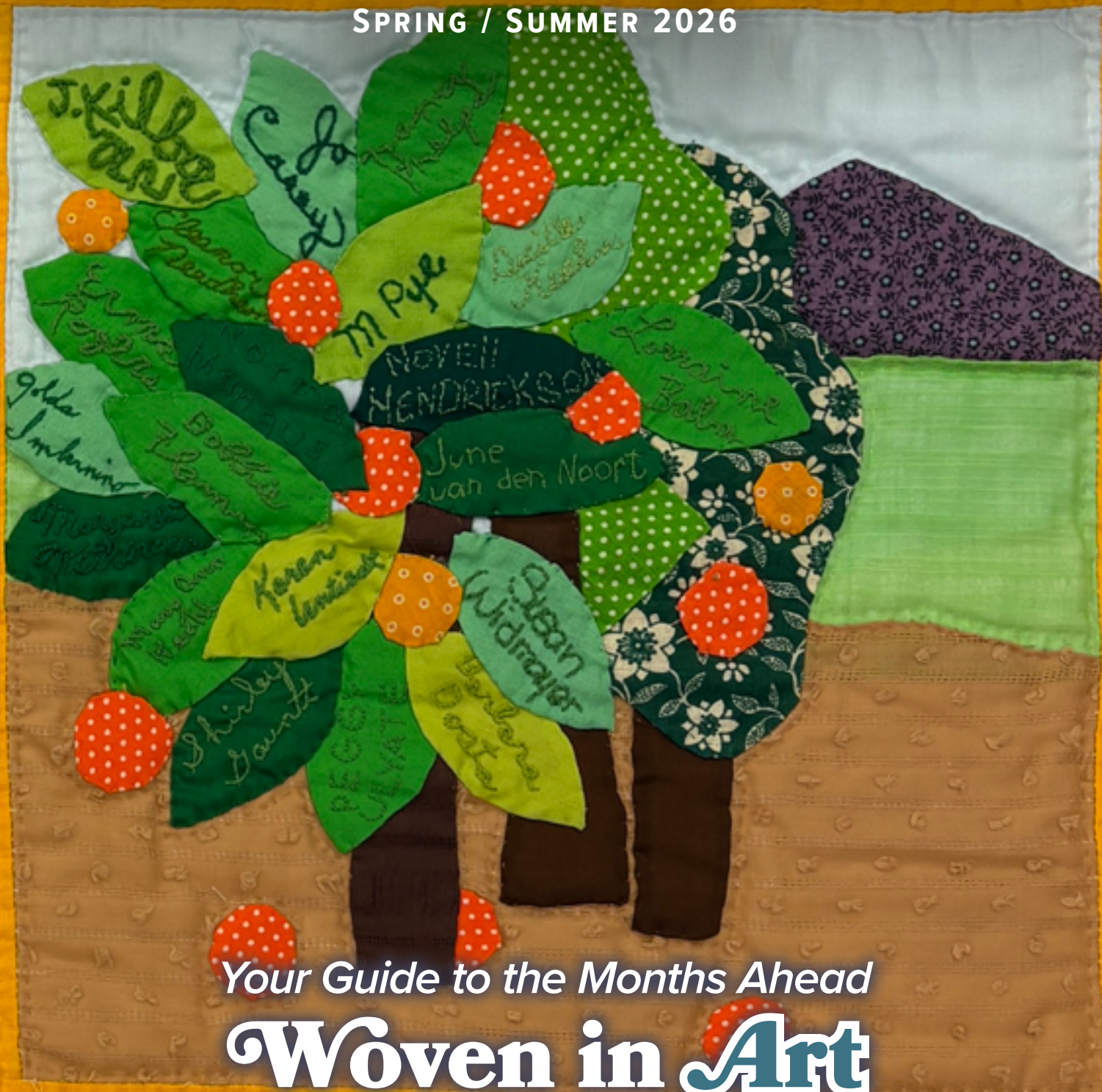


PASSPORT

SPRING / SUMMER 2026



Your Guide to the Months Ahead

**Woven in Art
and Community**



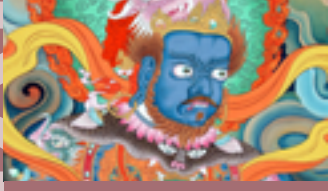
First Look:
New Acquisitions at Bowers Museum



