge with the docents. She entertained us with stimulating lectures and explanations that were on topic and readily accessible. Her openness and frankness were refreshing and appreciated. I, personally, always found her “user friendly” and available when discussing museum business as well as at the museum’s opening parties and social functions. She will be very much missed by all of us.

We are entering our final month of touring. There are tours available at all grade levels so, pick your favorites and sign up. There is plenty of room for you to try out new ideas, or use your proven winners. The exhibition will continue into July, so your inspired students will have time to bring back others to enjoy the works on display.

Enjoy your time at the Museum!

Annette

IMPORTANT DATES

May 6

Docent Council Board Meeting
(Board members only)

May 13

Docent Council Meeting
and Lecture

May 17

Exhibition Tours @ PAM
Cai Guo-Qiang: A Material Odyssey

June 10

Docent Council Annual Awards Luncheon

Gallery Spotlight

Shadow: Pray for Protection 1985-1986

By Annette Drey

*Cai paints in Japan,
Nagasaki tragedy,
"Pray for protection"*



What do you see?

Begin with giving the students 5 quiet minutes to first just observe what they see: plane, clock, ghostly bodies, Torii gate, denuded tree, city, bird, person, bird tracks. Have them jot down observations before discussing.

Any ideas about why they are in this picture or what they mean?

Let them wonder before giving the objects further identification.

The picture is in reference to the 1945 nuclear bombing of Nagasaki, Japan

City: Nagasaki, site of nuclear bomb intending to help end WWII

Plane: Boeing B-29 Superfortress plane, Bockscar, which dropped "Fat Man" over Nagasaki on Aug. 9

Clock: Stopped at 11:02, the time the bomb was dropped

Torii gate: Symbol of Japan and is often found at the entrance to Shinto shrines

Ghostly bodies: Approximately 74,000 died in Nagasaki. In the years that followed, many of the survivors would face leukemia most prominently, to a lesser extent other cancers, or terrible side effects from the radiation.

Bird: A pigeon/dove. Doves have many symbolic meanings, including peace, love, and hope

Person: The artist Cai Guo Qiang

Bird Tracks: Cai's introducing his love for the unexpected into his painting

Reading this picture, what do you think Cai was trying to say?

The picture has particular relevance to Cai. He moved to Japan in 1986 where he lived for 9 years until 1995. This period was a key stage in his artistic development, where he developed his signature gunpowder creations and style. And it was in Japan that he found a focus also on the dark side of big bangs: Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Here he began what has been a lifelong artistic attempt to come to terms with that dark side.

Docent Spotlight

By Annette Drey



Born in Los Angeles and reared in Alhambra, Bruce Cristol attended USC, where he obtained a Pharm.D. degree. While there, he met his wife of 50+ years. Post graduation Bruce was hired by L.A. County at the venerable LAC-USC Medical Center. Seventeen years later he was chosen to manage the inpatient pharmacy at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. At "Rancho" he ultimately became Director for one year. Working with Directors of Infectious Disease and Microbiology, he implemented a facility-wide antibiogram to be placed in patient charts, so that more targeted/timely antibiotic prescribing by physicians would occur.

Bruce became chief editor of the syllabus for the 12th Conference on Health Care of the Chinese in North America. For the 15th Conference he was invited to be a member of the Scientific Program Planning Committee, moderating the presentation on Eastern medicine.

In 2012 Bruce was certified as a personal trainer by the American Council on Exercise. An avid tennis player, he competed in multiple 'senior' tennis tournaments. More recently he resurrected his passion for hiking.

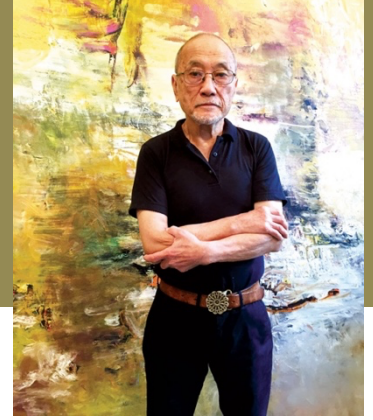
For 10 years he was a member of a local chapter of a women's service organization, Soroptimist International of the Americas. He was chosen to be Chair of the 'Live Your Dream' committee for several years, where annually deserving women are assisted financially.

In 2013 Bruce met Alice Lo, who was also a participant in a Kung Fu/Tai Chi fan dancing class. She invited him to come to the Pacific Asia Museum during an orientation and in 2014 he became a docent.

