

BOWERS MUSEUM MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

PASSPORT

FALL / WINTER 2024



FANTASY
Awaits

Tutu worn by Margot Fonteyn as Princess Aurora in
Act I of *The Sleeping Beauty* (1968) © Royal Ballet Opera.



Miao: Masters of Silver



Gemstone Carvings:
The Masterworks of Harold Van Pelt



California Bounty:
Image and Identity, 1850–1930



Sacred Realms: Buddhist Paintings
by Shashi Dhoj Tulachan
from the Gayle and Edward P. Roski Collection



Spirits and Headhunters:
Art of the Pacific Islands



Ancient Arts of China:
A 5,000 Year Legacy



Ceramics of Western Mexico



California Legacies:
Missions and Ranchos (1768-1848)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Dr. Seán O’Harrow

After my first 12 months, I would like to report that I am continually impressed by the remarkable people I meet each day and the fabulous activities I have observed, as well as the superlative exhibitions, collections, and programs presented to countless public visitors throughout the past year. Our museum is such a special place and I wanted to thank you all for your participation and support! None of this is possible without you!

This fall, we have some truly magnificent exhibitions for everyone, including *Fantasy: Realms of Imagination*, in partnership with the British Library, and *The Eternal Garden: Titanium Art* by Aka Chen. See you this fall!

Late spring next year, we have a big surprise for you (okay, I guess it is no longer a surprise!): we are bringing back the world-famous Terracotta Soldiers from the tomb complex of China’s first Emperor, Qin Shi Huang (d. 210 B.C.E.) to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the discovery of this historic find. Alongside these life-size figures, we are also featuring newly uncovered material from royal tombs dating back a further 2000 years(!), most of this found only in the past two decades and never seen in this country before. So stay tuned for more on this blockbuster event in 2025!

As I am sure you know, Bowers Museum possesses a world-famous collection of art and artifacts from Western Pacific Ocean cultures, and we were able to loan around 250 objects to the new museum of Austronesian Pacific migration on Pingtan Island, Fujian province in southeast China. The new museum will open later this year and will focus on our collection for at least the next two years. Our Chief Curator and Vice-President of Collections, Dr. Tianlong Jiao, is helping curate this gallery presentation and will be onsite with me and Board Chairwoman Anne Shih for the opening ceremony. This marks a welcome return and celebration of our International Exhibition Touring program, which went on hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic a few years ago.

I always like to end by thanking you all so much for your generosity and support for our beloved institution, and I look forward to seeing you all at a museum event soon!

