

Asian Art in London 2014

ASIAN ART in London (AAL) is now in its 17th year and this autumn's event runs from 30 October to 8 November. As always, AAL has organised a diverse range of gallery shows, as well as gallery and curator talks, lectures, workshops, study days and a conference. Along with this year's 55 dealers, there are museums, London-based international and regional auction houses, as well as societies. Once again, there is a group of overseas galleries joining their London-based colleagues for the event, taking space in the city's galleries. The popular Late Night Openings start with Kensington Church Street on 1 November, St James's on 2 November and Mayfair on 3 November, all from 5-9pm. Not all galleries participate in these late night openings, so check the AAL booklet, or website, for individual details.

Throughout the period of AAL there are a series of gallery talks, lectures and book launches – check the AAL booklet, or their website, for up-to-date details. The AAL directory is published in the booklet Asian Art in London, which also gives listings, events, gallery talks, auctions, and maps. This can be found in the members' galleries, or can be obtained by contacting the Asian Art in London office, tel +44 (0) 20 7499 2215, email info@asianartinlondon.com. This year Art Tours of the galleries can be arranged on request, for more information contact the Asian Art in London office.

The annual gala party is on Thursday, 30 October at the British Museum in Bloomsbury. It is a ticketed event with tickets costing £60. Tickets to the party must be pre-booked from Asian Art in London, contact them on +44 (0)20 7499 2215, or email info@asianartinlondon.com.

APART FROM GALLERY shows and museum exhibitions, there are many other events organised around the main week. Some planned, some serendipitous. There is a short course, starting Monday 3 November, entitled *Arts of China from the Song to the Ming*, at the British Museum to coincide with their major exhibition on the Ming period. There is a study day, *Exploring Indian Textiles*, at Morely College, London SE1, on 3

November, a one-day course on *Contemporary Chinese Ink Painting* at Sotheby's Institute on 7 November, and a musical performance, *Music of Zhibua Temple*, at the British Museum also on 7 November.

At Leighton House in Kensington, *A Victorian Obsession* presents 50 exceptional paintings by many of the leading artists of the Victorian period within the extraordinary Islamic-inspired interiors of Leighton House

Museum. The pictures all belong to the Mexican collector Juan Antonio Pérez Simón and form the largest private collection of Victorian art outside the UK. The works have never before been seen together in Europe and will have their only UK showing at Leighton House Museum. Lawrence Alma-Tadema's *The Roses of Heliogabalus*, one of the iconic images of Victorian art, will be exhibited in London for the first time since 1913. The exhibition runs from 14 November to 29 March 2015.

There are several Asian exhibitions during AAL (see our exhibition pages 26 to 28). At the British Museum there is *Ming: 50 Years that Changed China* that opened on 18 September; the Brunei Gallery (SOAS), is exploring Sri Lankan contemporary art in *Serendipity Revealed*, which opens 9 October and runs until 20 December; and at the Bhavan Centre in London W14 is *Namita Jain: A Glimpse of Vibrant Rajasthan*, from 27 October to 7 November. Once again, the Embassy of Japan is organising an exhibition for the event – *Mannen-Dokkei: Ten-thousand Year Clock Skill, Accuracy and Art in Japanese Clockmaking*, from 29 October through early December. At Dairy Art Centre in London W1, there is a major show of the work of Yoshitomo Nara, from 3 October to 7 December.

Out of London, the Ashmolean has two exhibitions: *A View of Chinese Gardens* to 30 November and *Paintings by Fang Zhaoling. A Centenary Exhibition*, from 2 October to 22 February – both worth the trip



Selection of Chinese scholars' items, Fleurdelys Antiquités

out of town. The Ashmolean has organised two lectures during AAL, on 31 October, with Halloween in mind, it is *Yama to Oni: Ghosts and Demons in Japanese Art*, and on 7 November, Prof Craig Clunas discusses *Yongle to Zhengtong: Fifty Years that Change Chinese Art?* This year Manchester is celebrating the Asian Art Triennale and the Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art is showing *Harmonious Society*, the largest exhibition of Chinese contemporary art in the UK to date. In Birmingham, at the Ikon Gallery, there is the Korean artist Lee Bul's first major exhibition in the UK, with an accompanying exhibition of her work at the Korean Cultural Centre in London.

Also, Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, is launching an art foundation with the inaugural exhibition being of Ai Weiwei's work,

from 1 October to 14 December.

And now, here is just a sample of the diverse range of gallery shows on offer this year. Asian Art Newspaper's website will have this information from mid October onwards.

LATE NIGHT OPENING Kensington Church Street

Saturday 1 November

AR PAB Alvaro Roquette/Pedro Aguiar-Branco, Gregg Baker Asian Art, Fleurdelys Antiquités, Marchant, Amir Mohtashemi, Jorge Welsh Oriental Porcelain & Works of Art.

GREGG BAKER's exhibition this year is *Recent Acquisitions*, a catalogue is available. Fleurdelys Antiquités' exhibition, *The Scholar's Studio*, comprises a collection of scholars'

Continued on page 18