



Friends
of the
Chester
Beatty



Thank you
for your
support

Issue 6
March –
August 2020

News from the Friends Department

Hello all, We had a busy autumn/winter programme this year. With the *Thai Buddhist Tales* exhibition ongoing, our programme started in September with a wonderfully engaging talk from Justin McDaniels followed by a delicious dinner with the Silk Road. In October we had the ever wonderful Greek Film Festival and we gained an insight into how to begin our own collections with a talk from Adams Auctioneers. Dr Jill Unkle gave us a behind-the-scenes tour of the *Mystery of Mani* exhibition in November and our Book Club discussed *Narrow Road to the Deep North*. December brought us the wonderful and festive melodies of Handel's Messiah and our Patrons and Curators Circle members celebrated Arabic language day with Dr Moya Carey.

This programme we will have two marvellous exhibitions. The first of these is *Siam Through the Lens of John Thomson 1865–66* (21 February–17 May). John Thomson's photographic vision marks him out as one of

history's most important travel photographers. Featuring dramatic images developed from negatives preserved in London's Wellcome Library, this exhibition introduces the sights and people of nineteenth-century Thailand as witnessed by Thomson's camera. In June we will see *Edo in Colour Prints from Japan's Metropolis* installed. Dr Mary Redfern has curated the exhibition which will explore how prints helped shape and present the identity, vitality and place of Edo. The exhibition of Japanese prints and printed books from the Chester Beatty's permanent collection will run from 19 June 2020 to 10 January 2021.

I hope you are looking forward to the exciting programme of events that we have planned for you this spring/summer and that you can make it in to see our wonderful special exhibitions.

All the best,
Sabhbh Ní Mhaolagáin
Membership and Development Coordinator



© All Images Wellcome Collection. CC BY

News from the Conservation Department

Sophie Coulthard joined us as the Heritage Council Intern in Conservation at the Chester Beatty in November 2019. Having recently finished her MA in Conservation at Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London in August 2019, she is excited to join the conservation team at Chester Beatty. As part of Sophie's training, she previously completed work placements at a number of paper conservation studios including those at the British Museum, Royal Museums Greenwich and the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts in Philadelphia.

Since joining the Chester Beatty, Sophie has had the opportunity to be involved in a wide range of conservation activities, including treating and preparing objects for readers, digitisation, loans and rotations in the galleries. She has particularly enjoyed assisting with exhibition preparation and feels privileged to see an object she has conserved being placed on display for everyone's enjoyment.

During this internship, Sophie has said she would like to focus on developing her practical work, critical thinking and research skills. She is interested in learning about the mechanics of the codex as well as the history of bookbinding across different cultures. As such, Sophie is currently working on a



treatment proposal for the conservation of an eighteenth-century Indian manuscript which is fully detached from its lacquered covers and has a sewing structure that has failed over time. Due to Sophie's background in the arts, having spent 5 years training as a painter, she would also like to learn more about the composition and degradation of different pigments used in manuscript painting.

Friends Holiday

This year's autumn tour is to Georgia. The group will fly to Tbilisi via Istanbul and spend 8 nights in Georgia visiting highlights such as the Georgian National Museum, the Batonis Tsikhe complex and the city of love, Signaghi. The group will then travel to Kutaisi to explore the Gelati monastic complex, Prometheus cave and the Bagrati Cathedral. An overnight in Borjomi will be spent visiting Uplistsikhe, The Stalin Museum, and Mtskheta, one of the oldest cities of Georgia and its former capital. We will then return to Tbilisi and see Ananuri Castle and the amazing serenity of the Gergeti Church. Georgia is famous for its rich folk tradition, and excellent hospitality. Its unique language, rich history, and breathtaking sights will ensure that this is not a trip to be missed!

The trip will take place from the 14–22 September and a full itinerary will be available for those who are interested in travelling.

Guide price: Single room €2869
Twin rooms reduction €420 per person

Price includes all flights and transport, expert local guides and entrance fees, 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 8 dinners and 8 nights hotel accommodation in 4 star hotels.

Please note that it is important both for you and for your fellow travellers that you are fit enough to be able to enjoy all the activities on this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking involved. If you have restricted mobility, it is likely that you will find this itinerary very challenging.

To register your interest, please email Sabhbh at: friends@cbl.ie or call (01) 4070759.