Mahalo nui loa,

Seán O’Harrow, Ph.D.
President & CEO

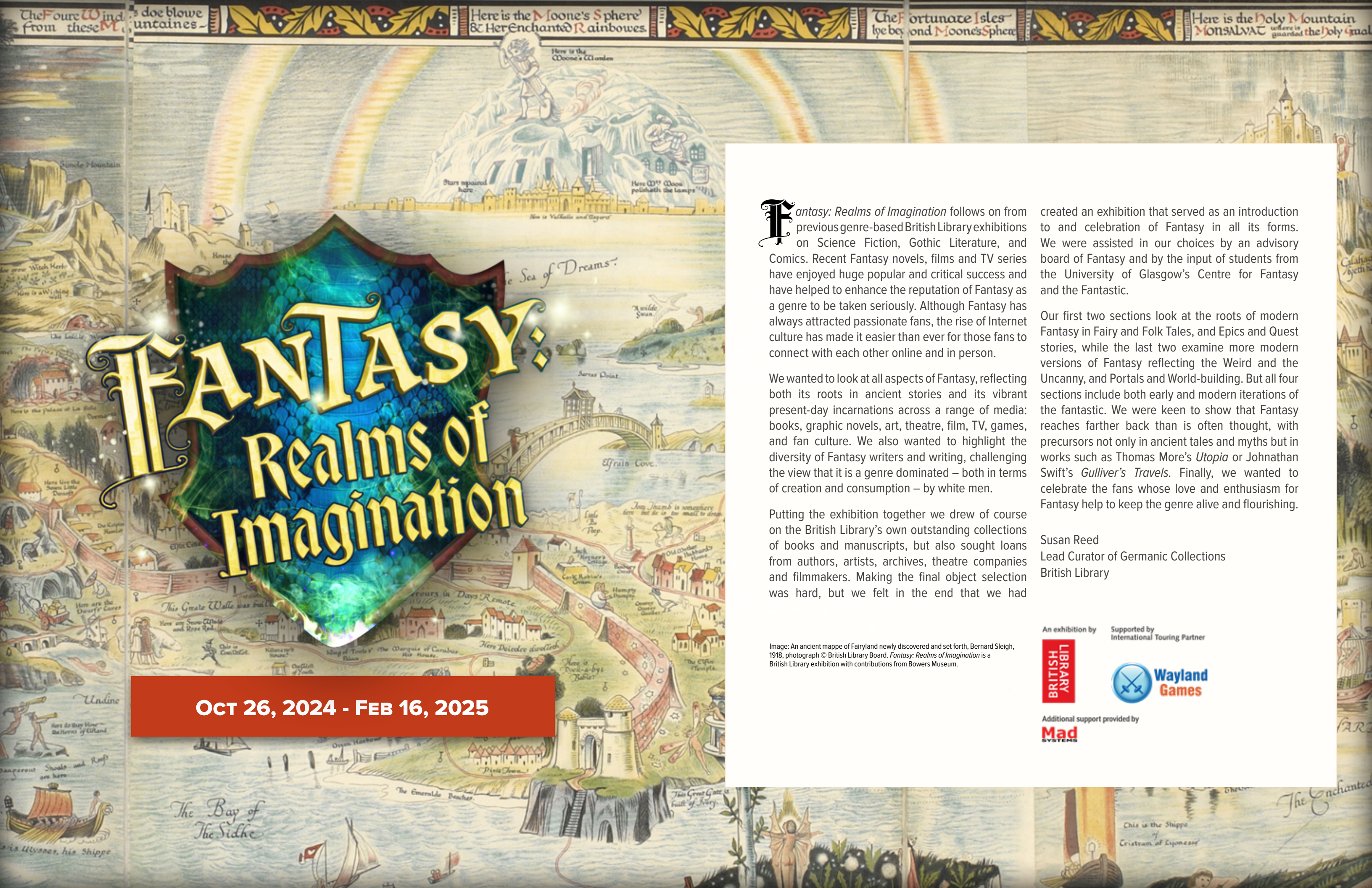


NEW ACQUISITION

Cattle are culturally significant to the peoples of eastern South Africa and are frequent subjects of the *ndwango* (beaded artworks) created by Ubuhle, a community of Xhosa and Zulu women artists living and working together in KwaZulu-Natal. This *ndwango* is inspired by the matric dance that precedes the graduation of South African girls from high school. Due to its large horns, one might expect this Ankole to be a bull, but it is in fact female. According to the artist, Zondlile Zondo, the work celebrate the joy and excitement of graduation, as well as the strength of a young girl ready to find her place in the world.

Zondo is currently the only Zulu member of Ubuhle, and her cultural heritage is reflected in the distinct style of her beadwork which uses much brighter colors and a broader palette than the reserved tones of Ubuhle artists of Xhosa descent. Elements such as the mesmerizing and distinct patterning applied to both the subject and the background, and the artist’s impeccable attention to detail show the degree of mastery that she has developed.

Zondlile Zondo (South African, Zulu, born 1969), *Dressed for the Dance*, 2023, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa. Glass beads sewn onto fabric. Bowers Museum purchase made possible by generous contributions from the Bead Society of Orange County, Bowers Museum Collector Council, Janis Agopian, and the Marion & Scott Trust, 2023.10.1



Fantasy: *Realms of Imagination* follows on from previous genre-based British Library exhibitions on Science Fiction, Gothic Literature, and Comics. Recent Fantasy novels, films and TV series have enjoyed huge popular and critical success and have helped to enhance the reputation of Fantasy as a genre to be taken seriously. Although Fantasy has always attracted passionate fans, the rise of Internet culture has made it easier than ever for those fans to connect with each other online and in person.

We wanted to look at all aspects of Fantasy, reflecting both its roots in ancient stories and its vibrant present-day incarnations across a range of media: books, graphic novels, art, theatre, film, TV, games, and fan culture. We also wanted to highlight the diversity of Fantasy writers and writing, challenging the view that it is a genre dominated – both in terms of creation and consumption – by white men.

Putting the exhibition together we drew of course on the British Library's own outstanding collections of books and manuscripts, but also sought loans from authors, artists, archives, theatre companies and filmmakers. Making the final object selection was hard, but we felt in the end that we had

created an exhibition that served as an introduction to and celebration of Fantasy in all its forms. We were assisted in our choices by an advisory board of Fantasy and by the input of students from the University of Glasgow's Centre for Fantasy and the Fantastic.

