

**MINUTES**  
**Asian Art Commission – Ethics Committee**  
**Tuesday, September 20, 2016, 3:00 - 5:00 pm**  
**Education Classrooms, Ground Floor**  
**Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, California**

**Present:** Alexander D. Calhoun, Chair  
Nanci Nishimura  
Jane Tom

**Absent:** Anthony Sun

**Others Present:** Forrest McGill  
Kim Bush Tomio  
Laura Hathhorn

**Call to Order**

Chair Alexander D. Calhoun called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m., a quorum being present. He welcomed new committee member Nanci Nishimura.

Minutes from the October 28, 2014 Ethics Committee meeting were approved.

Mr. Calhoun introduced discussion regarding the upcoming exhibition, *The Rama Epic: Hero, Heroine, Ally, Foe* (October 21, 2016 – January 15, 2017) and loans from three individuals, as noted below. Forrest McGill and Kim Bush Tomio reviewed the individuals, their relationship to the museum and the objects to be on loan.

Mr. Calhoun referenced Section 8.09 (Loans) of the museum's Ethical Stewardship and Collections Management Policy governing exhibitions involving loans from individuals, highlighting two important policy items related to the proposed exhibition: (i) the purpose of the exhibition is to further the purposes and activities of the museum, and (ii) the museum shall retain control of the selection of objects, their presentation and the way the show is presented. It was also noted that the exhibition would not be intended to enhance the value of the objects loaned so that the owner could profit thereby.

Following thorough discussion, the committee unanimously acknowledged that the proposed exhibition displays from individual private collections were in compliance with the museum's Ethical Stewardship and Collections Management Policy, and granted approval in that regard.

**Lender: Robert J. del Bontà**

Relationship to AAM: significant scholar and researcher in Indian art, and personal friend of Forrest's since grad school

*Hanuman*, approx. 1920–1950

Published by Anant Shivaji Desai (Indian, b. 1853)  
Chromolithograph

*Rama and his forces invade Lanka*, approx. 1700–1740

India; Uttarakhand state, former kingdom of Mankot  
Ink and opaque watercolors on paper  
(note: this is also a promised gift to the AAM)

*Rama of the Ramakatha or Dasharatha Rama, the seventh avatar* (Rams of Ram Katas anders Dajerratha Ramas Autaer de zevende), approx. 1672

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By Jacob van Meurs (Dutch, 1619/1620–1680)  
Engraving, ink on paper

**Lender: Catherine Benkaim**

Relationship to AAM: major scholar with a very important collection and museum Senior-Level member

*Ravana's sister reports to him of her maltreatment by Rama and Lakshmana, and of Sita's beauty*, a page from the "Shangri" Ramayana, approx. 1690–1710  
India; Jammu and Kashmir state, former kingdom of Kulu or Bahu  
Opaque watercolor on paper

**Lender: Louise Russell**

Relationship to AAM: Jade Circle and SAA member

*Vibhishana offers his service to Rama*, page from a dispersed Ramayana series, approx. 1675–1700  
Central India  
Ink and opaque watercolor on paper

During the discussion Kim Bush Tomio noted she would send an email to the committee members with a copy of the museum's current Incoming Loan Agreement form, including conditions governing incoming loans.

Public Comment – Members of the public were invited to address the Commission on items that were within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Asian Art Commission Ethics Committee. The public may address the Committee for up to three minutes and the chair may limit total testimony to thirty minutes.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.