ASIAN ART connections
A RESOURCE FOR EDUCATORS

EAST of EDEN
Gardens in Asian Art

FEBRUARY 24–MAY 20, 2007
THE FREER GALLERY OF ART AND ARTHUR M. SACKLER GALLERY at the Smithsonian Institution together form the national museum of Asian art for the United States. The Freer Gallery also houses a collection of American art from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including the world’s most important collection of works by James McNeill Whistler.

**Exhibitions**

**FREER CURRENT EXHIBITIONS**

- Landscapes in Japanese Art  
  FEBRUARY 3–JULY 15, 2007

- Tea Bowls in Bloom: Botanical Decoration on Tea Ceremony Ceramics  
  FEBRUARY 3–JULY 15, 2007

- Daoism in the Arts of China  
  THROUGH JULY 1, 2007

- Parades: Freer Ceramics Installed by Gwyn Hanssen Pigott  
  THROUGH NOVEMBER 4, 2007

**Ongoing Freer Exhibitions**

- Ancient Chinese Pottery and Bronze Art for Art’s Sake (American)
- Arts of the Indian Subcontinent and the Himalayas
- Black and White Chinese Ceramics from the Tenth to Fourteenth Century
- Buddhist Art
- Charles Lang Freer and Egypt
- Japanese Screens
- Korean Ceramics
- The Peacock Room
- The Religious Art of Japan
- Small Masterpieces: Whistler Painting from the 1880s
- Vietnamese Ceramics
- Arts of the Islamic World
- Buddhist Art
- Charles Lang Freer and Egypt
- Japanese Screens
- Korean Ceramics
- The Peacock Room
- The Religious Art of Japan
- Small Masterpieces: Whistler Painting from the 1880s
- Vietnamese Ceramics

**SACKLER CURRENT EXHIBITIONS**

- Ancient and Medieval Metalwork from Dumbarton Oaks  
  THROUGH APRIL 1, 2007

- Perspectives: Simryn Gill  
  THROUGH APRIL 29, 2007

- Taking Shape: Ceramics in Southeast Asia  
  OPENS APRIL 1, 2007 (LONG-TERM EXHIBITION)

- Encompassing the Globe: Portugal and the World in the 16th and 17th Centuries  
  JUNE 23–SEPTEMBER 16, 2007

**Ongoing Sackler Exhibitions**

- The Arts of China
- Sculpture of South Asia and the Himalayas

**New School Programs**

The Freer and Sackler galleries are hosting two new school programs with Discovery Theater this spring! For more information, go to http://www.discoverytheater.org

**Tours**

We offer a variety of tours related to the museum’s ongoing and temporary exhibitions. For detailed information about offerings for school groups, please visit our website at www.asia.si.edu/education/ToursForStudents.htm.

To arrange a tour, please submit a tour request form online at www.asia.si.edu/education/TourRequestForm.htm. For more information, call 202-633-1012 or write to asiatours@asia.si.edu.
**Free Semiannual Newsletter**  
**Asian Art Connections:**  
**A Resource for Educators**  
To subscribe, please write to fsgasiaeducation@asia.si.edu

**Online Resources: General**  
**E-Gallery**  
Create your own exhibition using objects from the Freer and Sackler online collection. www.asia.si.edu

**Online Educational Resources**  
www.asia.si.edu/education/onlineGuides.htm

**Freer and Sackler Collections**  
www.asia.si.edu/collections/default.htm

**Online Exhibitions**  
www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions/online.htm

**Tour Information**  
www.asia.si.edu/education/toursForStudents.htm

**Online Resources:**  
**Publications**  
**Asian Art Connections:**  
**A Resource for Educators**  
www.asia.si.edu/education/onlineGuides.htm

Previous newsletters available in PDF format.

