

# PRESS RELEASE

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## ***JOURNEY TO DUNHUANG: BUDDHIST ART OF THE SILK ROAD CAVES AT ASIAN ART MUSEUM CLOSES JUNE 12***

Only 10 days left to see the wonders of China's Dunhuang Caves



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SEATTLE, WA - The Asian Art Museum's *Journey to Dunhuang: Buddhist Art of the Silk Road Caves*, an exhibition featuring photographs, ancient manuscripts, and artist renderings of the sacred temple caves of Dunhuang, closes Sunday, June 12.

The ancient city of Dunhuang was a gateway for new forms of art, culture, and religions. The nearly 500 caves found there tell an almost seamless chronological tale of their history, preserving the stories of religious devotion throughout various dynasties.

James C. M. Lo (1902-1987) and his wife, Lucy, arrived at Dunhuang by horse and donkey-drawn cart in 1943. They embarked on an ambitious 18-month project, producing over 2500 black-and-white images that record the caves as they were in the mid-20th century. They also collected fragments of ancient texts and drawings. These collected works are a treasure trove of Buddhist art that reveal a long-lost world.

The exhibition is organized in cooperation with the Princeton University Art Museum and the P.Y. and Kinmay W. Tang Center for East Asian Art.

Also on view at the Asian Art Museum through October 9 are *Mood Indigo: Textiles From Around the World*, featuring over 100 works drawn primarily from SAM's global textile collection, and *Gold: Japanese Art From the Collection*.

**Photo credits:** Installation view of *Journey to Dunhuang: Buddhist Art of the Silk Road Caves* at the Asian Art Museum. © Seattle Art Museum, Photo: Elizabeth Crook.

### **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. 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.

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 more than 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures and time periods.

