

Minneapolis Institute of Arts Appoints New Curator of Southeast Asian Art



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The Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA), home to one of the nation's foremost collections of Asian art, announces the appointment of Risha K. Lee, PhD, as the new Jane Emison Assistant Curator of Indian and Southeast Asian Art. Lee will report to Liu Yang, PhD, head of the museum's Department of Asian Art. This position has been made possible by a Mellon Challenge Grant, a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant, and matching funds from Jane Emison. Lee will take up her position at the MIA on January 22, 2013.

"After an extensive international search, we are delighted that Dr. Lee will be joining the Department of Asian Art," Liu said. "She brings considerable enthusiasm and expertise to the position, and we look forward to many notable acquisitions and exciting exhibitions in the near future."

Lee comes to the MIA following a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore. She received her MA (2004) and PhD (2012) from Columbia University. Her dissertation explores the transmission of art and ideas between India and China from the 9th through 13th centuries by Tamil merchants who plied the trade routes of the Indian Ocean and South China seas. She earned her undergraduate degree in art history from Harvard University (2002), and has taught at both the American University in Beirut and Columbia University. Lee's museum experience includes a curatorial assistantship at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco (2004); a curatorial internship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (2002); and a curatorial assistantship at the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University (1998). Lee speaks Tamil and French and is also conversant in Mandarin and Italian.

PRESS CONTACTS

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Anne-Marie Wagener, Director of Public Relations, awagener@artsmia.org, (612) 870-3280

Tammy Pleshek, Public Relations Specialist, tpleshek@artsmia.org, (612) 870-3171

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ABOUT THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA), home to one of the finest encyclopedic art collections in the country, houses more than 80,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history. Highlights of the permanent collection include European masterworks by Rembrandt, Poussin, and van Gogh; modern and contemporary painting and sculpture by Picasso, Matisse, Mondrian, Stella, and Close; as well as internationally significant collections of prints and drawings, decorative arts, Modernist design, photographs, textiles, and Asian, African, and Native American art. General admission is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee. Museum hours: Sunday, 11 A.M.–5 P.M.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 A.M.–5 P.M.; Thursday, 10 A.M.–9 P.M.; Monday closed. For more information, call (612) 870-3000 or visit artsmia.org.