Asian Highlights

Chuang Che: Bridging Tradition and Modernity in Art

By Maureen Nyhan



Chuang Che, born in Beijing in 1934, is a celebrated artist whose work has masterfully blended traditional Chinese ink painting with modern abstraction. Chuang was immersed in the world of artistic expression from a young age which profoundly influenced his creative journey and the development of his unique style. Chuang was reared in a family deeply rooted in the arts, his father, Chuang Shang-Yen, being a distinguished scholar and calligrapher.



Through his father, Chuang had a deep connection to the Imperial Museum in Taiwan, also known as the National Palace Museum. His father worked at the National Palace Museum in Beijing before the family moved to Taiwan in 1942. In this environment, Chuang Che had the opportunity to see the museum's collection firsthand.

Chuang's evolution began in the aftermath of World War II, a period marked by significant political and cultural upheaval in China. In 1949, the Chinese government established the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, where Chuang later studied under the tutelage of esteemed artists such as Li Keran and Pan Tianshou. His formal education at the Beijing academy provided him with a solid foundation in the traditional Chinese stylings and techniques he grew up around - though he was also drawn to the avant-garde movements emerging in the West.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Chuang began to explore the possibilities of abstract art. Inspired by the works of Western artists such as Jackson Pollock and Franz Kline, he sought to create a synthesis between the expressive qualities of Chinese ink painting and the boldness of Western abstraction. This fusion of styles allowed Chuang Che to develop a distinctive visual language that resonated with audiences both in China and abroad.

Chuang Che's abstract landscapes often feature sweeping brushstrokes and gestural marks that evoke the natural world, rather than its literal representation. Some say this approach reflects the influence of Chinese philosophy, particularly Daoism, which emphasizes harmony between humanity and the natural world. While traditional Chinese ink and brush techniques remain central to his style, he also incorporates mediums such as acrylic paint, collage, and mixed media. This experimental approach enables him to push the boundaries of conventional art forms and create dynamic compositions that are both visually striking and deeply evocative.

*Artist Chuang Che
Traditional and abstract,
Post War creations.*

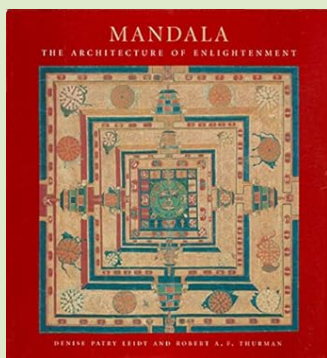


Library Corner

By Fran De La Rosa (AI)

Mandala: The Architecture of Enlightenment

Robert Thurman
709.4 L



In *Mandala: The Architecture of Enlightenment* Robert Thurman explores the world of mandalas, examining them as both art and powerful spiritual symbols. This book not only explores the beauty of mandalas but also delves into their deeper meanings within Buddhist philosophy.

Thurman writes in a way that is engaging and easy to understand, making complex ideas clear to readers who may not be familiar with Buddhism. He explains the history and significance of mandalas, demonstrating how they can guide meditation and foster spiritual growth. The book features numerous illustrations, enabling readers to appreciate the detailed designs and their significance.

A notable aspect of Thurman's writing is his ability to connect old practices to modern life. He encourages readers to view mandalas not just as art, but as a means to reflect and grow spiritually. His insights into how these circular designs represent wholeness and unity offer valuable lessons for addressing today's challenges.

Overall, *Mandala: The Architecture of Enlightenment* is an insightful exploration of a subject that is both visually stunning and spiritually profound. Whether you love art, seek spiritual wisdom, or are just curious about the link between art and spirituality, Thurman's work invites you to explore and learn. This book is highly recommended for anyone interested in the transformative power of mandalas.

*Circular designs,
Stunning and deeply profound,
Mandala insights.*

Study Group Activity

By Karen Margolis

STUDY GROUP 1

The subject(s) for May's Study Group 1 meeting included whatever subject the member wanted relating to India, including art, literature, music, culture, religion, textiles, culinary specialties, geography, animal life, celebrations, marriage, female roles, children, senior citizens, folklore, superstitions, anthropology, and history. During the meeting, members shared resources as well as any keepsakes of interest representing Indian culture. The group was invited to and met at Billie Spinat's home.

NOMINATIONS

Under guidance of the Nominating Committee, headed by Nancy Lan, the following people have been nominated for the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Executive Board:

President	Yvonne Lee
V. President	Fran De La Rosa
Secretary	Candace Siegle
Treasurer	Randy Quinton
Membership	Lorenzo Vargas

Additional nominations were requested from the floor at the March Docent Council Meeting, but none were received. The election of officers will be at the May Docent Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 13.