**The Art and Archaeology of Ancient China:**  
**A Teacher’s Guide**  
www.asia.si.edu/education/onlineGuides.htm

**The Art of Buddhism:**  
**A Teacher’s Guide**  
www.asia.si.edu/education/ArtofBuddhism.pdf

**Arts of the Islamic World:**  
**A Teacher’s Guide**  
www.asia.si.edu/education/islam.pdf

**The Arts of Japan: A Teacher’s Guide**  
www.asia.si.edu/education/onlineGuides.htm

**Devi: The Great Goddess (Hinduism)**  
www.asia.si.edu/education/devi/index.htm

**Japan: Images of a People**  
smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson_plans/japan_images_people/index.html

**Puja: Expressions of Hindu Devotion**  
www.asia.si.edu/education/pujaonline/puja/start.htm

**Teacher Resources for Sale**  
**Sackler Gallery Shops**  
All teacher resources listed below are for sale in the Sackler shops. Order these materials online at www.freersackershop.com, by phone at 202.633.0535, or by fax at 202.633.9838. In addition to Freer and Sackler publications, the shops also stock children’s books on Asia recommended by our education department.

**New!**  
**Intersections: Japanese Art and the West: A Teacher’s Guide**  
Appropriate for grades 9–12, $20  
Explore the ways that Japanese art and Western art have intersected, beginning in the late nineteenth century.

**The Arts of Japan: A Teacher’s Guide**  
Appropriate for grades 4–12, $20

**The Art and Archaeology of Ancient China: A Teacher’s Guide**  
Appropriate for grades 3–12, $20

**The Art of Buddhism: A Teacher’s Guide**  
Appropriate for grades 4–12, $20

**The Arts of the Islamic World: A Teacher’s Guide**  
Appropriate for grades 4–12, $20

**Silk Road Resource Packet**  
Appropriate for grades 4–12, $12

**Video**  
**Puja: Expressions of Hindu Devotion**  
Appropriate for grades 6–12, $10  
This award-winning video introduces Hindu worship through moving images and interviews. 1996. 20 min. (close captioned)

**CD-ROM**  
**Chi’s Adventure in Ancient China**  
Appropriate for grades 3–6, $10  
Join Chi the chimera as he introduces viewers to ancient Chinese civilization through objects from the Freer and Sackler collections.

**CD**  
**Silk Road Stories**  
An audio CD of stories told by Freer and Sackler volunteers who have cultural ties to countries along the ancient Silk Road. Features stories from China, Japan, Turkey, and Bangladesh. $10.

**Slides and Digital Images**  
Slides and digital images are available from our rights and reproductions department. To preview the sets or to order online, go to www.asia.si.edu/visitor/rnr.htm and click on Slide Sets Now Available! Order sets by fax at 202.633.9770. $100 for a set of 40 images; individual slides or digital images available for $5 each.
WHAT IS A GARDEN? What can images of gardens from West, South, and East Asia tell us about actual gardens, human relationships with nature, and artistic choices? Drawing primarily from the rich collections of the Freer and Sackler galleries, East of Eden explores this question through an array of finely painted screens, hanging scrolls, and manuscript illustrations; colorful ceramics; luxurious textiles; rare lacquered vessels, and a contemporary video installation.

The works featured in this exhibition, which date from the thirteenth century to the present, are not necessarily records of actual gardens. Rather, they represent artistic interpretations of real and imagined gardens from cultures across Asia. These images are inspired by the artists’ experiences and imaginations, as well as by religious and poetic texts. They communicate important ideas and conventions about gardens—how they are structured and organized, serve as settings for recreation and contemplation, and prompt the attempt to bring nature indoors by means of floral decoration on textiles, carpets, and ceramics.
FEATURED OBJECT

The Townsman Robs the Villager’s Orchard
Folio from a *Haft Awrang* (Seven thrones)
Jami (d. 1492)
Iran, Safavid dynasty, 1556–65
Opaque watercolor, ink, and gold on paper
34.2 x 23.2 cm
Freer Gallery of Art, Purchase F1946.12.179

This colorful painting illustrates a scene from a series of poems by the poet Jami, written some six hundred years ago in Iran. The title, “Seven thrones” in English, refers to the poem’s division into seven sections. The illustrations are meant to draw attention to key parts of the poem. One of the themes explored in these poems is how to treat others with kindness, respect, and thoughtfulness.

The lush trees, ripe fruit, and beautiful scenery may give this picture a lighthearted feel, but, in fact, something serious is happening. The painting shows a man from the countryside who has invited a man from the city to enjoy his garden—an orchard. When the visitor sees the abundant fruit, he loses control and goes on a rampage, breaking branches and ruthlessly tearing fruit off the villager’s trees. According to the poem, the villager stands by helplessly. He feels the townsman, never having grown fruit himself, cannot understand the damage he is inflicting on the precious orchard. In contrast to the townsman’s irresponsible actions, a gardener in the lower right corner generously offers fruit to a beggar at the wall of the orchard.

