



THE FREER HOUSE

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



2013 SPRING EVENT

An International Landmark... A World Class Lecture Series



Heels over Head: Mr. Freer, Swami Vivekananda, and the Art of Yoga

By Debra Diamond, PhD

Associate Curator South and Southeast Asian Art, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

Sunday, June 2, 2:00 pm

Program Hosts: **Dr. Madhu and Mrs. Anshu Prasad**

In a sneak preview of *Yoga: The Art of Transformation*, an international loan exhibition opening at the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in October 2013, curator Debra Diamond explores the unexpected connections linking a 10th century sculpture of a fierce yogini in the DIA collection, Thomas Edison's film, *Hindoo Fakir*, and Swami Vivekananda's visit to Detroit and Charles Lang Freer's home in 1894.

Yoga: The Art of Transformation is the world's first exhibition about yoga's visual history. Masterpieces of sculpture and painting from the 3rd to the 18th century will be juxtaposed with modern photographs, books and films. Highlights include three monumental stone yogini goddesses from a 10th century Chola temple reunited for the first time, 10 folios (17th century) from the first illustrated compilation of asanas (yogic postures), and the first movie produced about India, Thomas Edison's *Hindoo Fakir*.



(above)
Yogini, Unknown artist, Indian; 10th century; granite, Founders Society Purchase, Detroit Institute of Arts

(right)
Still from Thomas Edison's film 'The Hindoo Fakir,' 1902, Library of Congress



LECTURE AT THE:

DIA, Marvin & Betty Danto Lecture Hall, 2:00 pm
Free with DIA admission, No Registration Required

RECEPTION AND TOUR AT:

The Freer House, 3:30 - 5:00 pm
\$10, \$5 students and Freer House members

For more information: 313-664-2509 or rmfooster@wayne.edu
See reverse for details



Women's Interfaith Solutions for Dialogue and Outreach





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About the Speaker



Debra Diamond, PhD

Associate Curator South and Southeast Asian Art,
Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
Smithsonian Institution

Debra Diamond's most recent exhibition, *Worlds within Worlds: Imperial Paintings from India and Iran* (summer 2012) explored relationships between Persian and Mughal culture and art. She is currently planning *Yoga: The Art of Transformation*, the first exhibition to explore the visual culture and history of yoga. The international loan exhibition will open at the Sackler Gallery of Art in October 2013 and travel to the San Francisco Museum of Asian Art and the Cleveland Museum of Art. Dr. Diamond's recent research papers and talks have centered on tracing the transformation of yogic ideas as they moved across sectarian borders and into material culture.

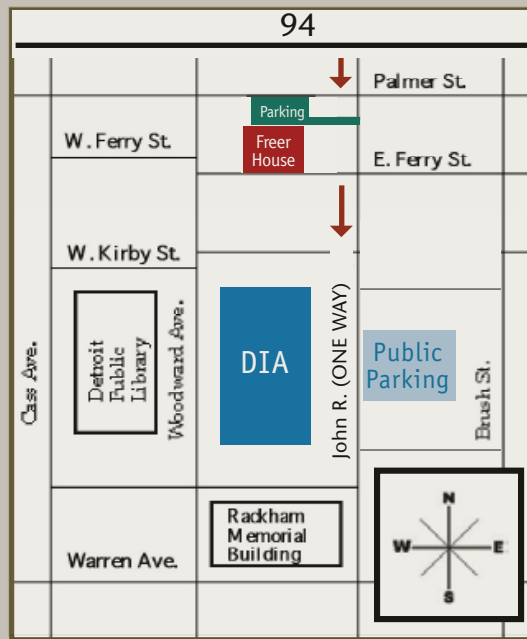


C. L. Freer

Swami Vivekananda

About Swami Vivekananda and Mr. Freer

Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902) was a Hindu monk and a major figure in the introduction of Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the western world. He represented India as a delegate to the 1893 Parliament of World Religions in Chicago and offered a message of shared spirituality and religious harmony. In 1894, Swami Vivekananda launched a nationwide lecture tour in Detroit. He was hosted by several prominent Detroiters including Charles Lang Freer, who held two dinner and reception events in honor of Swami Vivekananda at his Ferry Avenue home. Later that year, Freer made his first major voyage to Asia, with Ceylon and India as his first stops. Expressing a deep appreciation for Indian culture, Freer, over time, acquired significant examples of Indian art for his collection. Senator Thomas W. Palmer and Lizzie Merrill-Palmer (founder of the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute) also befriended and hosted Swami Vivekananda during his visits to Detroit.



Sunday, June 2

2:00 PM LECTURE AT DIA
5200 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI, 48202

3:30-5:00 PM
RECEPTION &
FREER HOUSE TOUR
(PAY AT THE DOOR)

71 East Ferry St.
Detroit, MI, 48202

Parking is behind the
Freer House. Travel South
on John Rd. to access
WSU, Lot #35.
Pay \$5 parking fee at
reception registration.

<http://mpsi.wayne.edu/about/friends-freer.php>



The Freer House 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.

Freer House members work 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 restoring the courtyard garden and Whistler Gallery.

For information contact: William Colburn,
Director, at william.colburn@wayne.edu.



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 paintings by Whistler and his spectacular Peacock Room. Freer bequeathed his collection to the Smithsonian in Washington D.C., where it is housed today at the Freer Gallery of Art.