

BOWERS MUSEUM MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

# *PASSPORT*

SPRING / SUMMER 2025

A high-angle photograph of the Terracotta Army in Xi'an, China. The image shows hundreds of life-sized terracotta soldiers and horses arranged in neat rows within a large, excavated earthen pit. The figures are made of a reddish-brown clay and are dressed in traditional Chinese armor and robes. The perspective is from above, looking down into the pit, which emphasizes the scale and organization of the army.

*STEP INTO HISTORY AND UNCOVER*  
**NEW WONDERS**





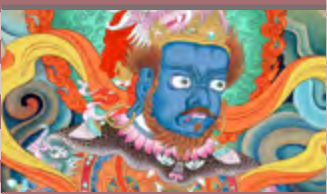
Miao: Masters of Silver



Gemstone Carvings:  
The Masterworks of Harold Van Pelt



California Bounty:  
Image and Identity, 1850–1930



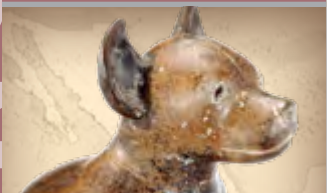
Sacred Realms: Buddhist Paintings  
by Shashi Dhoj Tulachan  
from the Gayle and Edward P. Roski Collection



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

Aloha supporters,

As per usual, please allow me to start by thanking you for your incredible generosity and loyal support for our beloved museum. We can only serve the public as well as we do with your help and contributions!

I am honored to announce that the renowned Terracotta Warriors are coming back to the Bowers as part of the 50th anniversary of the discovery of these globally important tomb sculptures, with added material from other related finds that push the timeline back a further 1500 years. This is the first time since 2018 that the warriors and other related material have come to the United States, with the show open until October, when it moves to Houston and returns to their hometown of Xi'an in April of 2026. The Bowers Museum brought this amazing subject to the Orange County public in 2008 and the last show of this sort took place in 2011, so make sure not to miss this once in a decade opportunity!

We often like to say that here at the Bowers Museum, we bring the world to Orange County. Well, it is equally important to know that we also bring Orange County to the world by touring our collection globally. In the world of museums, having an international reputation helps advance the institution in many beneficial ways, including being able to borrow artwork, host travelling exhibitions, and loan parts of our collection to other museums around the world. Late last year, we loaned 256 items to a new museum dedicated to Pacific cultures in Fujian province, China. The new Keqiutou Site Museum in Pingtan presents material from our collection throughout its spaces, as well as hosting an entire gallery dedicated to Bowers Museum masterworks. Tens of thousands of people have visited our galleries to date, and millions have read about our museum collection in the international press. As a result of the successful opening in Pingtan, other Chinese museums are interested in working with us, enabling us to lend more Pacific Island art to more museums in the next several years. This strategy allows more people to view more of our collection instead of storing our material out of public view, which in turn benefits cultural education worldwide.

Front and Back Cover: Image provided by the  
Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Center.



In addition to East Asia, we currently have a presence in Europe, with our seminal piece entitled “*Sielanka*” (*An Idyll*) by famous Polish artist Józef Chełmoński, which is on tour at the National Museums in Warsaw, Poznań, and Kraków until November 2025. This partnership demonstrates the breadth of the Bowers collection and the appeal it has for people from many different countries, and this should make us all justifiably proud of what we have on offer here at the heart of Orange County. No wonder we were recently voted the Best Museum by the readers of the OC Register for the 31st year in a row!

Thank you again for your essential support and I look forward to seeing you all at another museum event soon.

Mahalo nui loa,

Seán O'Harrow, Ph.D.  
President & CEO

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

These *guangcai* ware vases—Guangzhou (Canton) painted and gilt porcelains—reflect the made-for-export trade of ceramics in China from the reign of the Kangxi Emperor (1654-1722) to the present.

Biscuits for *guangcai* porcelain were fired in Jingdezhen, after which they were transported to Guangzhou to be painted, refired, and sold to European traders. In the earliest years of their production, Chinese artisans decorated these wares with Qing scenes and floral patterns, but as trade with Europe expanded, there was a marked turn toward the rococo. Western coats of arms and landscape paintings became common subjects.

Toward the end of the Qing dynasty when Bowers' newly acquired, mallet-shaped vases were made, Chinese porcelain trade had shifted to North America to avoid competing with Europe's burgeoning industry. This in turn led to changes in both the palettes and images used in the wares. The Ming-style scenes and dominant red, green, and gold colors of the Bowers' vases are characteristic of *guangcai* wares from this period. The gilded appliqué dragons and lions predate this period but remain staples of larger painted porcelains from Guangzhou to this day.