In the middle of the scene four young men enjoy their time in the beautiful orchard. While not original to the poem, the men were added by the artist to show that Persian gardens are places of beauty, contemplation, entertainment, and pleasure, despite—in this case—the selfish behavior of the townsman.

Want to see more of the *Haft Awrang* (Seven thrones)? Go to www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions/online.htm# and scroll down to *Haft Awrang* (Seven thrones): A Royal Persian Manuscript by Jami.
What is happening in this painting?
[Text needed here, referring to poster]

1. According to the poem, the orchard looked like a “garden of paradise.” To make this scene look like a paradise, the artist filled the garden with birds and other wildlife and pear, apple, hazelnut, and pomegranate trees.

2. The four young men in the gazebo entertain themselves, drinking wine, playing an instrument, and talking. Small structures like the gazebo would provide a cool space in which to rest and enjoy the garden.

3. The visitor, dressed in work clothes, busily rips fruit from a pomegranate tree.

4. The villager holds out his hands and watches in frustration as the townsman selfishly grabs fruit.

5. Notice the way that the garden reaches outside of the border of the painting to space beyond the walls.

6. Persian gardens were typically enclosed by walls to create privacy and to separate them from the dry landscape outside. The wall would also make it easier for gardeners to tend the trees and flowers and keep them watered.

7. The gardener holds a spade in one hand and, with the other, kindly offers grapes to a passing beggar.

8. A bearded man walks by the wall of the garden, followed by a youth on his donkey.

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK...

Look again at the painting. What features look the way they do in nature? What features do not look natural to you? Can you describe the difference between what seems deliberately natural and what does not?

Even if you have never seen a Persian garden, you probably recognize many of the details in this painting. However, this garden may not represent an actual garden. The image is based on the artist’s idea of what a Persian garden should look like. In art, this is often called idealization—picking out features and making them look more beautiful than they are in real life. Every time you sit down to draw or paint a picture of something—a tree, for example—you are creating an idealized version of a tree because you will probably emphasize some features of the tree over others. Idealized pictures can tell us a lot about the way artists and their societies saw the world around them—in this case, gardens in Iran.
Writing Activity
Create a short play between the townsman and the man from the countryside. It can be a dialogue between only those two or you can include other characters from the painting.

Begin by thinking about what is happening in the picture. What is the problem?

Have you ever been in a situation where you or someone else did something at the wrong time? Or acted without thinking first? How did you feel? What was the result of the situation?

What might the townsman and the villager say to each other? How might they speak? What words would they use? What tone would they use? Would they sound angry? Sad? Confused?

What do you think the young men in the background are saying? Are they talking about what is happening in front of them?

World Map: Iran
Iran is located in western Asia, a part of the world often called “The Near East.” The language of Iran is Persian (Farsi), which uses the Arabic alphabet and is written from right to left.
ImaginAsia

In our popular family program, children ages six to fourteen accompanied by an adult use an activity book to explore an exhibition and then create a related art project to take home. Family programs take place on the dates and times listed at www.asia.si.edu and do not require a reservation. This spring, ImaginAsia will offer special programs related to East of Eden: Gardens in Asian Art.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Freer Gallery of Art
Jefferson Drive at 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20560-0707

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
1050 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20560-0707

Hours
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily; closed December 25
Admission is FREE to the museum, exhibitions, and programs.

Information
www.asia.si.edu
202.633.1000
202.357.1729 TTY
Information desks open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Food Service
For information on food services at the Smithsonian, please visit www.si.edu/dining/default.htm

Transportation
Ride the Metro’s orange or blue line to Smithsonian Station. Parking on the Mall is extremely limited.

Library
The museum’s non-circulating research library specializes in Asian art as well as American painting at the turn of the twentieth century. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, except for federal holidays.

Accessibility
Accessible entrances to the Freer and Sackler Galleries are located at Independence Avenue. Wheelchairs are available at the guard’s desk at each museum entrance. Information is available in large type or Braille and on audio-cassette or disk.