

Cincinnati Asian Art Society

2026-2027 Programs

Most programs will be at the Cincinnati Art Museum
& the October 2026 program will be at the Taft Museum of Art

Gifts from Japan

Sunday August 30, 2026

Free Public Program

2:00 PM at the **Cincinnati Art Museum**

3:00 PM Reception

Hou-mei Sung, Curator of East Asian Art at the Cincinnati Art Museum (CAM), will introduce a group of Japanese paintings gifted to CAM in 2025 by Dr. Toshihide Hirose, an orthodontist in Japan. In addition to his dental practice, Dr. Hirose is also an avid collector of Japanese paintings of the late Meiji (1868–1912) and early Shōwa (1926–1989) eras. This group of paintings, by nine artists, covers a wide range of subjects and styles. All these paintings have never been published or publicly displayed before entering the museum collection.

Rupa Chordia-Samdaria: Living Between Cultures

Sunday October 25, 2026

Free Public Program

2:00 PM at the **TAFT MUSEUM OF ART**

3:00 PM Reception

Rupa Chordia-Samdaria is an Indian-born painter and visual artist whose abstract practice explores the intersection of abstraction and spirituality. In this artist talk, she reflects on her journey from India to the United States and how living between cultures has enriched her artistic language. Infused with the vibrancy of Indian colors, her paintings create a contemplative dialogue between inner experience and contemporary abstraction.

Celebrating the Dispassionate Lord: The Cincinnati Jain Shrine and the Art of Jain Devotion

Sunday Nov. 15, 2026

Free Public Program

2:00 PM at the **Cincinnati Art Museum**

3:00 PM Reception

Dr. John Cort, Professor Emeritus of Asian Religions and International Studies at Denison University, will talk on the Cincinnati Art Museum's magnificent Jain Shrine. He will explain "Who is the Jina?" and why Jains worship and venerate images of this "Dispassionate Lord." Worship is a means of celebrating the Jina's spiritual victory over all passions, sensory distractions and suffering. This celebration is expressed in rituals, and also in the vibrant, eye-catching art of the Cincinnati Shrine. Join us for this celebration of one of the highlights of the Cincinnati Art Museum's collection.

Global Photography in Nineteenth-Century China

Sunday January 24, 2027

Free Public Program

2:00 PM at the **Cincinnati Art Museum**

3:00 PM Reception

Join Dr. Catherine Stuer, Associate Professor, Chair of Art History & Visual Cultural at Dennison University, to explore early photography of the city in China, starting with the earliest photos made in China that are extant today. We will compare the daguerreotypes of Guangzhou by Jules Itier (1802–1877), the wet collodion glass plates of Nanjing by John Thomson (1837–1921), and albumen prints by Ouyang Shizhi's (1857–1932) Powkee Nanking studio, to consider how each photographer sought to open up China's spaces for new forms of visibility.

Pleats, Please

Sunday February 21, 2027

Free Public Program

2:00 PM at the **Cincinnati Art Museum**

3:00 PM Reception

Pleated textiles and garments share a fascinating, folded history. Join Megan Nauer from the Cincinnati Art Museum's department of Fashion Arts and Textiles to learn about this construction technique in Japanese history, and to compare and contrast two giants of the form: the House of Fortuny and Issey Miyake.

From Life: Twelve Paintings by Guan Naiping in the CAM Collection

Sunday March 21, 2027

Free Public Program

2:00 PM at the **Cincinnati Art Museum**

3:00 PM Reception

In 2014, the Cincinnati Art Museum was gifted 12 oil paintings by twentieth-century Chinese artist Guan Naiping (b. 1945). These works, most of them small landscapes, have never been displayed and little is known about them. Join Eric Hughett, Curatorial Assistant for East Asian Art, to hear new discoveries about the paintings, their importance in Guan's life and career, and their place in Chinese art history more broadly.

Searching for Qi: The Art of Robert Oxnam, Inspired by the Scholar's Stone Tradition

Sunday April 18, 2027

Free Public Program

2:00 PM at the **Cincinnati Art Museum**

3:00 PM Reception

Join Dr. Vishakha Desai, President Emerita of Asia Society, an Asia scholar, and wife of Robert Oxnam, in a discussion of Oxnam's art, its Chinese sources, and its profound psychological implications for the scholar/artist. Oxnam created sculptures, paintings, and photography inspired by Chinese scholar stones and cultural concepts. "In Chinese tradition, the term Qi has many meanings, but for me, it means an invisible but palpable source of creative energy, both artistically and psychologically," Oxnam once explained.

Ancient Queenship: Art, Power, and Presence

Sunday May 16, 2027

Free Public Program

2:00 PM at the **Cincinnati Art Museum**

3:00 PM Reception

What does queenship mean to you? Dr. Patricia Eunji Kim is the co-curator with Dr. Ainsley Cameron, CAM Curator, of the special exhibition *Ancient Queenship: Art, Power, and Presence*, which explores the myriad representations of royal women in the ancient Mediterranean world (1000-1 BCE).. Join Dr. Kim, Assistant Professor at New York University, for this presentation on the exhibition's core themes, as well as a discussion of the ways that the legacy of ancient queens impacts the art and culture of modern and contemporary societies. The exhibit opens at CAM June 11, 2027.