

Shangri La Working Session
Collecting Islamic Art: Doris Duke and Abby Weed Grey
July 3, 2015 | 12h30pm-4h45pm
4055 Papu Circle

SUMMARY

This working session will discuss two women who have built foundational collections and promoted ongoing scholarship on Islamic Art. In 1936 at just 23 years of age, Doris Duke began the work that became Shangri La. She is a fascinating figure whose personal travels brought about her committed interest in Islamic art and architecture and whose forceful yet private personality created the magnificent yet private sanctuary-like space of her Hawai'i home and collection. Abby Grey, on the other hand began her collecting in the 1960s and continued to the early 1970s and was greatly interested in modernism, influenced by the second national biennial of modern art in Tehran in 1960.

Both of these women promoted different aspects of Islamic art and culture at a time when it was not popular. Duke in fact spawned renewed interest among artisans to create work. While Grey had an interest in traditional craft, her collecting was focused in the relationship and tensions between the past and present in the works of contemporary artists of the time. This working session will be discussing their life's work in collecting and their legacies then and now in building the field in relation to current topics around collecting, circulations of images and objects, and discourse making. Dawn Sueoka will present Duke's work through archival documents on her collecting and explore the "Syrian Room" as virtual model. Sueoka will also give a virtual tour of the related 3D modeling historical modeling project of a Damascene home. Lynn Gumpert will be introducing the Abby Weed Grey Collection of Modern Asian and Middle Eastern Art.

AGENDA

12h30pm-1h30pm — Welcome / lunch

1h30pm-1h45pm — Welcome/Introduction
Carol Khewhok, Program Manager, Shangri La

1h45pm-2h15pm — Presentation by Dawn Sueoka, Archivist, Shangri La and Q&A

2h15pm-2h45pm — Presentation "One World Through Art: Abby Weed Grey and Modern Middle-Eastern Art" by Lynn Gumpert, Director NYU Grey Art Gallery and Q&A

3h00pm-3h45pm — Discussion led by John Tain, Getty Research Institute

3h45pm-4h30pm — Tour

4h45pm — Departure

PRESENTERS

Carol Doran-Khewhok has served as Program Manager at Shangri La, a center for Islamic art and culture owned and operated by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Arts, since 2008. Prior to that she was the Director of the Honolulu Museum of Art School from 1992-2008 and Director of Public Relations at the Honolulu Museum of Art from 1987-1992. She served as Head of the Fine Arts Department at the La Salle College of the Arts in Singapore from 1987 -1992. Khewhok holds an M.A. in Asian Studies specializing in Southeast Asian History from the University of Hawaii and a BFA in Painting and Printmaking from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Singapore in 1983 and has lived and worked in Singapore and Thailand.

Since 1997 **Lynn Gumpert** has served as Director of the Grey Art Gallery at New York University, and from 1999 to 2000 she served as Interim Director of NYU's Museum Studies Program. Ms. Gumpert is responsible for the development and direction of Grey Art Gallery's exhibitions and related programs as well as the permanent collection. Among the more than 50 exhibitions she has overseen at the Grey are *Modern Iranian Art: Selections from the Abby Weed Grey Collection at NYU* (2013); *Toxic Beauty: The Art of Frank Moore* (2012); *Soto: Paris and Beyond, 1950–1970* (2012); *Icons of the Desert: Early Aboriginal Paintings from Papunya* (2009); *The Poetics of Cloth: African Textiles / Recent Art* (2008); *The Downtown Show: The New York Art Scene, 1974–1984* (2006); and *Electrifying Art: Atsuko Tanaka, 1954–1968* (2004). In 1997, 1999, 2006, and 2009, the Grey Art Gallery received prestigious AICA (The United States Section of the International Association of Art Critics) awards for *The Poetics of Cloth: African Textiles / Recent Art* (Best Show in a University Gallery), *The Downtown Show: The New York Art Scene, 1974–1984* (Best Thematic Show in New York City), *Shiro Kuramata 1934–1991* (Best Design Show), and *Inverted Odysseys: Claude Cahun, Maya Deren, Cindy Sherman* (Best Photography Show), respectively.

Dawn Sueoka has an MLISc from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and an MFA in creative writing from Naropa University. She is currently a member of the Standards and Best Practices Working Group of the Society of American Archivists' Museum Archives Section, and has formerly served on the board of the Association of Hawai'i Archivists. She has worked at Shangri La since 2009.

*Thanks to the support of NYU Office of the Provost Global Research Initiatives
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