Our first two sections look at the roots of modern Fantasy in Fairy and Folk Tales, and Epics and Quest stories, while the last two examine more modern versions of Fantasy reflecting the Weird and the Uncanny, and Portals and World-building. But all four sections include both early and modern iterations of the fantastic. We were keen to show that Fantasy reaches farther back than is often thought, with precursors not only in ancient tales and myths but in works such as Thomas More's *Utopia* or Johnathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. Finally, we wanted to celebrate the fans whose love and enthusiasm for Fantasy help to keep the genre alive and flourishing.

Susan Reed
Lead Curator of Germanic Collections
British Library

Image: An ancient map of Fairyland newly discovered and set forth, Bernard Sleight, 1918, photograph © British Library Board. *Fantasy: Realms of Imagination* is a British Library exhibition with contributions from Bowers Museum.

OCT 26, 2024 - FEB 16, 2025

An exhibition by



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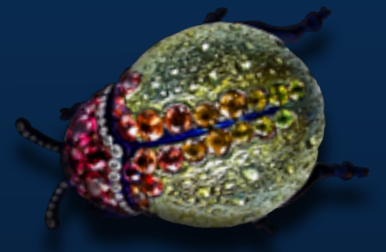


THE EXHIBITION *THE ETERNAL GARDEN: TITANIUM ART BY AKA CHEN* AT BOWERS MUSEUM SERVES AS BOTH A PERSONAL MILESTONE FOR THE ARTIST AKA CHEN AND A SIGNIFICANT LEAP FORWARD IN TITANIUM'S USE AS A MEDIUM FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. THE ARTWORK IN THIS EXHIBITION REFLECTS TITANIUM'S ENDURANCE AS A METAL AND SPEAKS BROADLY TO THE EXPLORATIVE NATURE OF ART.

THE ETERNAL GARDEN
TITANIUM ART BY
AKA CHEN

永恆花園：陳智權鈦金藝術展

NOV 16, 2024 - APR 13, 2025



Aka Chen is Taiwan's first artist to create jewelry using titanium, producing his first pieces in 1994. Through experimentation, Chen developed several unique titanium processing techniques, including sculpting at ultra-high temperatures, underwater surface treatments using surgical knives, and high-precision micro-engraving. His most distinctive contribution lies in color treatment. Using a special method of anodization, he has also developed a means of altering the metal's surface so that it can take on the full spectrum of color. Aka Chen finishes his works by skillfully embedding them with gemstones that complement each piece's characteristics, resulting in exquisite and unique titanium jewelry.

The motto "learn from nature, transcend nature" encapsulates both the creative essence of *huaniaohua* and Chinese literati gardens. Aka Chen's selections for The Eternal Garden embody this artistic principle. Over thousands of years, Chinese gardens have developed a prominent feature: their interplay with poetry, literature, and painting. This fusion has made gardens an indispensable part of Chinese art history. They can be either artificially or naturally landscaped. The former emphasizes the natural integration of mountains, water, flora, and architecture, while the latter either completely or partially relies on using natural landscapes as the garden's foundation, primarily serving as tranquil recreational spaces. Both types of garden offer a special place for people to connect with nature, a temporary escape from everyday life—a pure land that resembles a three-dimensional landscape painting.

Aka Chen echoes these traditional aesthetic principles by combining his mastery of titanium with elements of the garden, creating an atmosphere in his works that transcends even that of real-world gardens. Observers can experience the tranquility and leisure of a garden while appreciating the unique charm of titanium. Titanium endures, and the gardens Chen has built from it will endure the test of time.



Dr. Tianlong Jiao,
Bowers Museum
Chief Curator

Images, left to right: detail of *Earth* (地), from the *Four Elements* group; detail of *Eternal Garden* (永恆花園). All images © AKACHEN. The *Eternal Garden: Titanium Art by Aka Chen* is organized by Bowers Museum. Major support for the exhibition is provided by the Taiwan Academy of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles and the Ministry of Culture (Taiwan). Additional support is provided by Anne and Long Shung Shih, and AUO Display Plus America Corporation.

FALL DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE...



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*Members Only
Opening Celebration*



FANTASY: Realms of Imagination

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 6 - 9 PM

Look for your invitation in the mail!