Miao: Masters of Silver



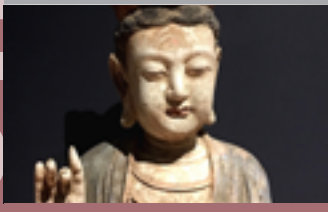
California Bounty:
Image and Identity, 1850–1930



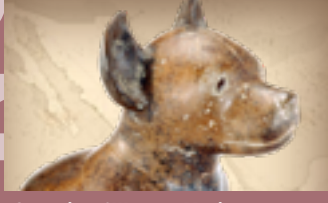
Sacred Realms: Buddhist Paintings
by Shashi Dhoj Tulachan
from the Gayle and Edward P. Roski Collection



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



Aloha Supporters and Friends,

2026 marks a milestone year as we celebrate Bowers Museum's 90th anniversary. This landmark birthday honors not only the legacy of one of Orange County's most cherished cultural institutions, but also our enduring commitment to global cultural exchange. Since opening in February 1936, Bowers Museum has grown from a regional history museum into a world-class center for art, culture, and cross-cultural dialogue.

Our museum's relevance today is greater than ever: in a world that often feels fragmented, Bowers offers spaces where visitors can encounter the beauty, complexity, and interconnectedness of human creativity. Through our international exhibitions, in-person and online programs, free family activities, and community partnerships, we hope to continue to inspire your curiosity, and foster empathy and understanding throughout our communities for many decades to come!

This spirit of global connection is on full display in *Global Threads*, a must-see exhibition that closes on April 5. *Global Threads* reveals how Indian Chintz fabric had a profound influence on cultures, ceremonies and commercial activities around the world. This beautiful exhibition, presented in partnership with the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, highlights intricate techniques, centuries old traditions, and the people who created and used these fascinating works.

Held in conjunction with this exhibition, our anniversary celebration continues with the Bowers Bollywood Bash on Saturday, March 21. This vibrant event brings us together for an evening of South Asian food, art, music, and dance! Buying tickets not only supports the museum's educational programs and exhibitions, but also guarantees a night of unforgettable energy and enjoyment—an experience worthy of Bowers' 90 year legacy!

And of course, this May we look forward to celebrating the opening of *The American Quilt: Cloth and Commerce*. Through more than forty quilts and coverlets, this exhibition reveals how fabric, color, and technique carry the stories of innovation, change, and creativity that have shaped American life across generations.

Thank you again for your immense generosity and support during this year of rejoice, and I look forward to seeing you at the next museum event!

Mahalo nui loa,

Seán O'Harrow, Ph.D.
President & CEO



Front and Back Cover: *California Quilt*, c. 1975.
Gift of Novell Hendrickson, 75.23.1.
© Bowers Museum.



NEW ACQUISITION

Double Knit Flying Geese Quilt

American quilts have continually evolved alongside changing tastes and breakthroughs in textile science. After World War II, synthetic and blended fibers transformed quiltmaking. Having first been produced in the 1940s, by the '60s and '70s polyester—a durable, colorfast, and affordable petroleum-based material—had surpassed traditional materials such as cotton, silk, and wool to become the fabric of choice for quilters.

This newly acquired quilt from the 1970s is machine-pieced and hand-quilted in double-knit polyester. It features nine striking columns of Flying Geese blocks,

named for their resemblance to a flock's V-shaped formation. The classic block pattern dates back to at least the 18th century and holds special significance in Orange County, home to the Flying Geese Quilters Guild—one of the region's largest and most active guilds.

Having been made in the 1970s, this quilt almost certainly fits into the larger revival in quiltmaking sparked by the 1976 American Bicentennial. This surge sparked demand for quilting fabrics and instruction, expanded the commercial market, and inspired dedicated magazines and guilds nationwide.

