

My Favourite Museum

We invite our readers to submit a short (300-400 words) article about a favourite museum in Asia, Australia or New Zealand or to write about an Asian collection elsewhere in the world. Please send submissions to Susan Hunter, Features Editor, at susanfhunter@mindspring.com

The Trammell & Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art

By Bonnie Speed

There are many museums in the United States with stellar collections of Asian art, but relatively few museums that are dedicated solely to the arts of Asia. While I love the Chinese painting collection of the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City and the expansiveness of the Metropolitan Museum's Asian collection, and who could not be excited by the newly renovated Asian Art Museum in San Francisco?... one of my favourite museums for contemplating the beauty and mystery of Asian art is the Trammell & Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art in Dallas, Texas.

Intimate, exquisite, peaceful, compelling... all adjectives that aptly describe the Crow Collection experience. Created in 1998 and located on Flora Street in Dallas' downtown Arts District, the museum displays works of art from the private collection of Texas real estate developer Trammell Crow (1914-2009). Crow was introduced to the wonders of Asian art in the 1960s through business contacts and travel to Hong Kong, China and Japan. He soon started collecting in a major way. His love of Chinese jades and Buddhist sculpture soon expanded to encompass Japanese and Korean art and Indian sculpture and architecture.

The galleries of the Crow Collection are organised by culture with music, appropriate to the culture, softly playing in the background. You will not encounter huge, white-walled galleries here, but you will meander through cosy rooms of jades, intimate galleries of ceramics and paintings, view a small Japanese garden through a window in the first floor gallery, and stand before an impressive 18th century Mughal palace wall in the last

gallery devoted to the arts of Southeast Asia. The museum also has galleries dedicated to temporary exhibitions and the exhibition schedule is ambitious. Over the past few years the Crow Collection has mounted exhibitions of Tibetan *thangka* paintings, contemporary Chinese painting, Japanese armour, Chinese bronzes, contemporary Korean sculpture and even contemporary Japanese quilts.

This unexpected treasure of a museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm with extended hours on Thursday until 9:00 pm, and admission is free. They have a lovely website, www.crowcollection.org

Trammell & Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art
2010 Flora Street
Dallas, TX 75201
214 979 6430
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Temple plaque with seated Buddha
Nepal, Shah period, 19th century



Head of a bodhisattva
Tibet, 18th century



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Bonnie Speed is currently the Director of the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia (and the former Director of the Crow Collection of Asian Art). A native of Maine, she knew from an early age that the study of art would be her life's work. After undergraduate work at the University of Maine and San Diego State University, she moved to Taiwan to study Mandarin Chinese. When she returned to the US, she completed her graduate degree in art history at the University of Kansas, studying modern Chinese painting with Dr. Chu-ting Li.

Photos courtesy of Trammell and Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art