

Welcome to the E-Newsletter for the



Thank you for signing up to receive the e-newsletter of the Honolulu Academy of Arts' Museum Learning Center—designed to enhance the education of Hawai'i's young people.

In this inaugural issue you'll learn about:

1. Special Exhibitions: *The Dragon's Gift: The Sacred Arts of Bhutan*
2. School Tours: Learn about our regular tours and special exhibition tours
3. Ambassador Program: Why Teachers Love It!
4. Curriculum Guides: Now Online
5. Bank of Hawaii Family Sunday: Free and packed with activities
6. Upcoming Exhibitions: See what's coming and plan ahead
7. Other Academy Opportunities: From Shangri La to Puppet Tours



Teachers, don't forget that you can enter the Academy for free during regular museum hours by showing your school ID or union card. This includes free entry to the blockbuster exhibition *The Dragon's Gift*, on view through May 23.



1. Special Exhibitions: *The Dragon's Gift: The Sacred Arts of Bhutan*

Take your students on an intellectual, spiritual, and artistic journey into the rich cultural legacy of the Buddhist Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan. For the past five years, the Honolulu Academy of Arts has worked with Bhutanese officials, monks, and artists to help preserve the country's cultural artifacts. In addition to training Bhutanese monks on art conservation techniques to restore traditional thangkas (scroll paintings) and sculptures, many of which are on display, the Academy has also documented over 300 hours of *Cham* (sacred Bhutanese dance) to share with the public. In conjunction with *The Dragon's Gift*, you can visit a Buddhist altar, a textile gallery, an exhibit on the conservation of thangkas, and an interactive exhibition on *Cham*. This tour is a rare opportunity to view sacred art from Bhutan, for the country has historically isolated itself from outside influences. This exhibition continues until May 23, 2008.

You can learn more at www.honoluluacademy.org/dragonsgift. (School tours are free for this exhibition and do not need to pay the \$10 entry that applies to the general public.)

2. School Tours: Learn about our regular tours and special exhibition tours

We have many school tours for students of all ages. Whether you are teaching your students about art, history, or a variety of other subjects, a trip the Academy is guaranteed to enhance your students' knowledge of the subjects by exposing them to the art and culture of societies across the globe. The highly trained docent that will lead your tour will engage your students to become excited about the subject matter.

You can see a list of our regular tours at www.honoluluacademy.org/cmshaa/academy/index.aspx?id=741. We currently have two special exhibition tours, *The Dragon's Gift* and *All About Architecture*. You can find more information on these at www.honoluluacademy.org/teacher.

To schedule a tour, please call 532-8726 or email tours@honoluluacademy.org.



3. Ambassador Program: Why Teachers Love It!



In addition to our school tours in which students come to the museum to learn about the museum's collection and to learn to relate it to what they are studying in the classroom, the Academy has the Ambassador Program, which goes a few steps further. The Academy Ambassador Program brings the study of art and culture to a deeper, more enriching level by combining a docent-guided museum tour with two visits by an Ambassador to the classroom. A pre-visit with a "museum-in-a-box" introduces the material to the students and allows them to interact directly with reproductions and artifacts, while the post-museum follow-up completes the program with a related, hands-on art project.

There are currently nine thematic choices offered through the Ambassador Program including Art of the Ancient Mediterranean, East Meets West, Hawai'i and Its People, Art of the Philippines, Animals in Art, Animals in Art for Special Education, Animals in Art for Preschool, Art of the Pacific Islands, and Roots. Each of the themes is available to schools and community groups year-round and helps meet the Department of Education Fine Arts Content Standards. It also offers interdisciplinary studies in language arts, literature, science, geography, social studies and history.

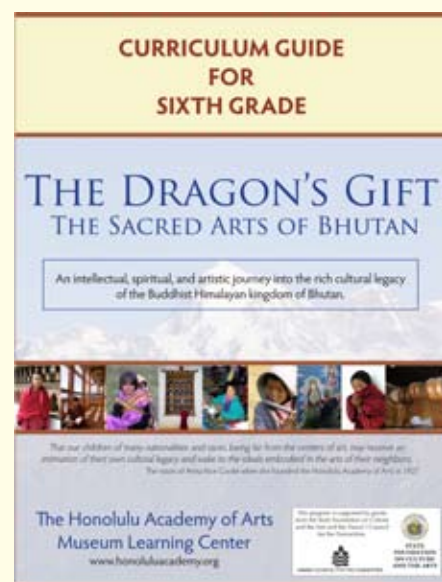
You can learn more at www.honoluluacademy.org/cmshaa/academy/index.aspx?id=1256.

