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ASIA SOCIETY ANNOUNCES ITS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS DURING ASIA WEEK NEW YORK, MARCH 18–26, 2011

Asia Society is pleased to announce its schedule of events for Asia Week New York, from March 18–26, 2011. Asia Week brings together diverse programming and activities hosted by museums, galleries, specialty dealers and auction houses to promote understanding and appreciation of Asian art. Asia Society events during the week include three exhibitions, two artist talks and a gala benefit reception and dinner.

ASIA SOCIETY MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

A Prince's Manuscript Unbound: Muhammad Juki's Shahnamah

On view February 9–May 1, 2011

Asia Society Museum presents one of the finest surviving Persian manuscripts—an exquisite and richly illuminated 15th-century volume commissioned by the Timurid prince Muhammad Juki (1402–1444). This rarely exhibited manuscript, now in the collection of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, features more than 30 miniatures that illustrate scenes from the Persian national epic, the *Shahnamah* (*Book of Kings*). This is the first time that the intricately colored and gilded illustrations in the manuscript—recently unbound and conserved—have all been exhibited together in the United States. Although it is not known when the epic was first illustrated, countless copies of this poem have been made through the ages. Written by the Persian poet Firdausi (ca. 935–1026), the nearly 60,000-couplet poem is based on a history of the kings of Persia, depicting legendary accounts of the beginnings of civilization until the Arab Muslim conquest that ended Persian rule in the 7th century.

The exhibition is accompanied by independent scholar Barbara Brend's book *Muhammad Juki's Shahnamah of Firdausi*, published by the Royal Asiatic Society/Philip Wilson Publishers (2010), the first complete study of the manuscript.

A Longing for Luxury: Chinese Ceramics from the Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection

On view February 9–September 11, 2011

Enjoy a selection of a dozen exemplary Chinese ceramics from Asia Society Museum's world renowned permanent collection, the Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection of Asian art. This exhibition presents exquisite Song through Qing dynasty

porcelains and stonewares that collectors have coveted from the time of their creation to the present day.

Out of This World: Animated Video from Asia Society's Contemporary Art Collection
On view March 1–January 26, 2011

Three of Asia's leading contemporary artists Cao Fei, Eko Nugroho, and Akino Kondoh – engage our imaginations with video works that take us “out of this world.”

GALA BENEFIT RECEPTION AND DINNER

Celebration of Asia Week

Monday, March 21, 6pm–11pm

Gala Reception (6pm–8pm), Dinner & Dance (8pm–11pm)

583 Park Avenue (at East 63rd Street)

Celebration of Asia Week with Honorary Chairs Renée Fleming and Naeem Khan features a chic Silk Road-themed cocktail reception and dinner of pan-Asian culinary delights from acclaimed chef Hemant Mathur, table décor by top Asian fashion designers, dancing and a live auction. This elegant gala presents art, fashion, cuisine, music and design from across Asia in one festive setting. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit AsiaSociety.org/asiaweekbenefit, email asiaweekbenefit@AsiaSociety.org or call 212-327-9335.

LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, FILMS

Changing Conceptions: Gandharan Art and Buddhism

Thursday, March 17 at 6:30 pm

Christian Luczanits, a leading scholar of Gandharan art, discusses how changing perceptions of the Buddha and bodhisattvas visible in Gandharan art indicate that the region was instrumental in the development of Mahayana Buddhism.

Free admission. Limited seating. Tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 6:00 pm.

Dialogues in Contemporary Asian Art: Discussion

Monir Farmanfarmaian

Wednesday, March 23, 6:30 pm

Hear world-renowned artist Monir Farmanfarmaian talk about her life and artwork. Awarded the Venice Biennale's Gold Medal in 1958, Farmanfarmaian has exhibited internationally and now lives in her home country Iran after having spent nearly a decade in New York. In discussion with Melissa Chiu, Asia Society Museum Director. Made possible through funding from Asian Cultural Council. Presented in conjunction with Asian Contemporary Art Week, a citywide event held March 21–31, featuring exhibitions, discussions, receptions, performances and more (locations and complete agenda at acaw.net).

\$10 Members; \$12 Students with ID/Seniors; \$15 Nonmembers. Tickets available online at <https://tickets.AsiaSociety.org> or by calling 212-517-ASIA (2742) Mon–Fri, 1 pm–5 pm.

Dialogues in Contemporary Asian Art: Discussion

Ushio Shinohara and Tomokazu Matsuyama: Neo-Dada Mix / Remix

Monday, March 28, 6:30 pm

New York-based Japanese artists, Ushio Shinohara and Tomokazu Matsuyama, explore Japanese culture and history in a lively discussion. Shinohara achieved iconic status as a Neo-Dada artist in Japan in the late 1950s and moved to New York in 1969. Matsuyama, who has lived in New York since 2001, breaks up, remixes, and reshapes images of Japanese art. Moderated by Miwako Tezuka, Asia Society Museum Associate Curator. Presented in collaboration with Ethan Cohen Fine Art, New York, in conjunction with Asian Contemporary Art Week, a citywide event held March 21–31, featuring exhibitions, discussions, receptions, performances and more (locations and complete agenda at acaw.net).

Free admission. Limited seating. Tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 6:00 pm.

New York International Children’s Film Festival

at Asia Society on Saturday-Sunday, March 19-20

New York International Children’s Film Festival teams up with Asia Society to present a stunning selection of new films from China, Japan, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka. The festival, held March 4-27 at a variety of locations, features over 100 films, premieres, workshops, audience voting, awards and prizes! Visit gkids.com for a schedule and ticket information. Asia Society members receive a special discount.

ASIASTORE AT ASIA SOCIETY MUSEUM

AsiaStore Special Sale Event: Scholars’ Rocks from the Collection of Kemin Hu

Friday–Sunday, March 18–27

Personal appearance: Friday–Sunday, March 18–20, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm

AsiaStore presents a newly acquired collection from Kemin Hu. Experience the power of scholars’ rocks or “spirit stones”—cherished by the Chinese for generations. Autographed copies of Hu’s books are available for purchase.

AsiaStore Special Sale Event: Asian Art Collectors Book Review

Friday–Sunday, March 18–27

AsiaStore presents a vetted selection of the latest publications and must-read titles for Asian Art Collectors. Gain critical insight into the world of Asian collectibles, including ceramics, sculpture, textiles, painting, furniture, jewelry and more.

ASIA SOCIETY MUSEUM LOCATION, HOURS AND TOURS

Asia Society Museum is located at 725 Park Avenue (at 70th Street), in New York City. Museum hours: Tue–Sun (11 am–6 pm), Fridays until 9 pm (except from July 1 through

Labor Day). Admission: \$10 Adults; \$7 Seniors; \$5 Students with valid ID; Free for Members & Persons under 16. Admission is free to all Friday 6 pm to 9 pm.

AsiaStore hours: Mon–Sun (11 am–6 pm), Fridays until 9 pm. During July 2011 and from July 1–Labor Day, daily until 6 pm, closed Mondays.

Garden Court Café hours: Tues–Sun, 12 pm–3 pm. From July 1–Labor Day, 12 pm–2 pm. For reservations, call 212-570-5202.

Gallery Talks: Tues–Sun, 2 pm and Friday, also at 6:30 pm. (Friday evening tours suspended during July 2011 and July 1–Labor Day.)

About Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd, Asia Society is a nonprofit nonpartisan educational institution with offices in Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, New York, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, and Washington, D.C. Through exhibitions and related public programs, Asia Society provides a forum for the issues and viewpoints reflected in both traditional and contemporary Asian art. For more information, visit AsiaSociety.org

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