

# PRESS RELEASE

APRIL 1, 2021

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## SEATTLE ASIAN ART MUSEUM TO REOPEN TO THE PUBLIC MAY 28



SEATTLE  
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ASIAN  
ART  
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PARK

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SEATTLE, WA - SAM's Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park will reopen to the general public on Friday, May 28. The museum will be at a limited capacity and open Fridays through Sundays, 10 am-5 pm. Timed tickets will be sold online only, beginning April 29 for the May 28 reopening.

For the first opening weekend to the public, the museum will be open Friday through Monday, to be open for the Memorial Day holiday. In addition, tickets for Friday, May 28 will be free to all, and the Asian Art Museum will continue to offer free admission on the last Friday of each month.

The museum reopens to SAM members on Friday, May 7. Members will be able to reserve their timed spots beginning April 15. Tickets for the public and for members will continue to be released on a rolling basis, every Thursday.

The Asian Art Museum has been closed since March 13, 2020 to support Seattle's efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 and safeguard the health and safety of the community. Prior to that, it had reopened on February 8, 2020, following an extensive renovation and expansion with a groundbreaking thematic presentation of its Asian art collection, as well as new spaces for art, education, and conservation. When the museum reopens, the inaugural exhibitions will remain on view, including *Boundless: Stories of Asian Art* and *Be/longing: Contemporary Asian Art* in the museum's galleries and the installation *Kenzan Tsutakawa-Chinn: Gather* in the Fuller Garden Court.

Much of the Art Deco building's spaces are intimately scaled, ideal for engaging with many of the works in the Asian art collection. As such, the museum will be at a limited capacity with one-way signage throughout. All touchscreen interactives are temporarily deactivated or altered; the *Color in Clay* digital interactive will be a slideshow. The Asian Paintings Conservation Center will be closed, but a monitor outside the space will show videos about conservation processes. The shop will be open to ticket holders. The Education Studio, Community Gallery, Chen Community Meeting Room, and the McCaw Foundation Library will be closed.



The Asian Art Museum is one of three sites operated by SAM. The downtown Seattle Art Museum reopened to the public on Friday, March 5 for the special exhibition, *Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle*, which closes May 23. The downtown SAM Shop and SAM Gallery are also open. TASTE Café at SAM and the PACCAR Pavilion at the Olympic Sculpture Park remain closed until further notice. The outdoor spaces of the sculpture park are open and free to the public, operated in accordance with public health guidelines.

#### HOURS AND TICKETS

Friday–Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

Adults: \$14.99  
 Seniors (65+): \$12.99  
 Military (With ID): \$12.99  
 Students (With ID): \$9.99  
 Teens (15–18): \$9.99  
 Children 14 & Under: Free  
 SAM Members: Free

The museum is at limited capacity with timed tickets available for purchase online and in advance. Tickets includes access to all exhibitions. Tickets will be free to all on the last Friday of each month. Visitors who choose to pay what they want by contacting SAM’s Customer Service Center in advance using the [online form](#) or by calling 206.654.3210 from 10 am–5 pm Wednesday–Monday.

**Photo credit:** Tim Griffith.

#### **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 Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and rededicated as the Asian Art Museum in 1994, and it reopened on February 8, 2020 following an extensive renovation and expansion. 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 celebrated 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.