

PRESS RELEASE

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SEATTLE ASIAN ART MUSEUM ACTIVATES EMPTY MUSEUM WITH FREE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Join us for Off the Walls, a two-day celebration of art and culture, September 15 and 16



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SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Asian Art Museum will host a free two-day community celebration in its now-empty historic building. The art is off the walls as the museum prepares for an upcoming renovation and expansion, so SAM has invited local artists to create installations and performances the whole community can experience in this beloved landmark. The Asian Art Museum is located at 1400 E Prospect Street. RSVP at visitsam.org.

The Asian Art Museum closed its doors in February 2017 to prepare for its renovation and expansion, which will address critical infrastructure issues, increase ADA accessibility, add much-needed education and gallery space, and create a better connection to Volunteer Park. The improved museum is scheduled to reopen in 2019. Learn more at visitsam.org/inspire.

Fri Sep 15

Off the Walls: Remembering and Creating Art & Dance of India

7-10 pm

RSVPs for this event are no longer being accepted as the event is at capacity; limited tickets will be available at the door. Reflect on the art and dance of India with talks by two leading scholars. Nalini Balbir, Universite Sorbonne-Nouvelle (Paris), will speak about Jain manuscript culture and communities in 15th-century North India. Ayla Joncheere, Ghent University (Belgium), will speak about and perform a demonstration of Rajasthani Kalbeliya dance, recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage.

A reception follows to celebrate the museum's future, with Bijli, an electric Indian fusion band. Enjoy beats by DJ Anup Shastri along with the intoxicating sounds of sarod and tabla by Brandon McIntosh and Chaz Hastings.

Sat Sep 16

Off the Walls: Community Day

10 am-2 pm

Enjoy performances and take part in art-making both inside and outside of the museum at this free, family-friendly community day.



- See live art installations created by artists [Benji Anderson & Priscilla Umemoto](#), [Romson Regarde Bustillo](#), [Louis Chinn & MisTANGQ](#), [Kalina Chung](#), [Minh Nguyen](#), [Chris Shaw](#), [Kenji Stoll](#), [Tasveer](#), and [Junko Yamamoto](#).
- Create art with teaching artists [Wyly Astley](#), [Janet Fagan](#), and [Mylen Huggins](#)
- Experience performances by [CHIKIRI & The School of TAIKO](#), [Mak Fai Kung Fu Club Lion Dance Team](#), and [Massive Monkees Studio: The Beacon](#)
- Get your photo taken on the camels by [Youth in Focus](#)
- Enjoy snacks from food trucks in front of the building
- Look for a special appearance by SAM mascot, Sammy the Camel

Sat Sep 16

Off the Walls: After Dark

8-11 pm

Music, dancing, and art-making take place all evening during this free, unique art experience for one night only. This event is 18+ with a cash bar. Space is limited; the event is first come, first served.

- See live art installations created by artists [Benji Anderson & Priscilla Umemoto](#), [Romson Regarde Bustillo](#), [Louis Chinn & MissTANGQ](#), [Kalina Chung](#), [Minh Nguyen](#), [Chris Shaw](#), [Kenji Stoll](#), [Tasveer](#), and [Junko Yamamoto](#).
- Create art with teaching artists [Janet Fagan](#) and [Mylen Huggins](#)
- Show your singing chops with karaoke hosted by [Pride Asia](#)
- Dance to musical stylings spun by [DJ MissTANGQ](#)

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Photo credits: SAM mascot Sammy the Camel in the Seattle Asian Art Museum. Photo: Natali Wiseman. Photo: Jen Au.

ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Robert Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and reopened as the Asian Art Museum in 1994. SAM's desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a “museum without walls,” free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion. The Olympic Sculpture Park and SAM's downtown expansion celebrate their tenth anniversary in 2017.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM's collection of approximately 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures and time periods.