*Guangcai* Ware Vases, late Qing Dynasty (early 20th century)  
Jingdezhen and Guangzhou, China  
Glazed and painted ceramic  
Gift of Dr. Lock Gee Ding and Ruth Ding, 2024.10.1-.2





# — WORLD OF THE — TERRACOTTA WARRIORS

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES  
IN SHAANXI IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

**MAY 24 - OCT 19, 2025**

**B**owers Museum is excited to work with the Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Center and Emperor Qinshihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, as well as six other cultural arts institutions in China's Shaanxi Province to present *World of the Terracotta Warriors: New Archaeological Discoveries in Shaanxi in the 21st Century*.

The discovery of the first terracotta army pit in the 1970s turned a great deal of global attention to the life and legacy of Qin Shi Huang, the Qin emperor. In 2008, Bowers Museum made history by hosting the groundbreaking exhibition *Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor*, captivating audiences with these awe-inspiring cultural relics. Expanding upon this legacy, the 2011 exhibition *Warriors, Tombs, and Temples: China's Enduring Legacy* examined the enduring influence of the Qin emperor's funerary traditions on subsequent dynasties.

Now, archaeological finds in Shaanxi within the past two decades have revealed new information about pre-dynastic China's political landscape and artistic achievements.

*World of the Terracotta Warriors* comprises 110 newly uncovered treasures from five distinct chapters of China's early history:

## **SHIMAO**

Widely recognized by scholars as one of the earliest states in ancient China, Shimao was a major political and cultural center in northern China between 2300 and 1800 BCE. This ancient city was protected by gargantuan stone walls and occupied an area of around 1000 acres.







### ZHAIGOU

The recently discovered “ghost state” to the north of China’s Shang dynasty (1200-1000 BCE) has only started to be excavated in the past few years and experts have already discovered vast mountaintop palaces and royal tombs.

### ZHOU DYNASTY

The rise of China’s Zhou dynasty is traced through several archaeological sites in the Guanzhong area from today’s Baoji to Xi’an. Newly discovered bronze sculptures and vessels constantly change academic understanding of the era through their inscriptions and mythical adornments.



### THE STATE OF RUI

This “lost” state was barely mentioned in historical texts, but extensive excavations have revealed an incredibly rich array of objects about the State of Rui’s history and artistic achievements. This ancient state is still mysterious and distant, though the veil has been lifted.

### THE FIRST EMPEROR’S MAUSOLEUM

The ongoing excavations at this complex over the past two decades have unearthed a whole world beyond the terracotta warriors: a host of terracotta entertainers including acrobats and musicians, bronze chariots and waterfowl, and gold pieces are among the vast hoard that was buried with Qin Shi Huang.

State of the art interactives and multimedia shine light on these discoveries and the archaeological science used to safely reclaim them from the earth.

Explore China’s captivating early history through these recent archaeological finds from Shaanxi Province and learn why the region is hailed as the cradle of the world’s oldest continuous civilization●



Images provided by the Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Center.

This exhibition is jointly organized by the Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Heritage Administration, Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Center, and Emperor Qinshihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum of the People's Republic of China, and Bowers Museum in the United States.

Generous support for the exhibition comes from PNC Bank. Additional contributions have been graciously provided by East West Bank and the Carpenter Foundation.



# CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS PACIFIC SEAFARING AND ART IN CHINA



In collaboration with the newly established Pingtan Keqiutou Site Museum and Art Exhibitions China, Bowers Museum traveled two special exhibitions to the Fujian Province of China in 2024. Entitled *Art of Oceania: Selections from Bowers Museum* and *Austronesian Seafaring and Cultures*, both exhibitions opened to the public at Pingtan Keqiutou Site Museum on December 16, 2024. Dr. Seán O'Harrow, and Dr. Tianlong Jiao, VP of Collections and Programs, together with Bowers' installation team, Katy Hess and Brooke Garcia, joined in the opening events, which featured traditional performances by Pacific Islanders.

Delegations from a number of Pacific island countries or regions, including Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, the Cook Islands, New Zealand, and Hawaii were also present at the opening ceremony. The event was highly reported by Chinese media.

A total of 256 objects from Bowers' world-class Oceanic Collection are featured in these two exhibitions. They delve into the seafaring culture and art of the Austronesian peoples, whose ancestors originated on the modern-day southeast coast of China and later spread to the islands of Taiwan,

Southeast Asia, and the South Pacific. The exhibitions present a rich continuum of cultural and artistic traditions from prehistoric times to the present.

