

San Francisco Social Diary

by Jeanne Lawrence

CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVALS – PART II A Perfect Time to Visit San Francisco

Arts of Pacific Asia Show

The opening night celebration of the annual Arts of Pacific Asia Show was a benefit for the Asian Art Museum. Everything from the music to the dim sum buffet carried out the Asian theme.

The Arts of the Pacific Asia Show offers museum-quality antique and contemporary selections for every taste and any—well, almost any— budget.



For opening night of the annual Arts of Pacific Asia Show, children performed a traditional Chinese fan dance that originated in ancient times.



Guests arriving at the historic waterfront Fort Mason Festival Pavilion were greeted with charming performances.



Ribbon dancers flicked and twirled long colorful silk streamers to create graceful patterns in the air.

The impressive array of items displayed at the Show included ceramics, antiques, jewelry, Buddhist artifacts, objects from India, kimonos and pottery from Japan, Oriental rugs, Tibetan artifacts, Han figures, porcelain, artworks from Southeast Asian, and rare books.

It's so enjoyable to browse such an impressive display without the pressure of walking into a store and to learn from the knowledgeable Asian art specialists.

Dealer Patsy Lee Donegan told me that her colleagues from around the world come to buy from other dealers, taking advantage of their expertise in having culled the finest works.



The Pacific Asia show brings more than 10,000 exquisite antiques, textiles and art from Asia Europe and North America to the Bay Area.



The enormous and unusual exhibition of Japanese kimonos and textile, "Dreams of Empire," was curated by Diane Hall and Alan Marcuson of Belgium.





If you had any Asian clothing in your closet, this was the night to wear it. Many of the women wore antique Chinese dresses and some of us reminisced about the elegant Cecilia Chang (founder of the much missed Mandarin Restaurant) who always wearing vintage dresses she found in China.

Personally, I am always on the lookout for these items to wear on special occasions, but now they're difficult to find in China today.



Judy Wilbur, Jay Xu (Director of Asian Art Museum), and Patrice Wilbur.



Hillary Liang, Yoon-Kyung Kim, Sidney Baek, and Marc Shin.



Fred Levin, Nancy Livingston, Diane Anderson, and Frank Caufield.



Joan Vinson and Jerry Yang. Michael Chu and Dessa Goddard.



Cynthia Schuman Banks, Dan Banks, and Kathy Bissinger.



Martha Hertelendy and others in the crowd were inspired to wear an Asian design. Arielle Andreis and Ralph Hertelendy.



Music filled the air.



Opera star Zheng Cao Larson and Dr. David Larson.
Mark McLoughlin (COO, Asian Art Museum).

Stephanie Theodore and



Gorretti Lui, Selina Cha, and Rosina Sun.



Dennis and Carol McManus. Skip Whitney and Aew Whitney.



John Sias and Bill Sias. Brendan Joyce and Victoria Pham.



Even at the end of a festive evening, the fun and lively entertainment continued as valet brought us our cars.