

SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM OF ART FIELD TRIP REPORT



UTSA STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND MEMBERS FROM THE COMMUNITY INTENTLY LISTEN TO JOHN JOHNSON, SAMA'S IN-HOUSE ASIAN ART CURATOR

Understanding Sinology Studies Through Art

On Sunday, October 27, 2013, the East Asia Institute (EAI), with the help of a generous grant from the Taiwan Academy, hosted an art field trip to the San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA). The tour is one of the many events from the "Taiwan Series" and the purpose

was to understand Sinology Studies through art.

Only the first 50 participants that signed up for the event were able to attend the field trip to SAMA. The participants included UTSA students, faculty, and members of the San Antonio

community. All participants were offered a free educational tour through the Chinese collections with knowledgeable docents, specializing in Chinese and Taiwanese art, led by John Johnston, SAMA's in-house Asian Art Curator. The participants were split



TOUR ABOUT TO COMMENCE



LISTENING TO THE DOCENT



DISCUSSING THE ART

into four groups with their own docent for a more intimate experience.

Participants were taken into SAMA's collection of Asian art housed in a 15,000-square-foot suite of galleries that opened in 2005. Over the past 70 years, the collection has grown to include over 2,000 works from China, India, Japan, Korea, Tibet, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Chinese collection is the most extensive of the Museum's Asian art holdings. Comprised primarily of fine ceramics and porcelain, the collection also includes archaic bronze vessels, furniture, textiles, cloisonné and various decorative arts. The Liao Dynasty ceramics collection is among the largest outside of China, while the Imperial Chinese Art Gallery boasts a strong collection of Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasty ceramics that includes all major ware types.

The docents went to each art piece and artifact and talked about them in great details with history and cultural background information to show why an art piece or artifact was created in a certain way. "Visiting the museum was a great experience, I was satisfied with the knowledgeable docents," said Alyssa Molina, a student from UTSA, "I am also looking forward on attending other seminars for this series." In addition, the art guides also talked about the type of glaze and shape each artifact had and how important those characteristics made Chinese art unique from other cultures. Chinese architecture was also shown in the form of art

as the guides explained why Chinese architecture is popular up to this day.

Not only did participants see Chinese art collections, but they were also educated on Chinese history as well. Topics included the many dynasties like the Han and Qing dynasty, the Three Kingdoms who were the Cao Wei, Shu Han, and Eastern Wu, The Silk Road, the most important trading route between Asia, Europe, and Africa, and many more. As a bonus, the docents also gave a side tour to the rest of the Asian exhibit which included Indian, Korean, and Japanese collections. During this side tour, the guides showed how Chinese culture have influenced many other cultures in Asia.

"Wonderful tour by SAMA's East Asian curators of some of the Chinese collection," said Carol Costello, one of the community participants. "Thanks to the East Asia Institute for this unusual cultural opportunity in San Antonio."

The Taiwan Series is comprised of a Seminar Series, Lecture Series, Film Festival, Visiting Artist Workshops, Sinology Trivia Contest and Chinese Video Contest, and an art tour to the San Antonio Museum of Art. The aim is to promote an understand and awareness of Chinese Studies, including history, culture, and art among many others. For more info about the entire Taiwan Series program, please visit the East Asia Institute homepage at <http://www.utsa.edu/eai>. All events are free and open to the public.



INSPECTING



LISTENING



REFLECTING



ENJOYING