Friends Annual Appeal – Update



Following the success of our recent appeal, we are delighted to announce that with the generous support of the Friends of the Chester Beatty, we have been able to acquire a Japanese woodblock print for the collection.

This elegant pillar print with beautifully preserved colours is by artist Torii Kiyonaga and dates from 1782. Kiyonaga was a master of the *bijinga* genre or 'pictures of beauties'. Here, the beauties depicted are two young men dressed as itinerant flute-playing monks or *komusō*. As is often the case with pictures from Japan's Floating World, the image has erotic connotations layered into its iconography and accompanying verse.

We welcome you all to see the print on display when it is included in our upcoming exhibition *Edo in Colour: Prints from*

Japan's Metropolis, which opens on 19 June. Until then, we offer our sincere thanks for your continued support of the Chester Beatty, which has allowed us to add this important work to the collection.

Two youths dressed as komusō,
Torii Kiyonaga, Japan, 1782

Friends Access to Irish Film Institute

The Friends of Chester Beatty have been working with the Irish Film Institute to collaborate on film events. We have arranged that the Friends of Chester Beatty will have free access to a selection of films from the Irish Film Archive every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday in the Irish Film Institute. We will send out monthly titles of the films to you. If you would like to book please contact Sabhbh at: friends@cbl.ie or call (01) 4070759.

Bookings

To book your place for events please go to the 'What's On' page of our website under the heading 'Pick Dates' and then enter the dates of the events you would like. We can also take bookings over the phone.

Refund policy for Friends events

The Chester Beatty reserves the right to cancel any event which is under-subscribed or rendered impossible due to circumstances beyond our control, in which case ticket holders will receive a full refund.

We regret that refunds cannot be issued for events where the ticket price is €15 or less. For events where the ticket price is over €15, refunds will be given less an administrative fee of 20% when the place is cancelled five days before the event.

Film screenings supported by:



Friends events / March

Tour of Siam Through the Lens of John Thomson 1865–66 with Laura Muldowney Tuesday 3 March

Join Laura Muldowney, Researcher, East Asian Collections, on a tour through our temporary gallery to discover the work of John Thomson. John Thomson's photographic vision marks him out as one of history's most important travel photographers. Featuring dramatic images developed from negatives preserved in London's Wellcome Library, this exhibition introduces the sights and people of nineteenth-century Thailand as captured by Thomson's camera. Born in Edinburgh in 1837, the photographer and writer travelled to Asia in 1862. Over the next ten years he undertook numerous journeys across the region, spending almost a year in the kingdom of Siam (modern Thailand).

During this time, Thomson was granted unique access to the court of King Mongkut (r. 1851–68). Also known as Rama IV, Mongkut was a progressive monarch. Sincerely interested in Western ideas and sciences, he was keen to exploit the relatively new technology of photography.

Location: Meeting at Reception Desk
Time: 11:30
Cost: €7

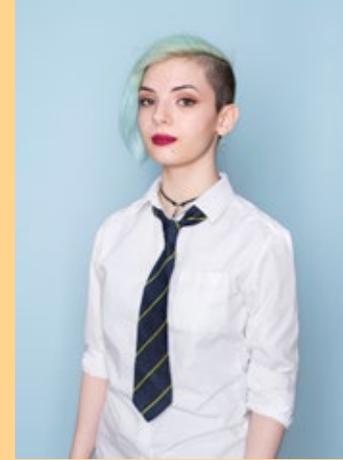
Talk from Dr Roja Fazaeli, Women, Authority and Patronage in Islamic Civilisations Wednesday 18 March

From the household of Muhammad, across the Umayyad and Abbasid caliphates, to the world of contemporary art, women in the Islamic world have both benefitted from and directed patronage networks. This talk will examine the ways in which their histories have impacted and been shaped by ideas of religious and social authority in Islamic civilisations.

