

# PRESS RELEASE

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## SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) ANNOUNCES 2023 LINEUP OF EXHIBITION OPENINGS

Highlights include touring Amoako Boafo and Hokusai exhibitions and a reinstallation of SAM's modern and contemporary galleries

SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) announced today the lineup of exhibitions opening in 2023. Newly announced are two touring exhibitions for the summer and fall periods at the downtown museum, the first of which features the work of contemporary Ghanaian artist Amoako Boafo and the other the work of Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) and the many artists he inspired. These exhibitions follow the spring presentation of the SAM-organized exhibition *Ikat: A World of Compelling Cloth*.

Other highlights at the Seattle Art Museum include *Reverberations: Contemporary Art and Modern Classics*, a reinstallation of the museum's modern and contemporary galleries featuring numerous recent acquisitions, and the solo exhibition for Portland artist Elizabeth Malaska, recipient of the 2022 Betty Bowen Award, which is given annually to a Pacific Northwest artist. Beginning in July, the Seattle Asian Art Museum will present the SAM-organized *Renegade Edo and Paris: Japanese Prints and Toulouse-Lautrec*, exploring the cities' turn-of-the-century artistic and social transformations through the lens of printmaking.

"There will something for everyone at SAM in 2023," says José Carlos Diaz, Susan Brotman Deputy Director for Art. "The exhibition schedule includes rich displays from the museum's collection as well as a global array of dynamic art and programming from places such as Indonesia, Ghana, Japan, and right here in the Pacific Northwest region. 2023 welcomes not only a new year but also the 90th anniversary of SAM, which first opened to the public in June 1933."

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### *Ikat: A World of Compelling Cloth*

March 9–May 29, 2023

Seattle Art Museum



Organized by SAM, this exhibition is an immersive exploration of the complex textile created in regions around the globe. It features over 100 textiles made from the 12th century to the present, drawn from the museum's collection and gifts and loans from the Seattle-based Collection of David and Marita Paly. On view will be kimonos, furnishings, robes, and other cloths from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. The exhibition also features a large-scale installation by contemporary artists Roland and Chinami Ricketts that offers the experience of walking into an ikat.

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SAM

*Amoako Boafo: Soul of Black Folks*  
 July 13–September 10, 2023  
 Seattle Art Museum



*Soul of Black Folks* is the debut solo museum exhibition for Ghanaian artist Amoako Boafo (b. 1984), one of the most influential artistic voices of his generation. Working primarily in portraiture, Boafo is known for his vibrant use of color and thick, improvisational gestures created by his finger painting technique. His work is actively centered on Black subjectivity, Black joy, the Black gaze, and radical care as a foundational framework for his artistic practice. *Soul of Black Folks* presents over 30 works created between 2016 and 2022. Curated by Larry Ossei-Mensah, the exhibition is co-organized by the Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) and Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.

*Renegade Edo and Paris: Japanese Prints and Toulouse-Lautrec*  
 July 21–December 3, 2023  
 Seattle Asian Art Museum



At the end of the 19th century, both Edo (present-day Tokyo) and Paris were home to a rising middle class that challenged the status quo and expressed antiestablishment attitudes. Organized by SAM, this exhibition explores the shared subversive hedonism that underlies both Japanese *ukiyo-e* prints and the work of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. Through around 90 impressions drawn from the Seattle Art Museum's Japanese prints collection as well as private holdings of Toulouse-Lautrec's work, this exhibition offers a critical look at the renegade spirit in the graphic arts in both Edo and Paris, highlighting the social impulses—pleasure seeking and theatergoing—behind the burgeoning art production.

*Hokusai: Inspiration and Influence, from the Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*

October 19, 2023–January 21, 2024  
Seattle Art Museum



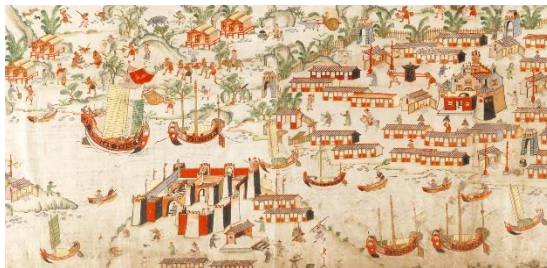
Thanks to the popularity of the instantly recognizable *Great Wave*—cited everywhere from book covers and Lego sets to anime and emoji—Katsushika Hokusai (1760–1849) has become one of the most famous and influential artists in the world. This touring exhibition organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), takes a new approach to the work of the versatile master, pairing more than 100 of his woodblock prints, paintings, and illustrated books from

the MFA's collection with more than 200 works by his teachers, students, rivals, and admirers. This is a rare opportunity to explore Hokusai's impact through the centuries and around the globe, on artists from Winslow Homer and Yoshitomo Nara to Lois Mailou Jones and John Cederquist.

ALSO ON VIEW

*Chronicles of a Global East*

October 20, 2022–ongoing  
Seattle Art Museum



By land and by sea, the premodern global world was deeply interconnected. This exhibition narrates a few of the many stories related to the Silk Roads and maritime routes, where innumerable transnational artistic traditions emerged. Highlights include a monumental deerskin map of a port city, numerous blue-and-white porcelain ceramics, and a cluster of porcelain fragments and coral from a 17th- or 18th-century shipwreck.

