



For Immediate Release

Media Contacts:

Nan Kavanaugh

904.415.0051

nan@wearwingard.com

Tess Chalifour-Drahman

904.899.6027

TChalifourDrahman@cummuseum.org

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens Presents *Buddha and Shiva, Lotus and Dragon: Masterworks from the Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection at Asia Society*

Exhibition will open June 25, 2022

June 15, 2022 — JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The newest exhibition at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, *Buddha and Shiva, Lotus and Dragon: Masterworks from the Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection at Asia Society*, will open on June 25, 2022. The exhibition will be on view to the public through September 18, 2022.

This exhibition illuminates the cultures and history of Asia while serving as a window into the extraordinary diversity of Asian art. The Rockefellers believed that by building a collection of the highest quality for the public to enjoy, the collection—begun in the early 1960s--would serve as a means to develop an understanding of Asian cultures. It was their hope that through this understanding, bridges to future economic and sociopolitical dialogues would be built between citizens of the United States and of Asian countries.

"Buddha and Shiva, Lotus and Dragon, featuring spectacular Indian Chola bronzes, extraordinary Southeast Asian sculptures, and impressive East Asian ceramics, reveals great achievements in Asian art spanning more than two millennia," said Dr. Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, the George W. and Kathleen I. Gibbs Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Museum. "This exhibition celebrates the rich diversity and importance of Asian art to the world and underscores how philanthropic vision can serve society for future generations. Moreover, it honors the vision of the Rockefellers and also that of our founder, Ninah Cummer, and their shared belief that art has the power to build bridges and opportunities."

This exhibition presents 67 masterpieces collected by John D. Rockefeller 3rd (1906–1978) and his wife, Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller (1909–1992). The works include sculptures, bronzes, and ceramics ranging from the late 6th century BCE to

the early 19th century CE, and originating from Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tibet, and Vietnam. Sherman E. Lee (1918–2008), an important art museum director and pioneering scholar of Asian art in the United States, worked with the Rockefellers as an advisor to their collection, and his influence is addressed throughout this exhibition. The collection was bequeathed to the Asia Society in New York City following Mr. Rockefeller's death in 1978.

A fully illustrated catalogue written by Adriana Proser, the Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Quincy Scott Curator of Asian Art at the Walters Art Museum and the former John H. Foster Curator for Traditional Asian Art at Asia Society Museum, will accompany the exhibition.

Buddha and Shiva, Lotus and Dragon: Masterworks for the Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection at Asia Society is co-organized by the [American Federation of Arts](#) and [Asia Society Museum](#). The national tour of the exhibition is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the ARTS
arts.gov



Philanthropic support from the community is critical for the Museum to serve as a vibrant civic resource. Support for *Buddha and Shiva, Lotus and Dragon* has been generously provided by the City of Jacksonville, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, Lory Doolittle, Ronald and Karen Rettner, the State of Florida, The Robert D. Davis Family Endowment, The Schultz Family Endowment, the Director's Circle Donors at the Cummer Museum, The Winston Family Foundation, and Dita Domonkos.

To register for programming, visit cummERMuseum.org/events.

Highlighted related programming:

ASIAN NIGHT MARKET: A STREET FOOD DINNER PARTY

Sat, June 25 | 6 to 9 p.m. | Members \$175, Non-Members \$200 | Registration required

ARTIST MEET & GREET WITH DEMONSTRATION: HIROMI MONEYHUN

Fri, July 1 | 5 to 8 p.m. | Free with admission | No registration required

HEARTFULNESS MEDITATION

July 9, August 13, & Sept 10 | 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Members \$10,
Non-Members \$15 | Registration required

TRADITIONAL ASIAN TEA EXPERIENCE

Fri, July 22 | 6 to 7:15 p.m. | Members \$25, Non-Members \$30 | Registration
required

WEAVETALES TALK

Tues, Aug 23 | 6 to 7 p.m. | Free | Registration required

BUDDHIST COMPASSION: GUANYIN AS ICON OF TRANSFORMATION LECTURE BY DR. SARAH MATTICE

Fri, Sept 2 | 6 to 7 p.m. | Free | Registration required

For more information about the Museum's permanent collection, internally curated gallery spaces, and special exhibitions, visit cummermuseum.org/visit/art.

###

About the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens:

For 60 years, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens has been committed to engaging and inspiring through the arts, gardens, and education. A permanent collection of more than 5,000 objects and historic gardens on a riverfront campus offers nearly 140,000 annual visitors a truly unique experience on the First Coast. Nationally recognized education programs serve adults and children of all abilities. The Museum is committed to ensuring that diversity and inclusion is woven into the fabric of its exhibitions, programs, and offerings. For further information, including hours, visit www.cummermuseum.org.