These traveling exhibitions represent the largest number of Bowers Museum objects to ever be featured at an overseas museum. They will be displayed at the Keqiutou Site Museum for two years, with the possibility to further travel to other museums in China 📦





## AS SEEN AT THE BOWERS

1. Friends take a picture while painting silk scarves during Anne's Treasures class.
2. Bowers Museum members along with docent, Rhonda Nalitsnik, smile for a photo at December's Book Club event.
3. Collections and former External Affairs intern, Emma, shown in cosplay by our *Fantasy: Realms of Imagination* exhibit.
4. Crowds gather in our beautiful Key Courtyard to watch Lion Dancers at January 2025's Lunar New Year family festival.
5. Bowers Docents read their favorite holiday stories at Storytime in the Galleries.
6. Two visitors accompanied by their support animal relax inside by the Anne Shih Garden.
7. [Left to Right:] Anne Shih, D. Diane Anderson, Chilling Tong, Aka Chen, Dr. Seán O'Harrow, Frank Ko, and Amino Chi display certificate awarded during our 2024 Gala.
8. Guests enjoy the Halloween Family Workshop watercolor art project.
9. Student Artists from Anaheim Union High School District proudly pose in front of Bowers Museum's bell tower.
10. Volunteers hard at work adorning family festival attendees with face paint.
11. President and CEO of the Bowers Museum, Dr. Seán O'Harrow, waves his bow before joining Katherine Cash (violinist) and Gloria Traullé (cellist) in a surprise performance.
12. Schoolkids stop by Anaheim Union High School District's *Gawu Tapestry* exhibit while on a tour.





# Members Opening Night

SAVE THE DATE



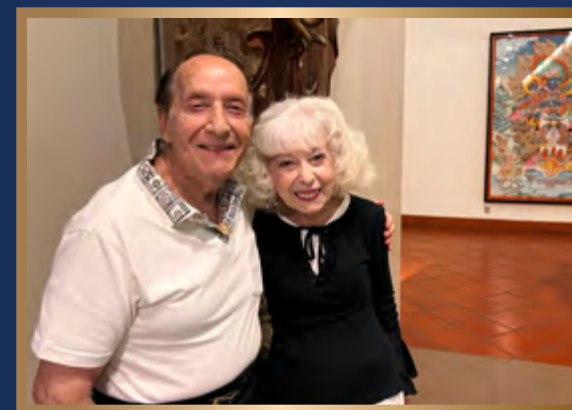
**SATURDAY | MAY 24, 2025 | 6 - 9 PM**

*Look for your invitation in the mail and plan to arrive in style!*

## Member Spotlight

### MARILYN AND ANTHONY SEVERINI

DUAL ADULT MEMBERS AT BOWERS MUSEUM SINCE 2016 AND DONORS SINCE 2011



*In celebration of the return of one of our members' favorite archeological wonders, the Terracotta Warriors, we sat down with some of our favorite members, Marilyn and Anthony, who seem to make it to every opening.*

Question: How did you two meet and how long have you been together?

**Answer:** We have been married for 68 years, and our anniversary is July 4th. When I was nine years old my family moved next door to Anthony Peter Severini in the Bronx. We went to the same elementary school, PS #16, until high school and then we attended different private girls' and boys' high schools. After high school my family moved to California and the Severini family followed because our families were such good friends. Anthony went into the Navy in 1950 and got out in 1954. We were married in 1956 and we lived in Baldwin Hills. In 1957 we moved to Orange County and we had our son, Anthony Peter Junior. He now has a son, Anthony Peter III, and a daughter, Melissa. We also have two great-granddaughters, Elle and Mara.

Question: What's your favorite past exhibition?

**Answer:** The *Guo Pei* exhibitions. The clothes were out of this world!

*(Continued)*



Guo Pei: Art of Couture Member Opening





(Continued)

Question: What are you most excited about seeing or doing at Bowers this spring/summer?

**Answer:** We're looking forward to the upcoming *Terracotta Warriors* exhibition. We're very interested in all of China. In 2004 we traveled to China for three weeks and saw the Terracotta Warriors in person.

Question: Where is your favorite place/way to travel?

**Answer:** In a group and probably headed back to Italy. We have traveled for 44 years with the Elks Club of Santa Ana part of a national philanthropic organization. We have traveled all over the world: Alaska, South America, all of Europe, Russia, China, and New Zealand. Our favorite place to travel is Venice, Italy.



We have been to Italy four times adore all of it, Florence, Rome and the Vatican. We also enjoyed Buenos Aires; we love the people dancing tango on the streets. We have been Ballroom dancers for many years.

Travelling in a large group with tour guides has made us feel safe.