4. Curriculum Guides: Now Online

The Museum Learning Center has developed comprehensive Curriculum Guides for our two special exhibition tours, *The Dragon's Gift* and *All About Architecture*. These free guides are grade specific and can be used to supplement your school tour. They contain background information on the exhibitions, including images that your students will see on the tour, as well as several suggested lesson plans that address the HCPS III Benchmarks in a variety of subjects.

You can access these guides at www.honoluluacademy.org/teacher.

The MLC is also working to develop additional guides and instructional materials to supplement the rest of our tours, and these will be posted at the above website as they become available.



5. Bank of Hawaii Family Sunday: Free and packed with activities

Bank of Hawaii sponsors free museum admission for this family day on the third Sunday of every month from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. This program has new and interesting ways to explore the Academy through gallery scavenger hunts, art activities, demonstrations, film screenings, and entertainment. The theme for the May 18th Family Sunday is "A Fine LINE".

You can learn more about Bank of Hawaii Family Sundays at www.honoluluacademy.org/cmshaa/academy/index.aspx?id=514.

6. Upcoming Exhibitions: See what's coming and plan ahead

Barry Moser: The Art of the Book

Improve your students' literacy using an exhibition on Barry Moser, an illustrator and book smith.

June to August 2008

Art and Life in Colonial America

An interactive tour for 5th grade students to learn about life in Colonial America.

August 18, 2008 to February 2009

All About Textiles

Introduce your students to the elements of art (line, shape, form, color, space, pattern, and texture) by teaching them about the importance of textiles in cultures around the world.

September 2008 to Summer 2009

Creatively Christmas

For pre-K through 3rd graders to learn about depictions of the Nativity in art and to experience a creative encounter with a Christmas character.

December 1 to December 19, 2008



7. Other Academy Opportunities: From Shangri La to Puppet Tours



Shangri La -

In the late 1930s, Doris Duke built Shangri La, her Honolulu home, on five acres of property overlooking the Pacific Ocean and Diamond Head. Shangri La incorporates architectural features from the Islamic world and houses Duke's extensive collection of Islamic art, which she assembled for nearly 60 years. Today Shangri La can be visited by scheduling a tour through the Honolulu Academy of Arts. For more details visit www.honoluluacademy.org/cmshaa/academy/index.aspx?id=437.

Doris Duke Theater -

The theater screens movies that you are unlikely to see anywhere else. Don't miss the world premiere of several films from Bhutan. For a list of all movies go to www.honoluluacademy.org/cmshaa/academy/index.aspx?id=2402.

Other Educational Opportunities -



Adult Tours -

The Academy offers daily walk-in tours for museum visitors and the Tour and Tea tours three days a week. The Museum Learning Center can also schedule docent-led tours for the public. For more information and a schedule of regular tours, visit www.honoluluacademy.org/cmshaa/academy/index.aspx?id=596.

Buddhist Lecture Series -

Learn all about Vajrayana Buddhism from Academy Director, Steven Little; Assistant Curator for *The Dragon's Gift*, John Johnston; and Academy Curator of Asian Art, Shawn Eichman. The classes are on Fridays from 3-4:30, starting on April 4th and going until May 2nd. Space is limited. Call 532-8726 to register. The cost is \$50 for Academy members and \$70 for the general public.



Tutu Tours -

A puppet tour and art project for the youngest keiki! Pre-schoolers, young elementary-aged keiki, and their parents are invited to a tour or story from Tutu Anna, a puppet who loves to talk about the art that children love. More information can be found at www.honoluluacademy.org/cmshaa/academy/index.aspx?id=1497.

If you wish to receive this e-newsletter from the Museum Learning Center, please contact teachers@honoluluacademy.org.