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SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Bowers Museum's newest acquisition, *Dressed for the Dance*, was made possible by generous contributions from the Bead Society of Orange County, Bowers Museum Collectors Council, Janis Agopian, and the Marion & John Scott Trust.



BEAD SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

The Bead Society has grown from a small group of ten women who shared a common interest in beads into a group of more than 200 members. Their mission is to provide the community with an educational resource in the artistic, historical, and intercultural significance of beads. They also support Bowers Museum with their fundraising for museum programs.

Before supporting this acquisition, BSOC were "thrilled to help sponsor *Ubuhle Women* to showcase the work of women in South Africa!" They also "donated seed beads to these women in hopes that it will help them continue their work."

—Cheryl Richard, President of BSOC

Learn more about BSOC lectures and workshops at Bowers Museum at [bowers.org/programs](https://www.bowers.org/programs).

BOWERS MUSEUM COLLECTOR'S COUNCIL

The Collectors Council provides experiences in art collection and connoisseurship. Members enjoy tours of private collections and galleries as well as travel opportunities and special parties. They are also great supporters of Bowers Museum's collection and exhibitions, with generous donations made over decades.





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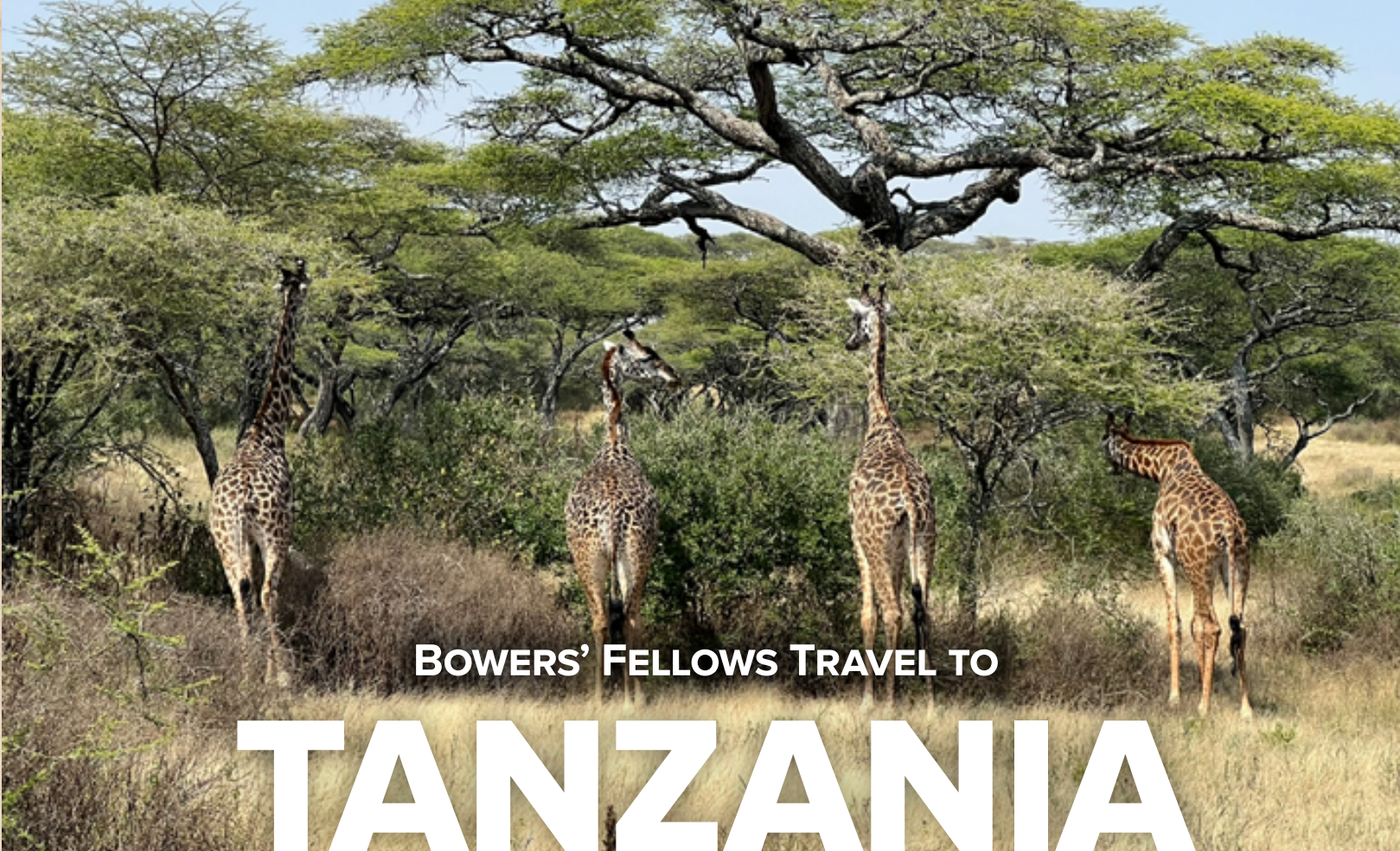