Bowers: Sounds very similar to the group trips our Fellows members take through Bowers Museum. It's always wonderful to experience new places with like-minded people who you feel safe with.

Question: Any other travel tips?

**Answer:** Go with the flow!

**Keep an eye out for Marilyn and Anthony at the next opening and be sure to say hello!**



## BECOME A BOWERS FELLOW TODAY

and join a legacy of unforgettable adventures that never end

**Fellows play a vital role in the life and work of the Museum.** The Fellows Program offers a world of opportunities to satisfy your curiosity and fulfill your passion for the rare and exciting. Bowers Fellows are presented with exclusive travel opportunities including an international trip and a domestic trip each year. The Bowers Museum offers everyone a chance to experience international arts and culture without leaving Southern California. However, if you are the exploring type - always in search of something more - consider becoming a part of the Bowers Fellows.

**Become a Fellows Member today and enjoy exclusive travel opportunities, private curatorial tour with Bowers' President, and access to world renowned scholars and lecturers.**

Visit **[bowers.org/support](https://bowers.org/support)** to learn more and upgrade your membership today!

## TRAVEL PROGRAM

*Adventure Starts Here!*

- **Egypt: The Royal Tour, March 15-25 | SOLD OUT!**
- **Cognac to Bilbao, April 4-12 | SOLD OUT!**
- **Morocco, April 12-25 | TICKETS AVAILABLE!**
- **Tanzania Safari, July 19-25 | TICKETS AVAILABLE!**
- **Mongolia, Golden Eagle Festival, September 9-24 | TICKETS AVAILABLE!**
- **India, Caves and Temples of the Enchanting South, February 17 - March 2, 2026 | TICKETS AVAILABLE!**

For questions, or to sign up for a trip, please contact Lesley Ann Hamilton at [lahamilton@bowers.org](mailto:lahamilton@bowers.org) or 714.567.3602.

***These trips fill quickly so please reserve your spot as soon as possible!***





**COMING SOON** to  
Bowers Museum's Gallery Store



Bring Home the Magic of the  
**Terracotta Warriors**

**shop.bowers.org**

# *Mother's Day*

BRUNCH

RESERVE TODAY

[tangatarestaurant.com](http://tangatarestaurant.com) | 714.550.0906

**TANGATA**  
RESTAURANT

BOWERS  
MUSEUM



# MARCH

TUESDAY – SUNDAY | CLOSED MONDAYS

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2 Celtic Festival 
4	5 Art in Context: Paris to Paradise (Part 5) 	6	7	8 ARCE: Religious Change in Northern Nubia with Dr. Solange Ashby 	9
11	12 Art in Context: Paris to Paradise (Part 6) 	13 Anne's Treasures: Pointillism Painting 	14	15 Bowers Museum Board Game Day 	16 Family Artmaking Workshop with Erna van Dyk
18	19	20 Crescendo Celebrity Speaker Series presents Tom Horvath 	21	22 BSOC Lecture 	23
25	26	27 Anne's Treasures: Diamond Gem Flowers  Timeless Melodies: Oscar Nominated Songs 1934 – 1959 (But Didn't Win!) 	28	29 Storytime in the Galleries with Author Nydia Armendia-Sanchez 	30










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



Programs subject to change.

# APRIL

TUESDAY – SUNDAY | CLOSED MONDAYS

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Slow Art Day	6 Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival 
8	9	10 Anne's Treasures: Watercolor Landscape 	11	12 Bowers Museum Board Game Day 	13 The Eternal Garden: Titanium Art by Aka Chen Closing Day  Closing Lecture: Art and Cultural Legacy of Chinese Gardens with Dr. Xu Yang 
15	16	17 Books at Bowers	18	19 Books at Bowers Publishing Discoveries in Egyptology with Dr. David Ian Lightbody 	20 Family Artmaking Workshop with Erna Van Dyk <div>Easter</div>
22	23	24 Anne's Treasures: Tote Bags  Timeless Melodies: Bing Crosby 	25	26 BSOC Art of Adorning 2025 Bowers' Books for Kids: Storytime in the Galleries with Author Gisa Nico 	27
29	30				






MAY

TUESDAY – SUNDAY | CLOSED MONDAYS

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



Programs subject to change.