Double Knit Flying Geese Quilt
c. 1970
Polyester
Possibly Oregon
Bowers Museum Purchase, 2025.7.1

BEHIND THE SCENES:

REIMAGINING BOWERS MUSEUM'S SIGNATURE GALA

Behind the scenes at Bowers Museum, a bold idea has been taking shape, one that reimagines the institution's traditional gala and transforms it into something entirely new. Enter the Bowers Bash, a first-of-its-kind signature fundraiser designed to be as dynamic, immersive, and globally inspired as the exhibitions that define the Museum itself.

The inaugural Bash arrives in spectacular fashion as the Bowers Bollywood Bash on March 21, an evening devoted to the color, movement, and artistry of South Asian culture. Inspired by *Global Threads: India's Textile Revolution*, the event brings the exhibition's themes off the gallery walls and into a multi-sensory experience of music, dance, fashion, and cuisine. From the moment guests arrive, every element, from lighting and décor to performance and sound, is crafted to evoke the energy of Bollywood and the richness of India's creative traditions.

The evening also draws meaning from a remarkable chapter of local history that reflects the very cross-cultural exchange the Bash celebrates. Yashwant Rao Holkar II, the last Maharaja of Indore, was a cosmopolitan ruler who famously bridged Indian tradition with Western Art Deco and Bauhaus aesthetics. In 1938, seeking escape from civil unrest, he moved to Santa Ana, California, building a 25-room Streamline Moderne mansion in Floral Park. The home, costing a then-fortune of \$50,000, was designed with a "fortress-like" first floor without windows to protect his young daughter from kidnapping. Despite his wealth, his California years were marked by personal turmoil, including a high-profile divorce from his second wife, Marguerite Lawler.



His daughter, Princess Usha Devi Holkar, was the primary reason for the Santa Ana residence's secure design. Following her father's death in 1961, she was recognized as his successor, inheriting the titular rights of the Holkar dynasty. Today, the "Maharajah's House" in Santa Ana remains on the city's Register of Historical Properties, a lasting monument to her childhood in Orange County. This extraordinary local connection underscores the spirit of the Bowers Bollywood Bash: a celebration of global culture rooted in the community Bowers Museum serves.

That same spirit of cultural connection is carried into the evening's cuisine. Guests will enjoy a three-course gourmet Indian fusion dinner curated

To reflect the Museum's goal of accessibility alongside elegance, the Bash offers a tiered experience designed to meet guests where they are — while reserving the most immersive evening for VIP supporters. The VIP Experience begins at 5 PM with an exclusive pre-party reception, early gallery access, and a three-course gourmet Indian fusion dinner specially curated by Chef Ali Loukzada, followed by full access to the celebration through 1 AM. Party Tickets grant gallery access and entry to the VIP Lounge beginning at 8 PM, joining the festivities for an evening of live entertainment and dancing. After Party Tickets, available from 9:30 PM, open the doors to the night's most exhilarating hours, when the music is loud, the dance floor is full, and the celebration is at its peak.

“Bowers Bollywood Bash blends sophistication with excitement. It's a fresh, lively format that welcomes new audiences while maintaining the elegance and excellence our supporters expect.”

by Chef Ali Loukzada, originally of Mumbai, from Constellation Culinary Group — renowned for creating refined dining experiences for leading museums and cultural institutions nationwide. Complementing the main course is a full chaat station, dessert, and additional offerings by Chef Manindder Tej, originally of Delhi and owner of Dilliwalla Luxury Catering, bringing authentic street-food flavors into a luxury gala setting.

“Our goal is to create an event that reflects the dynamism of this exhibition,” said Dr. Seán O’Harrow, President and CEO of Bowers Museum. “Bowers Bollywood Bash blends sophistication with excitement. It’s a fresh, lively format that welcomes new audiences while maintaining the elegance and excellence our supporters expect.”

