



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:  
Chelsea Mason, Marketing Director  
626.449.2742 x22  
c.mason@pacificasiamuseum.org

### **Pacific Asia Museum Announces 2013 Exhibition Schedule**

December 19, 2012—Pacific Asia Museum announced today its exhibition schedule for 2013. In addition to the exhibitions currently on view, *The Garden in Asia* and *The Art of Continuity: Revering our Elders*, Pacific Asia Museum will open four additional exhibitions featuring both traditional and contemporary Asian art.

Beginning April 5, 2013, pieces from the famed Harari Collection will be featured in the exhibition *Focus on the Subject: The Art of the Harari Collection* in the Frank and Toshie Mosher Gallery of Japanese Art. Masterpieces from the collection will be featured alongside other objects from the Pacific Asia Museum collection for close study of themes in Japanese art, including landscape and writing.

Pacific Asia Museum will also present a series of exhibitions in the Focus Gallery of contemporary Asian art throughout 2013. Works by Japanese, Korean and South Asian artists will examine trends in contemporary Asian art and introduce lesser-known traditional art forms that are still practiced today.

"The wide range of exhibitions planned for 2013 really demonstrates Pacific Asia Museum's commitment to representing Asian art in a broad sense," said museum Curator Bridget Bray. "We strive to expose our visitors to both contemporary and traditional art from all over Asia, and the breadth of this schedule is evidence of that."

In addition to temporary exhibitions, Pacific Asia Museum will continue renovations of permanent galleries. In keeping with the successful installations in the Introduction Gallery and Gallery of Korean Art, both renovated within the past two years, the Chinese and South Asian-Himalayan Galleries will be renovated and re-installed with thematic permanent exhibitions intended to rotate periodically.

"We have been so pleased with community and donor support for these gallery renovations over the past years, and we're excited to continue the process," said Executive Director Charles Mason. "The new installations have given a new vibrancy to the galleries." The new Chinese gallery is scheduled to open in the summer of 2013, after which renovations on the South Asian-Himalayan Gallery will begin.

Please see below for more details on Pacific Asia Museum's 2013 exhibition schedule and gallery renovations.

#### **Continuing on View in 2013**

##### ***The Garden in Asia***

November 21, 2012 – November 17, 2013

Changing Exhibition Gallery

This exhibition features objects from across Asia that demonstrate the role of the 'garden' as a source of inspiration throughout the centuries, and focuses on the idea of the garden as a creative space, both intellectually and artistically. The included artworks allow visitors to experience the impact gardens have made on artists' literal study of nature as well as its more emotional and abstract qualities. Visitors are encouraged to follow their gallery visit with time in the museum's renowned courtyard garden, and reflecting further upon the ideas presented in the exhibition.

### ***The Art of Continuity: Revering our Elders***

December 14, 2012 – January 5, 2014

Changing Exhibition Gallery

*The Art of Continuity* examines the impact of the veneration of ancestors and lineages on the arts of Asia and the Pacific Islands. In cultures informed by Confucian values, worship of family ancestors has generated countless objects for use in prescribed rituals and at altars set up for this purpose. In other areas of Asia and the Pacific Islands, elders of prior generations (not necessarily connected by blood but instead through monastic or communal ties) are revered for their accumulated wisdom and ability to guide us through life's transitions. Depicting them in paintings and sculpture connects us to their legacy and reminds us of their example. Visitors are also able to share memories of their own ancestors, highlighting the richness of southern California's cultural diversity.

### **New in 2013**

#### ***Focus on the Subject: The Art of the Harari Collection***

April 5, 2013 – March 30, 2014

Frank and Toshie Mosher Gallery of Japanese Art

One of the most significant groups of paintings at Pacific Asia Museum is of Japanese Edo (1603–1868) and Meiji (1868–1912) era paintings and drawings formerly of the renowned Harari Collection. *Focus on the Subject: The Art of the Harari Collection* features selected works from this group, and elucidates how Japanese painters and artisans shared their admiration for certain subjects such as tea, landscape, beauty and writing. These recurring themes found in the paintings also appear and are echoed in other media including ceramics, textiles, lacquerware and sculpture. By looking at a few of the finest examples of these paintings alongside the objects featuring similar subjects, visitors will have an opportunity to appreciate these themes from multiple perspectives, thereby deepening their knowledge of Japanese art and culture.

#### ***Takashi Tomo-oka***

April 19 – July 28, 2013

Focus Gallery

*Takashi Tomo-oka* features the contemporary Japanese artist's photographs, also described as contemporary *nihonga* (Japanese-style painting), which represent a new form of painting that is carried out not with ink and brushes, but using a digital camera then printing the resulting image on handmade paper. Tomo-oka exclusively chooses plants as a subject, and in these photographs the essential form of the plants becomes flattened and simplified creating a decorative sensibility, similar to that of the Rinpa (Rimpa) school in the 18th century.

#### ***Unrealistic World***

August 23 – November 24, 2013

Focus Gallery

*Unrealistic World* introduces a group of contemporary Korean artists who deal with the issue of constructing realities through digital media, photography and film. The works in the show embody a stunning sense of modernist aesthetic and surrealism, asking viewers to question whether photography and video, which are primarily used to record reality, actually represent it in an accurate sense.

#### ***Ralli Quilts: Contemporary Textiles from Pakistan***

December 20, 2013 – March. 2, 2014

Focus Gallery

*Ralli Quilts: Contemporary Textiles from Pakistan* features quilts made by women in the areas of Sindh,

Pakistan, western India, and surrounding areas. This exhibition helps expand the conception of 'contemporary art' by looking at their form, color and pattern rather than solely, how they are made, what they are for and the meaning of each color and pattern. The book *Ralli Quilts: Traditional Textiles from Pakistan and India* by Patricia Ormsby Stoddard, Ph.D. will be available in the Museum Store during the exhibition.

### **Permanent Gallery Renovations Continue**

In addition to the temporary exhibitions listed above, the museum will commence major renovations of the Chinese and South Asian-Himalayan Galleries. Following the success of the new Introduction Gallery and Gallery of Korean Art, these renovations will offer a better experience to our visitors and provide a safer environment for our art collection. The newly renovated Chinese and South Asian-Himalayan art galleries will enable visitors to see a wider selection of objects from the museum's collection, in displays that center around themes which contextualize the objects but also encourage connections to works in adjacent galleries. This enhanced content will also make the works of art more meaningful and personally relevant to our visitors. At the same time, the upgraded climate controls, display cases and seismic safeguards will better protect and preserve the works of art while they are on view, thus ensuring they remain an educational and cultural resource for generations to come.

### **About Pacific Asia Museum**

Pacific Asia Museum is among the few institutions in the United States dedicated exclusively to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands. The museum's mission is to further intercultural understanding through the arts of Asia and the Pacific Islands. Since 1971, Pacific Asia Museum has served a broad audience of students, families, adults, and scholars through its education and outreach programs.

Pacific Asia Museum is located at 46 North Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, California 91101. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10 general, \$7 students/seniors, and free for museum members and children under 12. Admission is free every 4th Friday of the month.

For more information visit [www.pacificasiamuseum.org](http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org) or call (626) 449-2742.

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