Dr Roja Fazaeli is Assistant Professor of Islamic Civilisations at Trinity College Dublin and Warden of Trinity Hall. Dr Fazaeli has published widely on the subjects of Islamic feminisms, female religious authorities, women's rights in Iran, and the relationship between human rights and religion. She is the author of *Islamic Feminisms: Rights and Interpretations Across Generations in Iran* (2016) and is currently on the editorial board of the journal *Religion and Human Rights*, and is the chairperson of the Immigrant Council of Ireland. *The talk will be followed by a wine reception.*

Location: Lecture Theatre Chester Beatty
Time: 18:30
Cost: €12

April



Mandy O'Neill, *Diane*, from the series *Champions Avenue*

Talk from Mandy O'Neill, The Photographic Portrait: Paradoxes and Politics Wednesday 8 April

This talk is a response by Photographer and Visual Artist, Mandy O'Neill to the current exhibition, *Siam Through the Lens of John Thomson 1865–66*. Zoning in on the portraits of Thomson and referencing her own portraiture, O'Neill will discuss the power dynamics involved in the exchange between photographer and subject, the importance of context and the spectator within this.

Based in Dublin, O'Neill's current photographic practice draws on themes of youth, adolescence, and education, with a particular emphasis on portraiture. She has an MA in Public Culture Studies from the Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dublin and a BA in Photography from the Dublin Institute of Technology. Her work has been exhibited widely both nationally and internationally. She has been shortlisted for the Hennessy and Julia Margaret Cameron Awards and was the winner of the Zurich Portrait Prize 2018. *The talk will be followed by a wine reception.*

Location: Lecture Theatre Chester Beatty
Time: 18:30
Cost: €12

Visit to the Gallery of Photography Tuesday 28 April

The Gallery of Photography is the national centre for contemporary photography in Ireland showcasing the best of contemporary Irish and international photography. It is dedicated to developing a dynamic photographic culture, supporting artists in the production and promotion of their work. Established in 1978 by John Osman, the Gallery of Photography is a not-for-profit organisation, proud to be supported by the Arts Council and Dublin City Council. We will have a guided tour of the upcoming exhibition *Dream Is Wonderful, Yet Unclear* by Maria Kapajeva. The exhibition explores personal and historical memory by looking at the community surrounding a textile mill, now closed, where members of the artist's family worked. As the daughter of a textile designer, Kapajeva spent her childhood at the mill, drawing fabric patterns and dreaming about having the same job her mother had. In the exhibition, she interweaves archival material with text and multimedia elements to reveal how historical narratives are formed by the tension between individual and collective experiences.

Location: Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin 2, D02 X406
Time: 12:30pm
Cost: €15



Maria Kapajeva, from the series *Cutbacks*, 2017



Friends events / May

Book Club: *The Eight Life (for Brilka)* by Nino Haratischwilli Friday 15 May

At the start of the twentieth century, on the edge of the Russian Empire, a family prospers. It owes its success to a delicious chocolate recipe, passed down the generations with great solemnity and caution. A caution which is justified; this is a recipe for ecstasy that carries a very bitter aftertaste.

Stasia learns it from her Georgian father and takes it north, following her new husband, Simon, to his posting at the centre of the Russian Revolution in St Petersburg. Stasia's is only the first in a symphony of grand but all too often doomed romances that swirl from sweet to sour in this epic tale of the red century. *Tea and Coffee will be served during the meeting.*

Location: Lecture Theatre Chester Beatty
Time: 15:00
Cost: €7

Patrons and Curators Circle Viewing: *Perso-Deccani Manuscripts: Materiality and Mobility from Iran to India* Tuesday 19 May

In this exclusive viewing, Patrons and members of the Curator's Circle will have the opportunity to study a number of manuscripts from the Islamic collection in detail with Dr Keelan Overton and Kristine Rose-Beers. Focusing on manuscripts that moved between Greater Iran and India, we will see how the materiality of these manuscripts provides evidence of their peregrinations across Asia and the Indian subcontinent.

Dr Keelan Overton is an independent scholar and historian of Islamic art and architecture specialising in the eastern Islamic world from Iran to South Asia.

Kristine Rose-Beers is the Head of Conservation at the Chester Beatty, and an accredited member of the Institute of Conservation (ICON).

To book please phone Sabhbh at 01 4070 759. Places are limited to Patrons and Curator's Circle members. Dr Overton will give a talk for the public programme on Wednesday 20 May entitled *Iran and the Deccan: Persian Art, Culture, and Talent in Circulation*, where she will provide an overview of human, intellectual, and artistic migration and exchange between Iran and the Deccan over a three-hundred-year period.

