Art in the US-Japan Relationship
A Curator's Perspective with Monika Bincsik

Thursday, November 19, 2020
6:00PM EST via Zoom


The Japan-America Society of Georgia is pleased to present a special lecture highlighting the unique role art plays in US-Japan relations featuring a behind the scenes look into Japanese Bamboo Art from the renowned Abbey Collection by Dr. Monika Bincsik, Associate Curator of Japanese Decorative Arts at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Monika Bincsik

Richard J. Wood Art Curator Series

The Japan-America Society of Georgia
National Association of Japan-America Societies

JUSFC
Japan-United States Friendship Commission
Supporting People & Partnerships
6:00 pm Celebrating the Arts of Japan Webinar

Welcome
Yoshi Domoto
Executive Director, JASG

Introduction
Peter Kelly
President, NAJAS

Program Presentation
Monika Bincsik, Associate Curator of Japanese Decorative Art, MOMA

Question & Answer Session

Closing Remarks
Albert Hodge
Chair, JASG
The first Japanese artworks to enter The Metropolitan Museum of Art's collections were ceramics, lacquers, intro, netsuke, bamboo, and textiles. The 1870s was a decade of growing interest in Japanese decorative arts in America, engendered in part by the Centennial Exhibition of 1876, held in Philadelphia. Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933) had a collection of Asian art to provide models of techniques and designs for sumptuous goods. Similarly, Tiffany & Co.'s artistic director of silver manufacturing Edward C. Moore (1827–1891) and Mr. Tiffany's associate Samuel Colman (1832–1920) both became dedicated collectors of Japanese decorative arts and patrons of the Museum. The first official bequest to the Museum, in 1881, was the collection of Stephen Whitney Phoenix (1839–1881), consisting of mainly Japanese decorative arts. Since then, the Museum gradually has built up its Japanese holdings and in 2017 added to it a significant collection of Japanese bamboo baskets and contemporary sculptural bamboo works from the collection of Diane and Arthur Abbey. The Abbey collection highlights key stages in the modern history of Japanese bamboo art while introducing the main lineages of masters and showing the emergence of a contemporary bamboo scene. For hundreds of years, simple, everyday utensils as well as refined bamboo vessels were made according to local traditions and techniques passed down from generation to generation. It was not until the end of the 19th century that bamboo craftsmanship began to be recognized as one of the traditional Japanese decorative arts, and later as an art form. The presentation will shed light to the refined beauty and technical sophistication of this art form.

Japanese Bamboo Art: The Abbey Collection at MOMA

About Monika Bincsik

Monika Bincsik specializes in Japanese decorative arts and textile. From 2008 to 2009 she was a Jane and Morgan Whitney Research Fellow at The Met. Later she worked as a research assistant at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, where she earned a second PhD on Japanese lacquers. From 2013 to 2015 she was an Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellow at The Met, and became Assistant Curator in 2015, then Diane and Arthur Abbey Associate Curator in 2019. She was co-curator of Kimono: A Modern History (2014) and curated Discovering Japanese Art: American Collectors and The Met (2015), Japanese Bamboo Art: The Abbey Collection (2017), and Kyoto: Capital of Artistic Imagination (2019), furthermore was one of the co-curators of The Tale of Genji: A Japanese Classic Illuminated (2019). Monika has published widely on decorative arts and collecting history.
Through the Richard J. Wood Art Curator Series offered by the The National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS) and the Japan-United States Friendship Commission (JUSF), The Japan-America Society of Georgia (JASG) is pleased to present a special lecture event, Art in the U.S.-Japan Relationship: A Curator’s Perspective. This event will highlight the unique aspects of Japanese art and its role in the grassroots relationship between the United States and Japan as guest lecturer, Monika Bincsik, Associate Curator of Japanese Decorative Arts at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York will present the intricacies of the renowned Bamboo Art from The Abbey Collection.

The JASG is a501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to promote mutual understanding between the people of Japan and the State of Georgia through establishing and promoting ties and programs in the areas of business, culture, customs, education, commerce and politics. For more information about the JASG and its activities, please visit www.jasgeorgia.org or contact the JASG office at 404-842-1400 or admin@jasgeorgia.org.