More than a single evening, the Bowers Bollywood Bash marks a turning point for the Museum's fundraising tradition. As the capstone event of Bowers Museum's 90th Anniversary year in 2026, it supports the institution's ongoing commitment to multicultural arts and education programs across Southern California, ensuring that the creativity celebrated on this night continues to inspire future generations.

Details and tickets are available at bowers.org/bash.



1936 2026 BOWERS MUSEUM

For nine decades, Bowers Museum has been a place where curiosity is welcomed, cultures are celebrated, and stories from around the world come alive.

In this milestone year, your continued generosity helps ensure that future visitors experience the same sense of wonder you do today.

Celebrate With a Gift

Discover what's ahead and help shape Bowers Museum's next 90 years.

[bowers.org/donate](https://www.bowers.org/donate)



ADA'S TABLE

Santa Ana, Ca

ROOTED IN THE LEGACY OF ADA BOWERS AND THE VIBRANT FLAVORS OF CALIFORNIA,

Ada's Table is a welcoming café experience designed to complement your visit to Bowers Museum. Whether you're picking up something quick between exhibits or settling in for a leisurely lunch, Ada's Table is a place where California's culinary spirit meets the warmth of community. Come for the food, stay for the feeling – and return often.



Scan to learn
more about
dining at
Bowers Museum.

CONSTELLATION

BOWERS
MUSEUM

Meet Bowers Museum's

SPOTLIGHT ON

DR. KELLY TRAN

“ Bridging cultures, strengthening community,
and advancing the museum's mission. ”



I am deeply honored to be the first Vietnamese member to join the Board of Governors and am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the museum's continued growth, outreach, and cultural impact. Serving in this role allows me to support an institution that celebrates art, history, and cultural understanding within our community and beyond.

I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Southern California (USC), followed by a Bachelor of Science in Visual Science and a Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) from the Illinois College of Optometry. For the past 34 years, I have practiced as a Doctor of Optometry and currently own and manage a private practice in Tustin, California. My professional career has been guided by a strong commitment to service, leadership, and lifelong learning.

I am an active member of the Orange County Optometric Association, the California Optometric Association, and the American Optometric Association. Through these organizations, I have participated in outreach initiatives that provide free eye examinations and vision care to vulnerable and underserved populations, reinforcing my dedication to community well-being and equitable access to healthcare.

Since 2022, I have served as a docent at Bowers Museum and currently hold the position of Corresponding Secretary for the Docent Guild. This role has given me firsthand experience engaging with visitors and supporting educational programming. Being a docent is especially meaningful to me, as it reflects my passion for public service and cultural education.

As a member of the Board of Governors, my goal is to strengthen the museum's role as a welcoming cultural bridge by expanding outreach to multicultural communities and ensuring that all visitors feel represented, engaged, and inspired.

Board of Governors

SPOTLIGHT ON

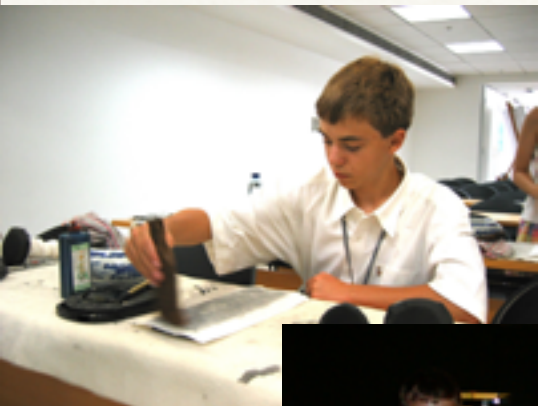
DENNIS LOWE

“ It’s an honor to be on the board and I’m excited to be part of the museum’s future. ”

Bowers Museum has been an important part of my life for many years. During high school I was a volunteer docent and participated in the Junior Ambassador program to Shanghai. These were formative experiences that fostered my love of art, history, and the world’s cultures.

After high school, I attended the United States Military Academy at West Point and served five years in the Army before returning to Los Angeles to attend business school at U.S.C. I completed my MBA and MRED degrees at USC in 2019 and now run my family’s real estate investment business full-time. My wife Shona and I live in Long Beach.

