

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Fall 2017 Schedule



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NOTE TO EDITORS: The following information is current as of July 2017; please discard all previous versions. All listings are subject to change; dates and titles should be confirmed with the Office of Marketing and Communications at 202.633.0271 or PressAsia@si.edu. For press releases and image and caption reports, visit asia.si.edu/press.

Image credit: Freer|Sackler staff

Reopening: Freer|Sackler, the Smithsonian's museums of Asian art

Saturday, October 14, 2017, 5 pm

Press Preview: Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Resources: [Freer|Sackler reopening](#); [press release](#)

The Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery will mark their joint reopening with a celebration on the National Mall on October 14 and 15. The grounds of the Freer|Sackler will be transformed into a vibrant food market, complete with food stalls, live music and performances. Inside the buildings, visitors will experience the newly reimagined galleries and a series of new temporary exhibitions, as well as specially programmed in-gallery experiences. The event is free and open to the public and copresented with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Afterward, our celebration continues with a full reopening season, featuring a spectrum of special public programs and activities. Stay tuned for more details.

Office of Public Affairs and Marketing
Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery



FREER | SACKLER
THE SMITHSONIAN'S MUSEUMS OF ASIAN ART

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The Arthur M. Sackler Gallery will reopen with the following special exhibitions:



Encountering the Buddha: Art and Practice across Asia

October 14, 2017–October 2020

Resources: [press release](#); [images](#)

Visitors can step into a Tibetan Buddhist shrine, linger at a Sri Lankan stupa, travel with an eighth-century Korean monk and discover remarkable objects in “Encountering the Buddha.” The exhibition draws upon the museums’ collections of Buddhist art from Afghanistan, India, Southeast Asia, China and Japan. By exploring new narratives and technologies, “Encountering the Buddha” invites visitors to reconsider Buddhist practices and concepts of beauty.

The Freer|Sackler gratefully acknowledges The Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation as the exhibition’s lead sponsor. The exhibition features the Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room from the Alice S. Kandell Collection. This project received Federal support from the Asian Pacific American Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center.

Detail, The Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room from the Alice S. Kandell Collection. Photograph: 2010
Objects: Tibet, China and Mongolia, 13th–20th century; mixed media; gifts and promised gifts from the Alice S. Kandell Collection



Resound: Bells of Ancient China

Opens October 14, 2017

Resources: [press release](#); [images](#)

Musical innovations in the Bronze Age meld with today’s digital technology in this interactive exploration of ancient Chinese bells. Thousands of years ago, Chinese musicians worked with foundry technicians to cast matched sets of bronze bells of different sizes to produce a range of tones. They developed oval-shaped bells that, depending on where they were struck, produced two distinct pitches with an intentional interval between them. “Resound” investigates this advancement with displays of early instruments including a graduated set of matched bells discovered together in a Chinese tomb, videos of ancient bells being played and chances for visitors to compose their own music on virtual bronze bells.

Bell (bo) with birds and dragons, from a set of four, China, Shanxi province, State of Jin, Houma foundry, Eastern Zhou dynasty, late Spring and Autumn period, ca. 500–450 BCE, Purchase—Charles Lang Freer Endowment, Freer Gallery of Art, F1941.9; Two bells (bo) with felines and dragons, possibly from a set of four, North China, Eastern Zhou dynasty, late Spring and Autumn period, ca. 550–500 BCE, Gift of Arthur M. Sackler, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, S1987.274, 307; Bell (bo) with felines and dragons, China, Shanxi province, State of Jin, Houma foundry, Eastern Zhou dynasty, late Spring and Autumn period, ca. 550–500 BCE, Gift of Arthur M. Sackler, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, S1987.282



Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt

October 14, 2017–January 15, 2018

Resources: [press release](#); [images](#)

Cats’ personalities have made them internet stars today. In ancient Egypt, cats were associated with divinities, as revealed in “Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt.” Cat coffins and representations of the cat-headed goddess Bastet are among the extraordinary objects that reveal felines’ critical role in ancient Egyptian religious, social and political life. Dating from the Middle Kingdom to the Byzantine period, the more than 80 works include statues, amulets and other luxury items decorated with feline features, which enjoyed special status among Egyptians. The exhibition, organized by the Brooklyn Museum, also dedicates a small section to cats’ canine counterparts.

Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt is organized by the Brooklyn Museum and generously supported by Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars Petcare.

Coffin for a Cat; 664–332 BCE, or later; wood, gesso, paint, animal remains; Brooklyn Museum, Charles Edwin Wilbour Fund, 37.1944Ea–b



Subodh Gupta: "Terminal"

October 14, 2017–June 24, 2018

Resources: [press release](#); [images](#)

Internationally acclaimed artist Subodh Gupta transforms familiar household objects, such as stainless steel and brass vessels often found in India, into wondrous structures. The Freer|Sackler features the artist's monumental installation "Terminal." Composed of towers of brass containers connected by an intricate web of thread, "Terminal" converts the readymade into a glimmering landscape. Ranging from 1 to 15 feet tall, the spires recall architectural features found on religious structures such as churches, temples and mosques.

Subodh Gupta: Terminal is generously sponsored by Altria Group. Additional funding is provided by the Endowment for Contemporary Asian Art, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery. Exhibition appears courtesy of the artist and Hauser & Wirth.

Image courtesy of the Hauser & Wirth Gallery

RETURNING



The Glazed Elephant: Ceramic Traditions in Cambodia

Returns October 14, 2017

Resources: [exhibition website](#)

Water-pouring elephants; lime pots shaped like birds, rabbits and lions; bottles with human faces and hands folded in reverence: these vessels feature in the ceramic traditions of the Angkor kingdom (802–1431). "The Glazed Elephant" explores these unconventional forms, their supposed functions and the people who made and used them during this famous period in Cambodia's history.

Pouring vessel in the form of a caparisoned elephant, with a spout on the shoulder; Cambodia or northeast Thailand, Angkor period, 12th–13th century; stoneware with iron glaze; Gift of Osborne and Gratia Hauge, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, S1996.124a–b



Feast Your Eyes: A Taste for Luxury in Ancient Iran

Returns October 14, 2017

Resources: [exhibition website](#)

Considered one of the largest and finest holdings of its kind, the collection comprises works dating from the first millennium BCE, beginning with the rule of the Achaemenid kings (550–330 BCE), to the early Islamic period. The installation explores the meaning behind these objects' overarching artistic and technical characteristics.

Plate; Iran, Sasanian period, reign of Shapur II, 4th century; silver and gilt; Purchase—Charles Lang Freer Endowment, Freer Gallery of Art, F1934.23