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- Visitors dance at our Reggae Family Festival while the band "Upstream" plays.
- Volunteers from Bowers Museum's Affiliate Councils take a picture together during this year's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.
- Anne's Treasures attendees hold up their copper reliefs from July's class.
- May Han, Kelun Chen, Charlie Zhang, Dr. Sean O'Harrow, Anne and Danny Shih, Council General Guo of PRC Los Angeles, Madam Guo and Amber O'Harrow enjoy our Annual Board Dinner this past June 2024.
- Guests show off their signed prints after a live drawing demo with artist Junko Mizuno.
- The Bowers Museum's Director of Special Exhibition Development, Mark Bustamante, and Barbican Immersive's Head of Commercial Strategy and Partnerships, Patrick Moran, celebrate the opening of *Asian Comics: Evolution of an Art Form*.
- Tennis Legend, Michael Chang, and his family smile for a photo in front of our Temple Drum on a private tour.
- National Charity League mother-daughter duo, volunteer at April's Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival.
- Backhaus Dancers performance of "Glow: Brillo" in our Key Courtyard.
- Chairwoman Anne Shih (seen with Dr. Tianlong Jiao, Mei Yen Chang, Danny Shih, Nancy Shih, and Dr. Sean O'Harrow) honored by the China Institute at their "Women Who Dared" Gala.
- Vendor, Karina Delgado, surrounded by items for sale in their booth at our Comic Art Expo.
- Goku cosplayer strikes a pose during Bowers Museum's 1st Comic Art Expo.
- South Coast Plaza Fluor de Ville display inspired by *Asian Comics: Evolution of an Art Form*.
- 2024 Junior Ambassadors trained by docent, Rhonda Nalitsnik, during a school tour.



BOWERS' FELLOWS TRAVEL TO

TANZANIA



“As I think about our wonderful trip to Tanzania with the Fellows of Bowers Museum in July 2024, I am filled with great memories. We started our journey on July 13th, arriving in Kilimanjaro and staying at the peaceful Ngare Sero Lodge. The natural beauty around the lodge set the perfect tone for our adventure.

On the 14th, we explored the lively markets of Arusha and then relaxed at Plantation Lodge. The next day, we visited the Ngorongoro Crater, where we saw many animals in their natural habitat. It was truly amazing.

On the 16th, we traveled to Oldupai Gorge and visited a Maasai village. It was a special experience that gave us insight into the local culture. That night, we stayed at Lake Masek Tented Camp, surrounded by the sounds of the African wilderness.



From July 17th to 19th, we explored the Serengeti. We saw lions, cheetahs, and leopards during our game drives. Our private tented camp near Moru Kopjes offered a perfect place to enjoy the beauty of the Serengeti.

On the 20th, we moved to Lamai Camp in the Northern Serengeti. Here, we witnessed the incredible wildebeest migration, a sight we will never forget. Our final day, July 21st, was spent exploring more of this beautiful region.

As we left on the 22nd, with a final rest at the Arusha Coffee Lodge, I felt grateful for the experiences we shared. This trip was not just a safari; it was a meaningful connection with the wild beauty of Africa. ”

Warm Regards,

Anne Shih
Bowers Museum Chairwoman of the Board of Governors

Experience the World like Never Before **JOIN THE FELLOWS TODAY!**

Bowers Museum's Fellows enjoy exclusive perks including monthly receptions with lecturers and artists, VIP opening celebrations for new exhibitions, and invitations to travel world-class destinations.

The best part about being a Fellow is the impact you will make. By joining one of our highest-level memberships, Fellows play a pivotal role in helping us continue our mission to enrich lives through the world's greatest arts and cultures.