Friends Trip to Blackwater Valley Opera Festival 2020 Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 May

This year, Friends of Chester Beatty will be treated to not one, but two stunning operas in the majestic grounds of Lismore Castle:

Gianni Schicchi (Puccini): In this hilarious farce, the Donati family is mourning the passing of their patriarch, Buoso. Their tears, however, are not real – that is, not until the Donatis discover Buoso has bequeathed his fortune to a monastery. Frantic, they call upon Gianni Schicchi to help them re-write Buoso's will. In a series of comedic hijinks and one over-the-top scheme, the family succeeds in having the will re-written. However, the Donatis are in for another surprise: when the will is read, they discover that Schicchi has left the bulk of the fortune to himself.

Pagliacci (Leoncavallo): A dramatic tale of love and betrayal, *Pagliacci* revolves around a *commedia del arte* troupe. Married couple Canio and Nedda are the troupe leads along with Tonio and Beppe. Trouble in paradise comes in the form of Nedda's secret affair with Silvio. Fearing what her jealous husband may do, Nedda attempts to end her relationship with Silvio but, instead, he convinces her to run away with him. Before the lovers can flee, the married Tonio confesses that he, too, is in love with Nedda.

Price includes:
Wednesday night double bill Opera in Lismore Castle
3-course dinner by Eunice Power with wine
Thursday Opera Chorus in Villierstown Church with lunch
Transfers to concerts
Accommodation in the Walter Raleigh Hotel
Price: €340

June



Patrons and Curator's Circle Exhibition Preview *Edo in Colour* Tuesday 16 June

In this special preview of our new exhibition, Dr Mary Redfern will introduce some of the sights and excitement of the dazzling metropolis that we now know as Tokyo. Entitled *Edo in Colour: Prints from Japan's Metropolis*, the exhibition will explore how prints helped shape and present the identity, vitality and place of Edo. The exhibition of Japanese prints and printed books from the Chester Beatty's permanent collection will run from 19 June 2020 to 10 January 2021.

To book please phone Sabhbh at 01 4070 759. Places are limited to Patrons and Curator's Circle members.

Friends Sushi Making Evening and Japanese Dinner Thursday 18 June

Enjoy an evening of sushi making with an expert sushi chef and a 3-course Japanese menu. Learn how to make a sushi roll and master the skills of sushi making with tips and tricks from the head chefs of Banyu. This will be followed by a 3-course Japanese dinner where you will be treated to delicious *gyoza* and *yakitori* for starters with a choice of mains, including sushi, teriyaki beef and tofu curry. Dessert is not to be missed with a mango cheesecake and matcha green tea lava cake.

Location: Banyu Japanese Dining,
3-4 Bedford Row, Dublin 2
Time: 18:30
Cost: €65

Friends Film: *Tangerines* Monday 22 June

War in Georgia, Abkhazia region 1992: local Abkhaz are fighting to break free from Georgia. A rural village in Abkhazia has become deserted as almost everyone has returned to their homeland. Only 2 men have stayed, Ivo and his friend Margus. Margus will leave as soon as he has harvested his crop of tangerines. Ivo, a carpenter, is attempting to make enough wooden crates to hold all the unpicked tangerines. In a bloody conflict in their miniature village, wounded men are left behind and Ivo is forced to take them in. But they are from opposite sides of the war. This is a touching anti-war story about Estonians who find themselves in the middle of someone else's war. How do they handle it? How do the enemies act under third-party roof?

Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the Golden Globes Awards and the Academy Awards in 2015.

Location: Lecture Theatre Chester Beatty
Time: 14:00
Cost: €7

Friends events / July

Friends Talk with Julia Poirier *Shades of peach and pink: The colour palette of popular Edo prints* Wednesday 01 July

Julia Poirier, Book and Paper Conservator at the Chester Beatty, will deliver a talk on the vibrant colour palette of Edo period Japanese prints, to accompany the newly opened exhibition, *Edo in Colour: Prints from Japan's Metropolis*, curated by Dr Mary Redfern.

Using prints from the Chester Beatty's Collection, the evolution of the full-colour print in Japan will be discussed in depth, from the early black and white prints to the colour revolution that swept Japan in the early 1800s with the introduction of synthetic pigments and colours.