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2	3 ARCE: Research in the Valley of the Kings with Dr. Donald P. Ryan	4 Cinco de Mayo Festival 
6	7	8 Anne's Treasures: Needle Felting 	9	10 Archaeology of the Biblical Lands Distinguished Lecture Series with Dr. William Schniedewind	11 Mother's Day
13	14	15	16	17 Bowers Museum Board Game Day 	18 Family Artmaking Workshop with Erna van Dyk
20	21	22	23	24 World of the Terracotta Warriors Opening Day 	25 Opening Lecture with Curator Dr. Tianlong Jiao
27	28	29 Timeless Melodies: Broadway in the 1920s 	30	31 Storytime in the Galleries with Author Dorina K. Lazo 	



JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY TOGETHER

# GROUP TOURS

— at Bowers Museum —

Discover the world’s most fascinating cultures, including our highly anticipated exhibition, **World of Terracotta Warriors**, as well as 8 permanent collection galleries from around the globe.

Pre-book your group tour today to experience this once-in-a-lifetime exhibition guided by expert docents and secure your place!

### Why Choose Group Tours?

*Tailored Experiences*

*Expert Insights*

*Exclusive Savings*

*Unforgettable Memories*

Reserve your spot today!

☎ 714.567.3680 or ✉ [tours@bowers.org](mailto:tours@bowers.org)

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



SPONSOR  
SPOTLIGHT



# THE ETERNAL GARDEN TITANIUM ART BY AKA CHEN

永恆花園：陳智權鈦金藝術展

Last November, Bowers Museum partnered with the Taiwan Academy of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles and the Ministry of Culture (Taiwan) to present *The Eternal Garden: Titanium Art by Aka Chen*.

“Aka Chen is one of the most renowned artists in the world working on titanium art with pioneer techniques. This time, 20 works consisting of 100 pieces of jewelry (were) displayed to demonstrate the artist’s conception of nature. Due to its high melting point and hardness, titanium is a really challenging material which takes time to carve. To show the exquisite outlook of his work, the most advanced display technology developed by Taiwanese manufacturer “AUO Corporation” was introduced in the exhibition, too, showing our soft power in combining culture and technology. We welcome all the audience to visit the exhibition before April 13.”

— Taiwan Academy of Taipei Economic  
and Cultural Office in Los Angeles

**CLOSING APRIL 13**  
Tickets at **bowers.org**

*Singular Brilliance*, Aka Chen, Titanium, diamond and rose cut diamonds. @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, AUO Display Plus America Corporation, and Dr. Kelly Tran.

BOWERS MUSEUM  
PROGRAMS & EXHIBITIONS ARE  
MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH  
GENEROUS DONATIONS BY

The  
Nicholas  
Endowment

The City of  
Santa Ana

Quality is  
SOUTH  
COAST  
PLAZA  
International Destination

The Segerstrom  
Foundation

PACIFIC LIFE  
FOUNDATION

EASTWEST BANK

PNC BANK

ARGYROS  
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Mad  
SYSTEMS  
CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY CREATING SOLUTIONS

TIFFANY & CO.

CAPITAL  
GROUP®

Van Cleef & Arpels

BEAD SOCIETY OF  
ORANGE COUNTY  
an affiliate council of the Bowers Museum

KUSC  
CLASSICAL | fm 91.5

O.L. HALSELL FOUNDATION

PBS SoCal

KCET

ZION  
ENTERPRISES

THE  
DHONT  
FAMILY FOUNDATION

MDSUN®  
U.S.A.

CHEMERS GALLERY

中国南方航空  
CHINA SOUTHERN

**Consider Becoming a Sponsor Today!**

Contact [donations@bowers.org](mailto:donations@bowers.org) or call 714.567.3628 to get started.

Photo by Eric Stoner



# BOWERS MUSEUM

2002 North Main Street | Santa Ana, CA 92706

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

SANTA ANA, CA  
PERMIT NO. 277

## TICKETS

### BOWERS GENERAL ADMISSION

*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

+ \$11 for tickets to *World of the Terracotta Warriors:*

*New Archaeological Discoveries in Shaanxi in the 21st Century*

with your purchase of General Admission\*\*

*\*Must be accompanied by a paying adult*

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

*\*\*\*Must have proof of Santa Ana residency*

## HOURS

Tuesday – Sunday | 10 AM – 4 PM

Closed Mondays

## CONTACT

### GENERAL INFORMATION

714.567.3600  
bowers.org

### GROUP TOURS

714.567.3680  
tours@bowers.org

### GALLERY STORE

714.567.3643  
store@bowers.org

### PUBLIC PROGRAMS

714.567.3677  
programs@bowers.org

### VISITOR SERVICES

714.567.3695

### MEMBERSHIP

714.567.3639  
membership@bowers.org

### SPECIAL EVENTS

714.567.3623  
events@bowers.org

### DONATIONS

714.567.3628  
donations@bowers.org

For more info visit [bowers.org](http://bowers.org)

Follow us @bowersmuseum