We recently took our 1 year old daughter Audrey to Bowers for her first museum visit and saw the wonderful *Global Threads* exhibition. It’s an honor to be on the board and I’m excited to be part of the museum’s future.





Coming Soon to the Gallery Store

Quilted California totes inspired by *The American Quilt: Cloth and Commerce*

shop.bowers.org

EXPLORE THE WORLD, TOGETHER

GROUP TOURS

— at Bowers Museum —



This spring and summer, gather your friends and family for an unforgettable group experience at Bowers. Led by our knowledgeable docents, explore *Global Threads: India's Textile Revolution* and *The American Quilt: Cloth and Commerce* alongside eight additional permanent galleries showcasing cultures from around the world.

Perfect for any group, club, reunion, and more!

Your group will enjoy:

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Visit bowers.org/tours and follow us [@bowersmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/bowersmuseum)



THE AMERICAN QUILT

CLOTH & COMMERCE

May 23, 2026–Aug 30, 2026

From the Revolutionary Era to the present day, quilts have served as both cherished heirlooms and silent witnesses to the evolution of American industry, politics, and global trade. *The American Quilt: Cloth and Commerce* invites visitors to explore how fibers, dyes, and techniques in quilting reveal centuries of economic shifts and technological innovation. Featuring over 30 quilts and coverlets from Bowers Museum's permanent collection, along with exceptional loans from the family of famed quilter Jean Ray Laury and others, this exhibition spans 250 years of textile history.

Through these remarkable works, guests will discover stories of abundance and ingenuity. Nineteenth-century quilts showcase the impact of mass-produced cotton fabrics, while Depression-era scrap quilts speak to resilience during times of scarcity. Wartime regulations on cotton and the rise of synthetic fibers further shaped quilt aesthetics and availability. Exhibition highlights include a rare 1776 wool whole cloth quilt, an early Bethlehem Star with chintz appliqué, a handkerchief quilt commemorating America's centennial in 1876, and a vibrant 1975 pictorial quilt celebrating California life.

Top and bottom: Crazy Quilt, 1888. Gift of Jennifer K. Hans, Trustee, Vincent and Geraldine Orbish Trust, 2013.4.1. © Bowers Museum.





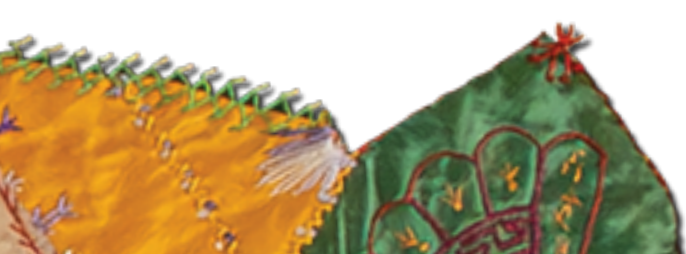
Each quilt offers a tactile record of shifting trade routes and consumer trends. For example, the 1888 Crazy Quilt with red velvet border reflects the craze for luxurious silks—imported raw from China and Japan, processed in American mills, and sold as scrap bags to eager makers. By the 1970s, quilt guilds flourished alongside renewed national interest during the Bicentennial, inspiring collaborative works like the *California Quilt*, crafted from cotton-polyester blends that mirror modern textile technology.

Curated by Tara Miller, an independent quilt historian and material culture researcher whose work explores the intersections of women’s history, community memory, and textile traditions, and displayed alongside period ephemera and multimedia interactives, *The American Quilt: Cloth and Commerce* encourages reflection on the intimate relationship between cloth and community—and how global commerce has shaped the aesthetics of everyday materials. Whether stitched by anonymous hands or celebrated artists, these quilts embody stories of labor, creativity, and legacy.

From top to bottom: Detail of Crazy Quilt, 1888. Gift of Jennifer K. Hans, Trustee, Vincent and Geraldine Orbish Trust, 2013.4.1. © Bowers Museum.

