

# LACMA FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LACMA RELEASES NEW ONLINE CATALOGUE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART

FREE WEBSITE CREATES RICH MEDIA READING EXPERIENCE, DELVES DEEP INTO HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COLLECTION

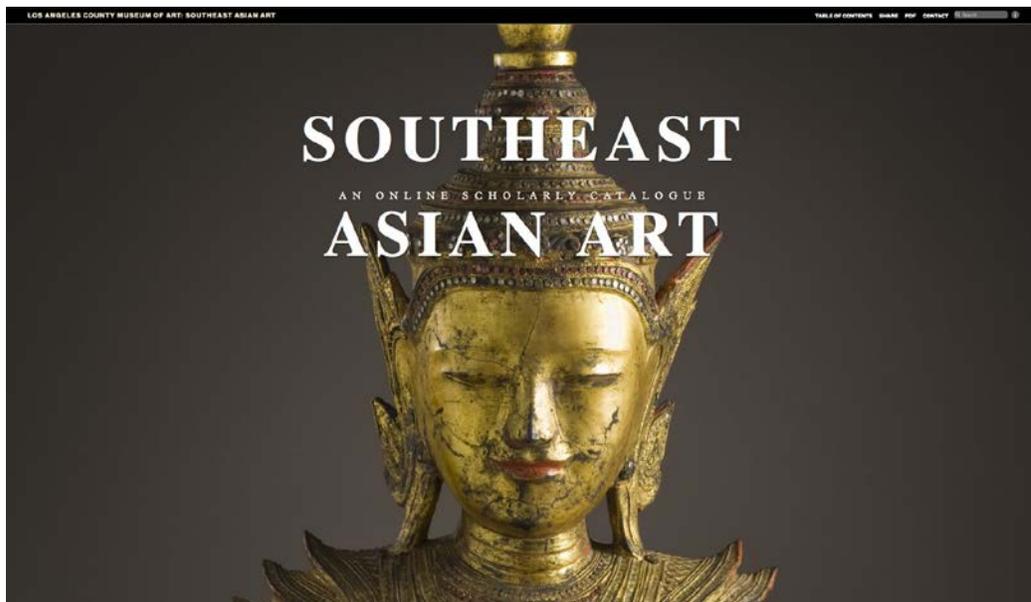


IMAGE CREDIT ON PAGE 3

(Los Angeles—November 20, 2013) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is pleased to announce the publication of *Southeast Asian Art* (<http://seasian.catalog.lacma.org>), a new website featuring in-depth scholarship authored by professor and curator Dr. Robert Brown. The online publication focuses on 34 highlights from the museum's extraordinary collection of Southeast Asian art (complemented by numerous comparative images) and includes extended essays on topics such as light symbolism, female deities, and the impact of Buddhism on Sri Lankan and Southeast Asian art. *Southeast Asian Art* is the first in a series of online scholarly catalogues designed to provide an in-depth, web-based reading experience previously available only in print publications, enhanced with unique rich media features such as videos, 360-degree image rotation for select objects, and an easy online citation tool.

The project is intended to share museum-generated scholarship with the broadest possible audience and enable both students and advanced researchers of Southeast Asian art to use newly developed online research tools. Senior Deputy Director Nancy Thomas noted, "The intention of this project is to create an online source that can be used internationally at no cost. Traditionally, museums have been reluctant to share copyrighted information and images online. We are pleased to be at the forefront of open access with this new approach to disseminating scholarship online."

With academic audiences in mind, and unlike other museum websites, the content of the online publication will not change once published, allowing citations to remain stable. Instead, as knowledge about the collection evolves over time, the museum will issue future "editions" of the website under a unique URL.

The project was funded by the Getty Foundation as part of its [Online Scholarly Catalogue Initiative \(OSCI\)](#) involving nine major museums. IMA Lab at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, funded by the Getty Foundation and in collaboration with the Art Institute of Chicago, created the unique open-source, web-based [OSCI Toolkit](#) to support the ongoing publication of scholarly material, which LACMA then customized to support its publication goals. The open-source approach is the latest expression of LACMA's commitment to creating and adapting software tools developed by and for the museum community. The reusable software tools developed by IMA Lab and certain modules created by LACMA will soon be available online for other institutions to use to create their own online publications. The tool kit includes a set of APIs that allow other developers to create custom web or mobile interfaces.

LACMA plans to use the tool kit developed in support of this initial publication to create future online scholarly catalogues that will be available for free via the museum's online Reading Room ([lacma.org/art/reading-room](http://lacma.org/art/reading-room)). Future online catalogues will include a site dedicated to the study of the Carter Collection of Dutch paintings, authored by Dr. Amy Walsh and Senior Paintings Conservator Joseph Fronek.

**Credit**

This online catalogue was developed by LACMA with the generous support of the Getty Foundation's Online Scholarly Catalogue Initiative. The catalogue and OSCIToolkit were customized in partnership with Urban Insight ([www.urbaninsight.com](http://www.urbaninsight.com)), a leading web-development firm specializing in open source development.

**About LACMA**

Since its inception in 1965, LACMA has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography and represent Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today, the museum features particularly strong collections of Asian, Latin American, European, and American art, as well as a contemporary museum on its campus. With this expanded space for contemporary art, and innovative collaborations with artists, LACMA is creating a truly modern lens through which to view its rich encyclopedic collection.

**Location and Contact:** 5905 Wilshire Boulevard (at Fairfax Avenue), Los Angeles, CA, 90036 | 323 857-6000 | [lacma.org](http://lacma.org)

**Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 11 am-5 pm; Friday: 11 am-8 pm; Saturday, Sunday: 10am-7 pm; closed Wednesday

**General Admission:** Adults: \$15; students 18+ with ID and senior citizens 62+: \$10

**Free General Admission:** Members; children 17 and under; after 3 pm weekdays for L.A. County residents; second Tuesday of every month; Target Free Holiday Mondays

**Image Credit:** © Museum Associates/LACMA 2013.

Screenshot: <http://seasian.catalog.lacma.org>

**Press Contact:** For additional information, contact LACMA Communications at [press@lacma.org](mailto:press@lacma.org) or 323 857-6522.