

SAM PUBLICATIONS



BAJA TO VANCOUVER: THE WEST COAST AND CONTEMPORARY ART

Published collectively by the Seattle Art Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego, Vancouver Art Gallery and the CCAC Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art in San Francisco, in conjunction with a traveling exhibition of the same name. The catalogue includes contributions by Daina Augaitis, Lisa Corrin, Douglas Coupland, Matthew Higgs, Toby Kamps, Ralph Rugoff, Matthew Stadler, Torolab, the Center for Land Use Interpretation and the Office for Soft Architecture. It received honorable mention in the American Association of Museums 2004 Museum Publications Design Competition.

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RENAISSANCE ART IN FOCUS: NERI DI BICCI AND DEVOTIONAL PAINTING IN ITALY

Published by the Seattle Art Museum in conjunction with an exhibition of the same name. Written by Elizabeth Darrow, Nicholas Dorman and Chiyo Ishikawa.

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CONSERVATION



left: Recently discovered signature from *Poem Scroll with Deer*; right: Section of *Poem Scroll with Deer*, Japan, early 17th century, Momoyama period (1568–1615), calligraphy by Hon'ami Kōetsu (1558–1637), painting by Tawaraya Sōtatsu (act. 1600–1640), handscroll, ink and gold and silver paint on paper, h. 13 3/8 x 363 3/4 in., Gift of Mrs. Donald E. Fredrick, 51.127; Photos: Shirono Seiji, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo

SINCE THE OPENING of the Neukom Conservation Studio in April 2003, SAM's Conservation Department has embraced many projects throughout the museum and in the community.

The permanent collection at Volunteer Park has been a particular focal point for conservation this year. SAAM houses many more works of art than can be displayed at any one time. An Institute for Library and Museum Services (IMLS) grant and a bequest from Mary Robinson, a longtime SAAM volunteer, enabled the museum to purchase new cabinets to house its Asian ceramics collection as part of a systematic program to bring storage up to world-class standards throughout the institution.

A major highlight of the year was the return of *Poem Scroll with Deer* by Hon'ami Kōetsu and Tawaraya Sōtatsu. This scroll, one of the most cherished works of art in the collection, was conserved in Nara, Japan, under the auspices of the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo (NRICPT).

Other works of art conserved by staff and contract conservators include works by Frank Okada, Jo Baer, Robert Ryman and William Ivey, as well as an eighteenth-

century Chinese jade tree, two animal figures from Burkina Faso, a heddle pulley from the Ivory Coast, a Yoruba *ile ori* (House of the Head) and a Ming dynasty tomb guardian figure. In addition, five hundred Indonesian textiles on loan from the Manring Collection were rehoused, and Dr. James Nason and Megon Noble of the University of Washington's Burke Museum undertook X-ray fluorescence testing for inorganic pesticide residues in some works of African art.

SAM hosted distinguished guests including Dr. Park Chi-Sun, Chief conservator of the Jung-Jae Conservation Center in Seoul, who examined *Preaching Buddha*, a Chosōn dynasty painting scheduled for conservation in 2005, and Merv Richard, Deputy Chief of Conservation of the National Gallery of Art, who taught an art-packing and shipping workshop sponsored by the American Institute for Conservation and the Western Association for Art Conservation. Stephen Mellor, Head of Conservation at the National Museum of African Art, held the College Art Association conservation workshop at SAM.

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