

"GWIKS Lecture Series: Charles Lang Freer and the Collecting of Korean Art in the Early 20th Century"

Charlotte Horlyck

Smithsonian Institution Senior Fellow of Art History at the Freer|Sackler

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Elliott School of International Affairs Room 503
The George Washington University
1957 E St. NW, Washington, DC 20052



ABOUT THE TALK

This talk centers on the Korean collection of Charles Lang Freer (1854-1919), founder of the Smithsonian Institution's Freer Gallery of Art. Freer was a pioneering individual whose collection of Western and Asian art was among the most extensive of its time. This includes his collection of Korean artifact, which he began to acquire in 1896, culminating in around 450 objects, which are now housed in the Freer Gallery. The collection is significant not only for its quality and size, but because it exemplifies the rising interest in Korean art around the turn of the twentieth century. In the exploration of Freer's Korean pieces, some of the core issues that impacted and shaped the collecting of Korean art during this time will be addressed, including the availability of antiques, the development of scholarship on Korean cultural heritage, individual and institutional motivations for collecting Korean art, among other questions.

SPEAKER

Charlotte Horlyck was appointed Lecturer in Korean Art History at SOAS in 2007 and served as Chair of its Centre of Korean Studies from 2013 to 2017. Prior to taking up her position at SOAS, she curated the Korean collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Her monograph *Korean Art - From the 19th Century to the Present* (Reaktion Books) was published in August 2017. Her co-edited volume (with Michael Pettid, SUNY Binghamton) *Death, Mourning, and the Afterlife in Korea from Ancient to Contemporary Times* (Hawaii University Press, 2014) was selected for the Republic of Korea Ministry of Education Award (2015). She is currently a Smithsonian Institution Senior Fellow of Art History at the Freer|Sackler, where she is researching Charles Freer's acquisitions of Korean art.

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