Touring Topics

By Fran De La Rosa

YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS ...Sometimes, a kiss is just a kiss, and a sigh is just a sigh. But is a look just a look?

Generally, a Docent begins a tour in a way she/he feel connects with the visitors, sets expectations and norms, and sparks curiosity. Some introduce the theme, question prior knowledge, or take off to the first object. Others prefer to begin with an activity that engages the visitor and, to an extent, puts everyone at ease. Whatever the style, one thing is sure: at some point, observation will come into play.

Museums have long been thought of as places to “see” art. Docents were trained to share knowledge and “lecture” the visitor. More recently, museum educators have been using interactive strategies to foster engagement. These strategies include writing, peer sharing, and physical interpretations.

Docents often use an observation strategy to engage visitors, but observation in guided tours should be more than a casual “look” and a move on. Observations should go beyond the surface and activate participation and engagement with the object. The following strategies are suitable for visitors of any age.

- Close-looking involves a detailed examination of an object's visual elements (form, color, texture, composition). It may include a close examination of the construction and/or deconstruction of a work observed and/or an in-depth examination of specific areas of the work.
- Deep-looking means looking beyond the surface level and inferring meaning. The process involves providing visual evidence to support observations. This type of observation often requires one to immerse oneself in the work, resulting in the engagement of the senses or emotions.
- Mindful looking is a slow process done with awareness and attention from the mindfulness perspective. It should be nonjudgmental. Mindful looking does not require the visitor to have deep knowledge of the subject, but rather a willingness to let the mind wander into the work and still the mind.
- Slow-looking involves studying the work with intention and attention. Since discovery originates in looking, the viewers must be present, patient, and willing to immerse themselves in the observation.

Try beginning a tour by asking visitors to explore an object before giving any information. This, followed by sharing thoughts, feelings, and questions, should get the tour off to a splendid start for everyone. Ultimately, the observation strategy should provide visitors with what they most need to engage with the work: time. They need time to look, time to discover, and time to connect.

April Touring Heroes

Kathy Wales
Lorenzo Vargas
Eiko Kubota
Jane Hirshkowitz
Randy Quinton
Yvonne Lee
Melissa Patton
Candace Siegle
Fran De La Rosa
Nancy Lan
Evelyn Xu
Rose Lee
Jean Heilman
Jon Sides
Susan Sides
Lisa Koizumi
Ana Soulliver
John O'Malley
Daniel Grosz
Chuck Woo

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO RSVP
TO OUR ANNUAL LUNCHEON.
YOU SHOULD BE RECEIVING
THE INVITATION IN YOUR MAIL
AND ALSO AN EMAIL.**

RSVP BY MAY 27



Around Town

By Maureen Nyhan

Museums of the Arroyo Day (Free)

May 4 | 12:00 P.M. – 4:00 pm

www.museumsofthearroyo.com

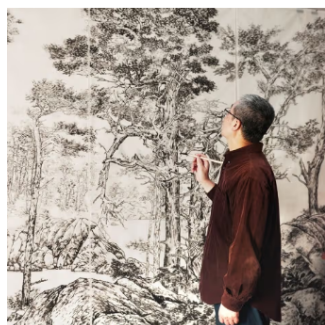
The Huntington

May 17 – August 4, 2025

WANG MANSHEG: WITHOUT US

This immersive installation explores the interconnectedness of all living beings. Combining contemporary art and classical Chinese conceptions of nature, its 22 hand-painted silk panels invite visitors into a luminous landscape.

[Wang Mansheng Without Us](#)



Norton Simon Lectures

May 3 | 5:00 – 6:00 pm

DEGAS'S PAINTINGS: UNFINISHED OR UNRESOLVED?

[Degas' Unfinished Paintings?](#)

May 31 | 5:00 – 6:00 pm

VAN GOGH AND THE LIMITS OF NATURE

[Van Gogh and the Limits of Nature](#)

For both events advance tickets for members are now closed. Walk-up tickets for all guests will be released one hour prior to the program's start time.

Bowers Museum

May 24 – October 19, 2025

WORLD OF THE TERRACOTTA WARRIORS:

New Archaeological Discoveries in Shaanxi in the 21st Century.

[New Terracotta Warrior Discoveries Exhibit](#)



ONLINE

Recorded Event from the George Washington Museum and Textile Museum

NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL: BINGATA IN OKINAWA AND BEYOND (RECORDED 4/2021)

[Bingata Presentation](#)



Slide Presentation from the San Diego Mingei Museum

Slide presentation of the recent Indigo exhibit at the San Diego Mingei Museum. Topics include the art and science of Indigo and highlights of items on display.

[Indigo Exhibition](#)