Join now for your passport to a whole new world of adventure and possibilities. For more information about the Fellows program and to be notified of upcoming travel opportunities, **please contact us at 714.567.3639 or membership@bowers.org.**

- **Cognac to Bilbao, April 2025 | SPOTS AVAILABLE!**
- **Morocco, April 2025 | SOLD OUT!**
- **Tanzania, July 2025 | SPOTS AVAILABLE!**
- **Mongolia, September 2025 | SPOTS AVAILABLE!**
- **India, February 2026 | SPOTS AVAILABLE!**



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All donations are tax deductible and go towards supporting Bowers' education programs.


From free family festivals to senior-enrichment programs, free school tours, and world-class exhibitions, Bowers Museum serves SoCal and our global community at every age. Make 2025 a year to remember with a generous donation today!

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OCTOBER

TUESDAY – SUNDAY | CLOSED MONDAYS

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6 Mehregan Festival 
8	9 Art in Context: Hudson River Valley (Pt. 1 of 6) 	10 Anne's Treasures: Mexican Day of the Dead Refrigerator Magnets 	11	12 ARCE: The Contributions of Women in Egyptology with Dr. Kathleen Sheppard 	13 "The Scary Night" Art Project with Erna van Dyk
15	16 Art in Context: Hudson River Valley (Pt. 2 of 6) 	17 Books at Bowers: Gods of Jade and Shadow 	18 	19 Kofu Kai Annual Bonsai Display 	20 
22	23 Art in Context: Hudson River Valley (Pt. 3 of 6) 	24 Anne's Treasures: Mexican Day of the Dead Sugar Skulls Timeless Melodies: America 1900 	25 Fantasy: Realms of Imagination Members Opening Celebration 	26 Storytime in the Galleries with Author Sheri Fink BSOC Lecture Realms of Imagination with Matthew Sangster 	27 Hexes and Tales, Unveiling the History of Witchcraft and Folklore with Roxanne Mayoral 
29	30 Art in Context: Hudson River Valley (Pt. 4 of 6) 	31 Frankenstein (1931) Film Talk & Screening with Theo Siegel 			

For more info visit [bowers.org](https://www.bowers.org)
Follow us [@bowersmuseum](https://twitter.com/bowersmuseum)



Programs subject to change.

NOVEMBER

TUESDAY – SUNDAY | CLOSED MONDAYS

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2 Songs and Stories of Día de los Muertos with Gloria Arjona	3 Mexican Day of the Dead Festival 
5	6 Art in Context: Hudson River Valley (Part 5 of 6) 	7 Anne's Treasures: Treasure Leaves	8	9 ARCE: Recycling for Death with Dr. Kara Cooney 	10
12	13 Art in Context: Hudson River Valley (Part 6 of 6) 	14 Anne's Treasures: Painting with Beads	15	16	17 The Eternal Garden: Titanium Art by Aka Chen Opening Day Lecture 
19	20	21 Crescendo Celebrity Speaker Series with Julie Garnye Timeless Melodies: Cole Porter 	22	23 BSOC Lecture 	24 Book Cover Workshop with Erna van Dyk
26	27	28 Closed for Thanksgiving Day	29	30 Storytime in the Galleries The Dark Crystal (1982) Film Talk & Screening with Theo Siegel 	

DECEMBER

TUESDAY – SUNDAY | CLOSED MONDAYS

For more info visit bowers.org
Follow us [@bowersmuseum](https://twitter.com/bowersmuseum)



Programs subject to change.

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1 Winter Family Festival 
3	4	5 Books at Bowers: Winter Wassail	6	7	8
10	11	12 Anne's Treasures: Silk Scarf Painting 	13	14 ARCE with Dr. Matthew Lamanna	15 Family Workshop with Erna van Dyk Fantasy Tour & Tea Party with Dreamland Maid Café 
17	18	19 Timeless Melodies: The Ladies Sing Pt. 2 	20	21	22
24 Closed at 2 pm for Christmas Eve	25 Closed for Christmas Day	26	27	28 Bowers' Books for Kids: Storytime in the Galleries 	29
31					

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TICKETS

BOWERS GENERAL ADMISSION

Includes access to all current exhibitions

Adults	\$18
Seniors (62+) & Students (12+)	\$15
Children under 12*	FREE

SPECIAL-TICKETED EXHIBITION ADMISSION

+ \$10 for tickets to *Fantasy: Realms of Imagination*
with your purchase of General Admission**

**Must be accompanied by a paying adult*

***First visit is free for Members at the individual level & above*

HOURS

Tuesday – Sunday | 10 AM – 4 PM

Closed Mondays

CONTACT

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