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*Deities & Demons: Supernatural in Japanese Art*

October 20, 2022–ongoing  
Seattle Art Museum



Paintings, sculptures, prints, and textiles from the museum's Japanese collection explore the rich visual culture of the supernatural in Japan. In literature, theater, and visual arts embracing the supernatural, physical, and spiritual crossover is a common theme: fierce demons sometimes can be deities in disguise, and animals can shapeshift to human beings. Representations of *yurei* (ghosts)—inspired by either historical events or popular tales—perhaps have the most varied forms. Each artist deeply mines their own imagination, as the examples here showcase.



*Reverberations: Contemporary Art and Modern Classics*

December 22, 2022–ongoing  
Seattle Art Museum



SAM's modern and contemporary galleries host a selection of collection highlights exploring the idea of ongoing artistic exchange. Organized thematically, *Reverberations* features artworks by modern icons such as Andy Warhol, Joan Mitchell, Mark Rothko, and Ruth Asawa; contemporary artists such as Senga Nengudi, Laura Aguilar, and Mickalene Thomas; and emerging artists such as Dana Claxton, Woody de Othello, Naama Tsabar, and Rashid Johnson. The exhibition spotlights recent acquisitions and works going on view for the first time; many of the works are by artists of color and many are by women artists, reflecting the museum's ongoing commitment to diversifying the collection and the perspectives on view.

*Pacific Species*

December 22, 2022–ongoing  
Seattle Art Museum



attention to these needs of these species, many of which are endangered.

The importance of biodiversity and living in harmony with other species inspires this selection of works from SAM's collection. On view are Japanese, Oceanic, and Native American small objects from the 18th to 20th centuries depicting various creatures of the Pacific region. Contemporary works by Tlingit artist Preston Singletary and Australian Aboriginal artists Lin Onus and Syd Bruce Short Joe drive home the urgent message of paying

*Howard L. GATO Mitchell: Forgive Us Our Debts*

February 8, 2023–ongoing  
Seattle Art Museum



through gentrification reflects larger economic and political pressures affecting people across the United States, especially communities of color, the film tells an existential and deeply personal story. GATO was a 2021 Betty Bowen Award finalist, SAM's annual award for Pacific Northwest artists.

Portland-based artist, director, and writer Howard L. Mitchell—who has adopted the artistic name GATO—makes his SAM debut with *Forgive Us Our Debts* (2019), the fictional story of Trey, a terrified 13-year-old Black boy who lives with his family in a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood. While the much-reported displacement of families

Elizabeth Malaska: 2022 Betty Bowen Award Winner  
 Fall 2023 (Dates TBA)  
 Seattle Art Museum



This solo exhibition celebrates Portland artist Elizabeth Malaska, the winner of the 2022 Betty Bowen Award, SAM's annual award honoring a Northwest artist for their original, exceptional, and compelling work. Malaska's grand tableaux respond to a history of Western painting and power dynamics that often assigns women the roles of submissive accessories. In search of more

potent and less pleasing feminine subjects, her tour de force paintings unpack historical genres, such as the reclining nude, and offer up challenging and introspective visions.

**Image credits:** Pardah hanging, late 19th century, Silk Road (Uzbekistan), silk, warp ikat, cotton weft, 90 x 65 in., Collection of David and Marita Paly. *Black and White*, 2018, Amoako Bofo, oil on paper, 39 3/8 x 27 1/2 in., Image and work courtesy private collection and Roberts Projects, Los Angeles, California, photo: Robert Wedemeyer. *Tagasode of the Tamayo House*, 1800-02, Kitagawa Utamaro, Japanese, 1754-1806, woodblock print: ink and color on paper, 15 1/2 x 10 1/2 in., Gift of Mary and Allan Kollar, in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Seattle Art Museum, 2017.23.13. Photo: Colleen Kollar Zorn. *Under the Wave off Kanagawa (Kanagawa-oki nami-ura)*, also known as the Great Wave, from the series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji (Fugaku sanjūrokkei)*, Katsushika Hokusai (Japanese, 1760-1849) about 1830-31 (Tenpō 1-2), woodblock print (nishiki-e); ink and color on paper, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, Photograph © Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Wall hanging of Tainan City with Fort Zeelandia and Fort Provintia (detail), late 18th century, Chinese, ink and color on deerskin leather, 58 x 80 3/4 in., Gift of Joseph and Molly Iwano, 96.40. Underkimono (juban), 1912-26, Japanese, silk fabric with gauze weave (ro) hand-painted decoration in ink, 59 x 55 in., Margaret E. Fuller Purchase Fund, 98.48. *Headdress-Shadae*, 2019, Dana Claxton (Hunkpapa Lakota (Sioux), born 1959), LED firebox with transmounted chromogenic transparency. 60 1/2 x 40 1/2 x 7 in. (153.7 x 102.9 x 17.8 cm.), Richard E. Lang and Jane Lang Davis Acquisition Fund for Global and Contemporary Art, 2022.2, © Dana Claxton. Image courtesy of the artist. Model of a Carp, Sea Bass, Blowfish, Shrimp and Octopus, ca. 1820, Hasegawa Ikko, ivory with inlaid decoration and color, 15/16 x 2 1/4 x 1 5/16 in., Gift of the Robert B. and Honey Dootson Collection, 91.167. Video still from *Forgive Us Our Debts*, 2018, Howard L. Gato Mitchell, American, digital video, 15 min. *We Will Remain Separate*, 2019, Elizabeth Malaska, oil, Flashe, pencil on canvas wrapped panel, 72 x 120 x 2 in., Courtesy of the artist, © Elizabeth Malaska

## 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.