



ASIA WEEK SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA/ OCTOBER 2-10

# THE NEW MAJORITY REPORT

It's the next logical step in the changing identity of the region

THE STEADILY INCREASING Asian population in the San Francisco Bay Area (23.3% in 2010 as compared with 19% in 2000 according to <http://www.bayareacensus.ca.gov/bayarea.htm>) has been the subject of much reportage and given interesting demographical insights into the way life is changing in this very important part of the US.

According to the 2010 census, 1.6 million people in the region out of a total of 7 million identify themselves as Asian or of Asian descent.

So, if string beans, bok choy, Feng Shui, Yoga, Tabla and Sanskrit classes are more common than before in this area, then a visual arts festival dedicated to art from Asia was the next logical step that was waiting to happen. And it's happening this October with the launch of the Asia Week-San Francisco Bay Area, to be held from October 2 to 10.

The week will include a public program roster of galleries, museums, universities and institutions



Above: Edward Gui, Director, NanHai Art; Supriya Jha's "Has this ever happened? No, but it should!", 2012 (top) and Qiu Deshu's "Figure - The History of Civilization is Lacerations," 2012 (right) will be showcased at the Asia Week San Francisco Bay Area

presenting exhibitions and programs representing the full spectrum of Asian cultures. Early partners of the Asia Week San Francisco Bay Area (AW-SFBA) include ArtSpan & Asia Society, San Francisco; University of California Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA), Berkeley; Bonhams, Fine Arts Gallery at San



Francisco State University, International Art Gallery, Japan Society of Northern California, Michaan's Auctions, Mongolia Foundation, NanHai Art, Peninsula Art Institute, Peninsula Museum of Art, SFO Museum and Warren's Antiques.

As the Asians in the Bay Area get ready for an unprecedented art treat in the first fortnight of

October, BLOUIN ARTINFO speaks to the man behind the launch of the Asia Week-San Francisco Bay Area Edward Gui, who is the director of the Millbrae, California-based gallery called NanHai Art, that was founded in San Francisco in 1986. Excerpts:

**Given the strong population of Asians or of people of Asian**

**descent in the region, this seems like a celebration that was waiting to happen. Could you share in detail the birth of the Asia Week San Francisco Bay Area and the choice of the first week of October to host the same?**

Yes, you are absolutely right. San Francisco Bay Area is one of the most diverse regions in the world and boasts a strong geographic



and historical ties with Asia. A platform to showcase and promote Asian art is much needed and the Bay Area has long waited for it to happen. We've looked into major art events in the world, and found out that October is the only month that hasn't been "booked" – welcome to the Bay Area during its most beautiful season!

**Could you share the highlights of the AWSFBA that you think would make it a stand out act?**

Featuring an annual Symposium on October 2, with "Asian Art in the Contemporary World" as this year's theme, Asia Week-SFBA emphasizes the importance of academic discourse.

The AWSFBA will also have a special focus on contemporary Asian Art, such as the "First Look: Collecting Contemporary at the Asian," the Asian Art Museum's first large-scale exhibition of contemporary work drawn exclusively from its collection, and "Liebian/Fissure: The Art of Qiu Deshu," a solo exhibition of the Shanghai-based artist presented by my gallery, NanHai Art.

Another characteristic of the AWSFBA is its relevance with the Bay Area, such as the Chinatown Art Walk sponsored by the Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco, "The Tushanwan Pagodas: Models from the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition," an exhibition presented by the SFO Museum, and the Mongolia Foundation's exhibitions "Bay Area Mongolian Artists: Visions from Afar" and the "Mongolian Women Artists: Three Gems."

Two Asian art auctions will also take place at Bonhams (October 13, with a preview on the October 9-11) and Michaan's Auctions (October 10), which is very exciting!

**Could you share the process of representing Asia in the AWSFBA?**



Given the number of countries, it's difficult to represent Asia country-wise, so we do it region-wise. The Asia Week San Francisco Bay Area is able to cover all the major regions of Asia.

**Is Performing Arts going to be an important component of the AWSFBA given its rich culture in almost all of Asia?**

Yes, the major focus of AWSFBA is visual arts. However, one of our participating organizations,



Some works to be showcased at the AWSFBA (clockwise from above): A large jade 'Eight Buddhist Emblems' Ruyi Scepter, Qing Dynasty; Turo's "Camel Caravan," 2014; Qiu Deshu's "Fissure - Gathered Colors," 2009; Yang Yongliang's "The Night of Perpetual Day, Edition 3 of 7," 2013

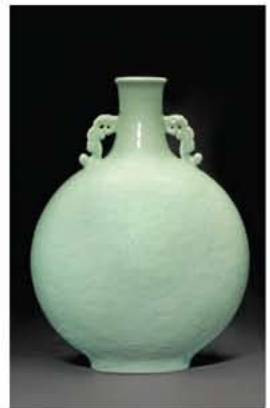
the Indian Classical Music and Arts Foundation, will present an Indian classical music performance in addition to the "Glimpse of India" exhibition. I think it will add a touch of celebration to the week.

**Do you plan to scale it up to the level of other top art fairs in the US and have editions in other cities with big Asian populations?**

The AWSFBA is different from art fairs and we do not plan to present one. The "San Francisco Bay Area" is the defining characteristic of this Asia Week, thus the AWSFBA will only be celebrated in the Bay Area. However, this platform is open for all Asian Art-related organizations and we invite visitors from across the globe.

**Given the limited time that you would have, which events would you choose to attend?**

I would like to go to all if possible! The "First Look: Collecting Contemporary at the Asian" is among my must see.



A rare large carved celadon-glazed moon flask, Qianlong six-character seal mark in underglaze blue of the period (1736-1795), property from the estate of Marilyn Jones

Also, The Mongolia Foundation's exhibition, "Mongolian Women Artists: Three Gems" will feature works by Munkhtsetseg Jalkhaajav (aka Mugi), who was featured in the exhibition that the organization curated at this year's Venice Biennial.

Asia Week San Francisco Bay Area will be held from October 2-10. For details, log on to [www.asiaweeksf.com](http://www.asiaweeksf.com) — ARCHANA KHARE-GHOSE [www.blouinartinfo.com](http://www.blouinartinfo.com)

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