

SPECIAL LECTURE SERIES AT THE HISTORIC CHARLES LANG FREER HOUSE

Sponsored by *Asian & Islamic Art Forum* and *Friends of the Freer House*



Sunday, May 3, 2009, 2:00 PM



Dr. Ann C. Gunter
Professor, Northwestern University and former curator of Ancient Near Eastern Art, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

Charles Lang Freer and Egypt

Detroit businessman and art collector extraordinaire, Charles Lang Freer (1854–1919), became fascinated with ancient Egyptian art during three trips to Egypt between 1906 and 1909. Ann Gunter will discuss the place Egyptian art occupied in Freer's notion of beauty and his collecting activities. She will reconstruct his Egyptian travels and the colorful characters—collectors, dealers, scholars, and artists—he met along the way. Gunter will also locate Freer's travels and collecting in the broader context of American tourism and interest in Egyptian antiquities at the turn of the 20th century, when a growing number of Gilded Age barons, including J. Pierpont Morgan, were collecting in the same field. Dr. Gunter's many publications include *A Collector's Journey: Charles Lang Freer and Egypt* (2002).

Lecture underwritten by the Americana Foundation.

A reservation is required for the lecture and tour as space is limited.

Call (313) 872-1790, or e-mail rmfoster@wayne.edu.

General Admission \$10.00, Student \$5.00, payable at the door. Complimentary admission to the Friends of the Freer House and Asian & Islamic Art Forum members.

Friends of the FREER HOUSE

Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 6:30 PM



Dr. Massumeh Farhad
Chief Curator and Curator of Islamic Art, Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

Speaking Volumes: The Falnama (Book of Omens) in Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century Iran and Turkey

Whether by consulting the position of the planets, casting horoscopes, or interpreting dreams, the art of divination was widely practiced throughout the Islamic world. The most splendid tools ever devised to foretell the future were illustrated texts known as the *Falnama* (Book of Omens). Massumeh Farhad will speak on an extraordinary group of illustrated *Falnama*, notable for their monumental size, brilliantly painted compositions, and unusual subject matter. The manuscripts are the center piece of *Falnama: The Book of Omens*, an upcoming exhibition at the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Washington, DC.

A reservation is required for the lecture as space is limited. Doors open at 5:30. General Admission \$10.00, Student \$5.00, payable at the door. Complimentary admission to Asian & Islamic Art Forum and Friends of the Freer House members.

Members of Asian & Islamic Art Forum and Friends of the Freer House are invited to attend a Persian strolling supper in the courtyard, \$65 per person, reservation required.

For membership information and reservations call (313) 833-1721, or e-mail rgoodwin@dia.org.



Both events will be held at the Charles Lang Freer House, 71 East Ferry St., Detroit (One block north of the DIA). Visit www.mpsi.wayne.edu/map.html and www.dia.org/aiaf for free parking and location information.