



Dear Friend,

Happy New Year!

The arrival of 2017 brings to mind the many Freer|Sackler successes in 2016 which **your support made possible**:

- [\*The Art of the Qur'an\*](#) was named #3 on [\*The New York Times' Top Ten exhibitions of 2016\*](#). This remarkable show is the first Qur'an show ever in the US. It closes February 20th so please visit soon if you haven't already!
- One of our most popular exhibitions, [\*Turquoise Mountain: Artists Transforming Afghanistan\*](#), continued to open eyes, touch hearts and transform perceptions. You can still experience the inspiring story that has engaged so many through October 17th. And there were many other amazing shows in 2016 —***Sōtatsu: Making Waves; Symbolic Cities: The Work of Ahmed Mater; Painting with Words: Gentlemen Artists of the Ming Dynasty; Cosmic Buddha; Chinamania; and The Power of Red***. Each of these offered visitors unique perspectives and transcendent moments.
- F|S curators, conservators and researchers continued to **collect, preserve and share the precious treasures of Asia**, an increasingly critical mission at a time when so many Asian cultural heritage objects are under threat.
- Our cornucopia of [film](#) and [performing arts programs](#), offered free of charge on the Mall and beyond, shared the work of leading directors and spectacular performers from across Asia and America.

- Coming soon is [Inventing Utamaro: A Japanese Masterwork Rediscovered](#), which opens April 8th during the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

## GRAND REOPENING THIS OCTOBER

2016 began with the temporary closure of **our cherished Freer Gallery of Art** for much-needed renovations, and we are now on the final countdown to the Grand Reopening on October 14, 2017. Important information for you to know:

- The Sackler Gallery will close temporarily in July so we can prepare both museums with updated signage and wayfinding, new exhibitions, and a more unified visitor experience overall. Our staff will continue working on site throughout this period and be available to you.
- The Reopening will be marked by a **weekend of public celebrations** and lots of opportunities to experience new gallery installations throughout the Freer and four new exhibitions in the Sackler: ***Resounding: Ancient Chinese Bells, Encountering the Buddha, Divine Felines***, and an extraordinary installation as you enter the Pavilion by **contemporary Indian artist Subodh Gupta**. Indoors and outdoors, the weekend activities planned will place the Freer|Sackler front and center on the Mall, in D.C. and around the world. Expect more details in the coming months.

The Reopening is the culmination of years' of work across our galleries to create an ever more welcoming and enlightening experience. **I can't wait to share the "new" Freer|Sackler with you—your enthusiasm and participation make it all possible.**

My very best wishes for a joyous 2017!

Julian Raby

The Dame Jillian Sackler Director of the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and the Freer Gallery of Art

FREER | SACKLER

### Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

Independence Ave at 12th St SW | [Map](#)

Washington DC 20560

Hours 10 am–5:30 pm

Admission is free

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