Whole Cloth Quilt, 1776. Lucretia Smith. Gift of Ethel G. Abbott, 37075. © Bowers Museum.

California Quilt, c. 1975. Gift of Novell Hendrickson, 75.23.1. © Bowers Museum.





AS SEEN AT BOWERS

1. Kids stand in front of items in *World of Terracotta Warriors* exhibit.
2. Guests have photos taken in front of objects in *World of Terracotta Warriors* exhibit.
3. Xipe Totec Danza Azteca Performer blows conch shell alerting the beginning of ceremony at December's Day of the Dead Family Festival.
4. Students work hard on their clay miniature Terracotta Warriors during school tour.
5. Author, Kim-Hoa Ung, takes picture with young fans after Storytime in the Galleries.
6. Docent, Dave Neumann, passing around items for visitors to examine while teaching.
7. Two dancers from Arpana Dance Company strike a pose before performing at January's Family Festival.
8. The Weaver Family visits donations on opening day of *First Look: New Acquisitions* exhibit.
9. Guests shop 'til they drop at our Members Opening Night for *Global Threads*.
10. Docents take notes as Director of Exhibitions, Mark Bustamante, tours them through the new *Global Threads* exhibition.
11. Friends smile with their freshly made quilling cards.
12. Our wonderful Visitor Services team in costume for Day of the Dead.
13. Member, Jasmine Harris, shows off her beautiful sari next to textiles on display.





4



5



6



9



10



13



12



TRAVELING BEYOND THE MUSEUM: A BOWERS FELLOWS JOURNEY TO

MONGOLIA

In September 2025, a group of Bowers Museum Fellows embarked on a remarkable journey across Mongolia, trading everyday routines for sweeping steppe landscapes, desert canyons, and centuries of living tradition. From five-star evenings in Ulaanbaatar to nights in yurts beneath the vast Gobi sky, they hiked through fossil-rich Flaming Cliffs, rode camels across the desert, encountered the world's last wild horses, explored ancient monasteries and imperial capitals, and were welcomed into the homes of nomadic families. The adventure culminated high in the Altai Mountains at the legendary Eagle Festival, where Kazakh hunters soared with golden eagles against a backdrop of rugged peaks. Equal parts cultural immersion, natural wonder, and unforgettable camaraderie, the journey offered Fellows not just a destination, but a shared story—the kind that lingers long after the return home.

“Visiting some of these local families was wonderful. They even taught us to cook their local favorites!”

— Mary and Bruce Stambaugh, Bowers Fellows



Your Passport to the Extraordinary

BECOME A BOWERS FELLOW

From the sweeping deserts of Mongolia to the world's most iconic cultural destinations, **Bowers Museum Fellows** enjoy access far beyond the gallery walls. Our Fellows travel alongside curators, scholars, and fellow art and culture enthusiasts, forming connections that transform trips into lifelong memories.

Your membership does more than open doors. As a Fellow, you help sustain Bowers Museum's mission to inspire, educate, and connect our community through the world's greatest arts and cultures.

Step into a world of adventure, connection, and discovery.

Join today and make an impact that lasts far beyond your next journey.

Visit bowers.org/support to learn more
and upgrade your membership.

TRAVEL PROGRAM

- South Africa, May 5-17, 2026 | **TICKETS AVAILABLE!**
- Borneo, June 15-29, 2026 | **TICKETS AVAILABLE!**
- Paris & Burgundy, mid April, 2027 | **TBA**

*For questions, or to sign up for a trip, please contact Lesley Ann Hamilton
at lahamilton@bowers.org or 714.567.3602.*



TUESDAY – SUNDAY | CLOSED MONDAYS

MARCH

1: Celtic Festival

4: Art in Context: Bodies and Bodices (Part 5 of 6)

7: Chintz, Cinema, and the Fabric of Dreams with Robin Sukhadia and Sadubas

11: Art in Context: Bodies and Bodices (Part 6 of 6)

12: Anne's Treasures: Paper Collage

13: Extended Museum Hours

Bowers Game Night: Mah Jongg Social Play with Mahj Club

14: ARCE: Happy as a Pharaoh with Dr. Tara Prakash

21: Bowers Bollywood Bash

22: *Global Threads* Curator's Tour with Sarah Fee

26: Anne's Treasures: Paper Doll Sari

Timeless Melodies: Sammy Davis Jr.

