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# San Francisco and the Bay Area Asia Week 2015

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October 1, 2015

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Not able to go to China? Putting off that trip to Mongolia? Not to worry – for one activity and art packed week, Asia comes to the Bay Area.

Starting October 2nd through October 10, [Asia Week San Francisco Bay Area](#) brings together [Asian art](#) dealers, auction houses, cultural institutions and academia, uniting the diverse participants around the theme of “Asian Art in the Contemporary World.”

The week begins with a Chinatown Art walk. Led by the [Chinese Culture Foundation](#), the walk takes visitors through a history of Chinatown’s struggle to control its image and voice. The artwork seen on this guided tour features significant events in history such as the I-Hotel and also symbols of cultural pride

In the afternoon, [NanHai Art](#) is sponsoring a two-part symposium on “Asian Art in the Contemporary World. The first panel is titled “Innovation and Continuity: Art Across Asia Now, the symposium will survey major trends in contemporary Asian Art. The second panel focuses on art from marketing and collecting perspectives. The gallery is also showing the work of Qui Deshu, whose work combines a traditional Chinese aesthetic along with a modern perspective.

Qiu Deshu, one of the few artists to have inspired international recognition since the 1980s, studied traditional ink painting and seal carving when he was a child. However, the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution interrupted his career in art when he was sent to work at a plastics factory. In the late 1970s, Qiu picked up ink painting again and co-founded the Grass Painting Society (caocao hua she), one of China’s first experimental art societies in the post-Mao period. In the early 1980s, he developed his signature style of works called “fissuring” (liebian). This is a pictorial metaphor for the artist’s life and as his artistic career, both of which have experienced dramatic disruptions and setbacks. In these works, he applies vivid colors to xuan paper, which he tears up and then mounts the fragments to a base layer, often leaving space between to create a pictorial field with the “cracks” that he feels are symbolic of life’s journey.

In between, the visitor can view the current exhibit at the [Asian Art Museum](#), “First Look,” an exhibition featuring highlights and recent acquisitions in the Museum’s expanding contemporary art collection. Running until 11 October, the show marks the second time in 2015 that the Asian Art Museum is mounting a major display of contemporary art from its collection. Allison Harding, the guest curator who organized “First Look,” explained “To truly understand the contemporary, you must understand the tradition from which it emerged. “First Look” embodies how tradition can inspire new works in the present and continue to impact contemporary life.”

In Berkeley, California, you will find [The Mongolia Foundation](#) presenting an exhibition of three leading Mongolian women artists. Munkhtsetseg Jalkhaajav, also known as Mugi, currently has her works on show at the 56th Venice Biennale 2015. She creates oil paintings, collage, bronze and fabric sculptures, with themes of healing and nature. In contrast, Nomin Bold uses a traditional painting style known as Mongol Zurag, while Tugs-Oyun Sodnom is one of the earliest female oil painters in Mongolia whose versatility spans oil painting and graphic art.

While at the foundation, head over to the concurrent exhibition “Bay Area Mongolian Artists: Visions from Afar” featuring three artists based in the San Francisco and East Bay regions. One of the artists, Turburam Sandagdorj also known as Turo, uses paper cutting techniques in both large and minuscule installations. His work features characters in Mongolian folk tales and the world of fantasy. The [Institute for East Asian Studies at UC Berkeley](#) is presenting "[Auspicious Images to Feminist Critiques](#): The Evolution of Mithila Painting in Rural India. "

The week culminates with the opening party with San Francisco’s [Open Studios](#), the city’s biggest art event of the year. SF Open Studios is the oldest and largest open studios program in the country, featuring an annual, month-long art event in October and November that showcases over 800 emerging and established San Francisco artists in their studios. The visitor is invited to you to explore and find amazing art at every turn. He or she will discover an authentic connection to this community and artwork in myriad forms, from painting, photography, and printmaking to glass, metal sculpture, and more. The event connects collectors with artists for engaging dialogue and a glimpse into the life of the working artist; SF Open Studios simultaneously helps artists build their mailing list, gain new admirers, and ultimately sustain a living making art.

The complete schedule and list of participants is [here](#). From October 2 through October 10 throughout the Bay Area



courtesy The Mongolian Foundation

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