A better understanding of the chemistry of these delicate organic dyes and bright pigments, as well as an insight into their preparation methods and application to the page, will reveal conservation issues associated with their preservation. *The talk will be followed by a wine reception.*

Location: Lecture Theatre Chester Beatty
Time: 18:30
Cost: €12

Friends Talk with Dr Moya Carey *The Sculptor in the Stone: Remembering Antiquity in Early Modern Iran* Wednesday 15 July

Iran is blessed with an astonishing cultural heritage from antiquity, including the Sasanian rock reliefs at Taq-e Bostan, and the ruined Achaemenid palaces of Persepolis, both UNESCO listed. This lecture examines how these great monuments of carved stone have long entered the visual history of Persian poetry, through manuscript paintings dating from Jalayirid to Safavid times, in the immortal story of the stone-carver Farhad. The resonant stones of Persepolis acquired a new mobility in the early seventeenth century, which may be reflected in contemporary Isfahan painting.

Dr Moya Carey joined the Chester Beatty in September 2018 as Curator of Islamic Collections. She was previously IHF Curator for the Iranian Collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London (2009–2018). *The talk will be followed by a wine reception.*

Location: Lecture Theatre Chester Beatty
Time: 18:30
Cost: €12

Wednesday 29 July

The Chester Beatty is delighted to present a collaborative event with the European Shakuhachi Society Summer School. The evening will begin with a concert with Jean-Francois Lagrost and Gaho Takahashi. Jean-Francois Lagrost is a *shakuhachi* player and professor of art education at the conservatories of Le Kremlin-Bicêtre and Asnières. Gaho Takahashi is a *Koto* player and has performed extensively around the world, including in the Teatro Malibran in Italy, the Wiener Konzerthaus in Austria, and at Federation Square in Melbourne.

The concert will be followed by a wine interval before our talk, *A taste of Japanese folk song* by David Hughes and Gina Barnes. They will give an introduction to Japanese traditional folk song, or *min'yo*, a part of everyday life in Japan. *Min'yo* is a reflection of the nature of Japanese people and their daily lives.

David Hughes, an expert in Japanese folk song or *min'yo* taught music at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (SOAS) from 1987 until his retirement in 2008. He is now a Research Associate of the Department of Music and the Japan Research Centre in SOAS. David will present alongside Gina Barnes, his wife, who has shared in his journey around the world of Japanese music. She is a leading figure in Japanese and East Asian archaeology and founder of the Society for East Asian Archaeology.

Location: Lecture Theatre Chester Beatty
Time: 17:30
Cost: €20

August

Book Club: *The House Keeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa Friday 7 August

He is a brilliant mathematics professor with a peculiar problem – ever since a traumatic head injury seventeen years ago, he has lived with only eighty minutes of short-term memory.

She is a sensitive but astute young housekeeper who is entrusted to take care of him. Each morning, as the Professor and the Housekeeper are reintroduced to one another, a strange, beautiful relationship blossoms between them.

The Professor may not remember what he had for breakfast, but his mind is still alive with elegant equations from the past. He devises clever maths riddles – based on her shoe size or her birthday – and the numbers reveal a sheltering and poetic world to both the Housekeeper and her ten-year-old son. *Tea and coffee will be served during the meeting.*

Location: Lecture Theatre Chester Beatty
Time: 15:00
Cost: €7

Friends Lecture Series *Edo in Colour*

In this series of four linked lectures, join Dr Mary Redfern, Curator of *Edo in Colour: Prints from Japan's Metropolis*, to explore the detail of these exquisite artworks and the vibrant world they conjure. *Edo in Colour* will explore how prints helped shape and present the identity, vitality and place of Edo. This series of talks provides an exceptional opportunity to learn from Dr Redfern's expertise in this field.

The exhibition of Japanese prints and printed books from the Chester Beatty's permanent collection will run from 19 June 2020 to 10 January 2021.

Wednesday 12 August: *Selling the City: Japanese Prints, Publishers and Audiences*

Wednesday 19 August: *Dangerous Places: Sex and Theatre in the Floating World*

Wednesday 2 September: *Peace and Prosperity: Depicting the Shogun's Capital*

Wednesday 9 September: *Buying In: Chester Beatty and Japanese Prints*

The talks will be followed by a wine reception. (Please note there is a break in the middle of the course on the 26 August).

Location: Lecture Theatre Chester Beatty
Time: 18:30
Cost: €12 per class or €40 for full course

