



THE FREER HOUSE

71 East Ferry, Detroit Michigan, 48202 | 313-664-2500

An International Landmark... A World Class Lecture Series



Freer



Yamanaka

The Business of Asian Art: Yamanaka & Company and Charles Lang Freer

By Yuriko Kuchiki
Author and Journalist

Sunday, April 26, 2:00 pm

2:00 PM LECTURE
at the
Detroit Institute of Arts
Marvin and Betty Danto Lecture Hall
FREE with DIA admission

3:30 - 5:00 PM RECEPTION & TOURS
at the
Freer House
General Admission \$10
Students \$5
Members of FAAC and Freer House \$5
Map and details on back

Co-Sponsors:
Friends of Asian Arts & Cultures, DIA
& Japan America Society of Michigan and
Southwestern Ontario



The Façade of Yamanaka & Co. 5th Ave. Showroom
New York City, c. 1925.
Photo Courtesy of Yuzuru Yamanaka.

Charles L. Freer, one of the most avid American collectors of Asian art in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, shopped at Yamanaka & Company's flagship location in New York City for the first time in October 1895. Freer was captivated by what he saw in the store, which sold Asian art, antiques and curios. He soon came to rely on Yamanaka & Co. as he assembled his superb art collection. Freer cultivated close friendships with the founder Sadajiro Yamanaka, who came from Japan to open the business, and with his store manager, Daijiro Ushikubo.

Yamanaka and Ushikubo exchanged many letters with Freer - providing information about auctions taking place in Japan and about important works of art the company had secured. Meanwhile, Yamanaka's business expanded rapidly, with stores springing up in Boston, Chicago and London, as well as affluent resort towns such as Newport, Palm Beach and Bar Harbor. Even after Freer passed away in October, 1919, curators at the Freer Gallery of Art maintained close ties with Yamanaka & Co. The relationship continued until the onset of World War II, when the U.S. government seized and sold off all of Yamanaka's assets.

Sponsors



EVENT DETAILS



*The Business of Asian Art :
Yamanaka & Company and Charles Lang Freer*

About the Speaker

Yuriko Kuchiki is a New York based Japanese author and journalist whose books and magazine articles explore the history, politics and social dynamics of the international art scene. Three of her eight books, all published in Japan, focus on the 37 paintings of Johannes Vermeer. In 2011, publisher Shinchosha released *House of Yamanaka: The Company That Sold East Asia's Treasures to America & Europe*, now in paperback. Before moving to New York City in 1994, Kuchiki was the executive editor of *Esquire Magazine's* Japanese edition in Tokyo. Kuchiki's feature articles have appeared in *GQ Japan*, *Esquire Japan*, *Figaro Japon*, *Departures*, *Geijutsu Shincho*, and *Bungei Shunju* monthly. She is also a Teacher of Tea of the Mushakoji Senke school, one of the three traditional tea schools descended from the practice of Sen no Rikyu, who is considered to have perfected the Japanese Way of Tea. Kuchiki earned her BA and MA in International Public Administration at the International Christian University in Tokyo. Her most recent book, published in 2014, is 『*邸宅美術館の誘惑*』, which translates as *The Allure of House Museums*.



2:00 PM LECTURE
at the DIA
5200 Woodward Ave,
Detroit, MI

**3:30 - 5:00 PM
RECEPTION & TOURS**
at the Freer House
71 East Ferry Street,
one block north of DIA.
Pay at the door.

Parking is available
behind the Freer House.
Travel south on John R.
to access WSU Lot 35.
Pay \$7 by credit card
at the gate.

Help us
Replicate
Freer's
Asian Stone
Lantern!



*Asian Stone Lantern.
Presently Attributed
as 14th Century,
Nanbokuchō Period, Japan.
Gift of Sadajiro Yamanaka
to Charles Lang Freer.*

This Asian stone lantern was given to Freer as a Christmas gift in 1904 by his friend Sadajiro Yamanaka. The lantern symbolized the relationship of the two men: a dealer and client united in friendship by a shared appreciation of Asian art. In his thank you letter to Yamanaka, Freer wrote: "I want... to send you my sincerest thanks for your kindness... the lantern will add very much to the interest of my garden when it is replanted next year."

Replication of the original Asian stone lantern (today located outside the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.) is a priority goal for the Freer House Garden Revitalization Project as an important remembrance of the friendship between Freer and Yamanaka, Detroit and Japan.

To support this project contact William Colburn at:
william.colburn@wayne.edu

71 East Ferry St. • Detroit, MI, 48202 • One block north of the DIA

The Freer House (1892) is ranked as one of the most important historic buildings in Michigan. Its fine architectural detail and rich cultural history are both locally and internationally significant. The Freer House is also recognized for its role in child and family development as the home of the renowned Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute since 1920.



photo by ALEXANDER VERTIKOFF

The Freer House membership organization works to preserve this landmark through public events, tours and fundraising for restoration. Recent accomplishments include the reproduction of original paintings for the main hall and parlor and a new historically appropriate roof. Current goals include the courtyard garden and the Whistler Gallery restoration projects.

Charles Lang Freer (1854-1919) made his fortune in railroad freight car manufacturing in Detroit. His remarkable shingle style residence on East Ferry Ave. was designed in 1892 by Wilson Eyre, Jr. Freer's home contained one of the world's greatest collections of Asian and American art, including works by Whistler and the Peacock Room. Freer bequeathed his collection to the Smithsonian where it is housed today at the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.



C.L. Freer, Alvin Langdon Coburn,
1909 Freer Gallery of Art Archives

www.mpsi.wayne.edu/freer/



<http://instagram.com/thefreerhouse>