28: Bowers' Books for Kids: Storytime in the Galleries with Author Nydia Armendia-Sánchez

BSOC: Beaded Magic from Island Southeast Asia with Martha Bluming and Mark Johnson

APRIL

4: *California Watercolor* Opening Day Lecture with Jean Stern

8: *Sacred Realms* Sound Immersion with Jody Post Theissen

9: Anne's Treasures: Tin Foil Enameling

11: Archaeology of the Biblical Lands with Dr. Jason Ur

16: Books at Bowers: *Kaikeyi* by Vaishnavi Patel

17: Extended Museum Hours

18: Books at Bowers: *Kaikeyi* by Vaishnavi Patel

ARCE: Shining A Different Light on Egyptian Frog Lamps with Clara McCafferty Wright

19: Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival

23: Anne's Treasures: Frida Prints

Timeless Melodies: 1950: The Year in Music

25: Bowers' Books for Kids: Storytime in the Galleries with Author Sharifa Anozie

Art of Adorning 2026

26: California Dreaming Watercolor Workshop with Erna van Dyk





For more info visit bowers.org

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MAY

3: Cinco de Mayo Family Festival

6: Art in Context: The Medici and the Artistic Legacy of Florence with Lisa Boutin Vitela (Part 1 of 3)

9: ARCE Lecture with Dr. Patricia Butz

13: Art in Context: The Medici and the Artistic Legacy of Florence with Lisa Boutin Vitela (Part 2 of 3)

14: Anne's Treasures: Tote Bags

15: Extended Museum Hours

20: Art in Context: The Medici and the Artistic Legacy of Florence with Lisa Boutin Vitela (Part 2 of 3)

23: EXHIBITION OPENING -

The American Quilt: Cloth and Commerce

The American Quilt Opening Day Lecture & Book Signing with Guest Curator Tara Miller

28: Anne's Treasure: Dimond Flower Art
Timeless Melodies: Inspirational Songs

30: Bowers' Books for Kids: Storytime in the Galleries with Author Kaitlyn Truong





B O W E R S
B O L L Y W O O D
B A S H



Saturday, March 21, 2026

held in celebration of the exhibition
Global Threads: India's Textile Revolution

BOLLYWOOD BASH

BOWERS



BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
BOWERS.ORG/BASH

Limited Tickets Remaining

SAVE THE DATE

A detailed view of a quilt panel. The central panel is yellow and depicts a rider on a brown horse. The rider is wearing a blue cap, a blue vest over a white shirt, and white pants. The horse is facing right. The quilt has a complex border with various patterns, including a blue top border with small yellow circles, a green and blue striped left border, and a grey and white floral right border. The background of the entire image is a quilt with various patterns and colors.

Members Opening Night

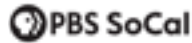
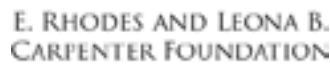
FRI, MAY 22, 2026 AT 6 – 9 PM

THE AMERICAN
QUILT

CLOTH & COMMERCE

Image credit: Detail of Crazy
Quilt, 1888. Gift of Jennifer
K. Hans, Trustee, Vincent and
Geraldine Orbish Trust, 2013.4.1.
© Bowers Museum.

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TICKETS

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Includes access to all current exhibitions

Adults	\$18
Seniors (62+) & Students (12+)	\$15
Children under 12* and Santa Ana Sundays offer**	FREE

SPECIAL-TICKETED EXHIBITION ADMISSION***

+ \$10 for tickets to *Global Threads: India's Textile Revolution* with your purchase of General Admission

+ \$10 for tickets to *The American Quilt: Cloth and Commerce* with your purchase of General Admission

* Must be accompanied by a paying adult

** Must have proof of Santa Ana residency

*** 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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