

Winterlights: Celebrating the Season

Tour of the month

December 1-31, 2017

EXPERIENCE the warmth of winter holidays celebrated around the world, such as Bodhi Day, Solstice, Yalda, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Japanese New Year.

VIEW stunning objects that celebrate the triumph of light over darkness and lead us into the New Year.

HEAR stories of redemption, renewal, and regeneration.

Docent-led tours every day at 1 p.m., weekends at 1 and 2:30 p.m., and Thursdays at 7 p.m.



Learning Framework

- **Creativity** – an aspect of thinking, knowing, and doing across disciplines that often generates something new or innovative. Engaging with art, materials, and others inspires creativity.
- **Critical Thinking** – a deliberate, often facilitated, interactive process of reasoning and evaluating information that enhances engagement with art. Critical thinking helps us make connections between art and life.
- **Global Awareness** – exploring, engaging and connecting with other people and world cultures through the lens of art. Artwork from around the world and throughout history invites learners to consider multiple worldviews.

Bodhi Day

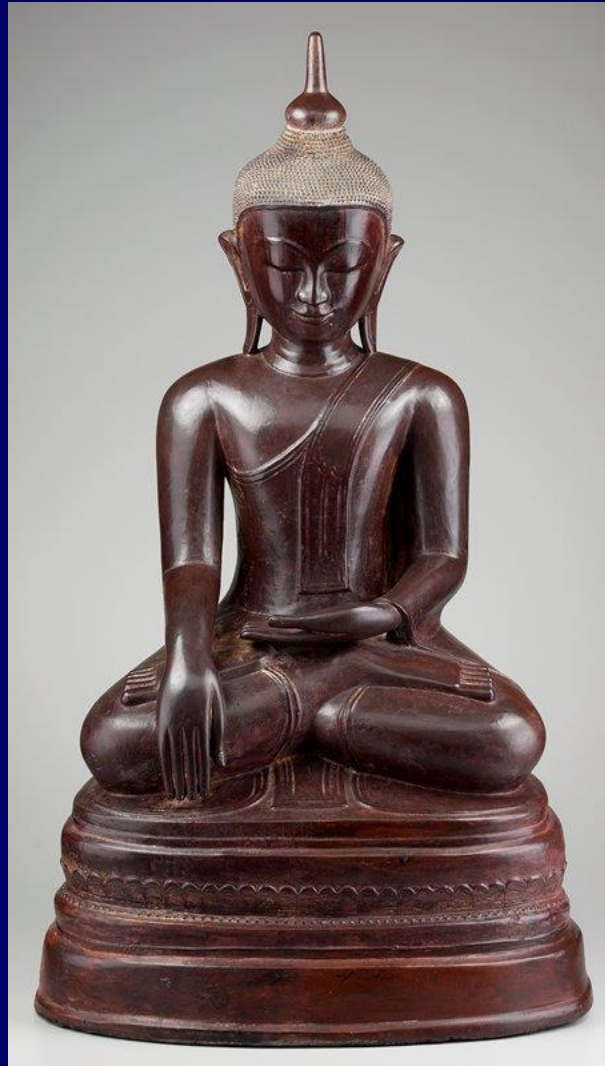
Day of Enlightenment

December 8

G200 Hall of Buddhas

Thailand, *Walking Buddha*, 15th c., 31.115

Myanmar/Burma,
*Calling the Earth to
Witness*, late 18th c.,
2001.30 (lacquer)



China, Kuan-yin, 11th-12th c.,
98.62a-h



Myanmar (Burma),
Enshrined Buddha,
about 1800, 89.55



mudras – hand positions





**Bhumisparsha
Mudra**

Touching the earth as Gautama did, to invoke the earth as witness to the truth of his words.



**Varada
Mudra**

Fulfilment of all wishes; the gesture of charity.



Dhyana Mudra

The gesture of absolute balance, of meditation. The hands are relaxed in the lap, and the tips of the thumbs and fingers touch each other. When depicted with a begging bowl this is a sign of the head of an order.



Abhaya Mudra

Gesture of reassurance, blessing, and protection. "Do not fear."



**Dharmachakra
Mudra**

The gesture of teaching usually interpreted as turning the Wheel of Law. The hands are held level with the heart, the thumbs and index fingers form circles.



Vitarka Mudra

Intellectual argument, discussion. The circle formed by the thumb and index finger is the sign of the Wheel of Law.



Tarjani Mudra

Threat, warning. The extended index finger is pointed at the opponent.



**Namaskara
Mudra**

Gesture of greeting, prayer, and adoration. Buddhas no longer make this gesture because they do not have to show devotion to anything.



Jnana Mudra

Teaching. The hand is held at chest level and the thumb and index finger again form the Wheel of Law.



**Karana
Mudra**

Gesture with which demons are expelled.



Ksepama Mudra

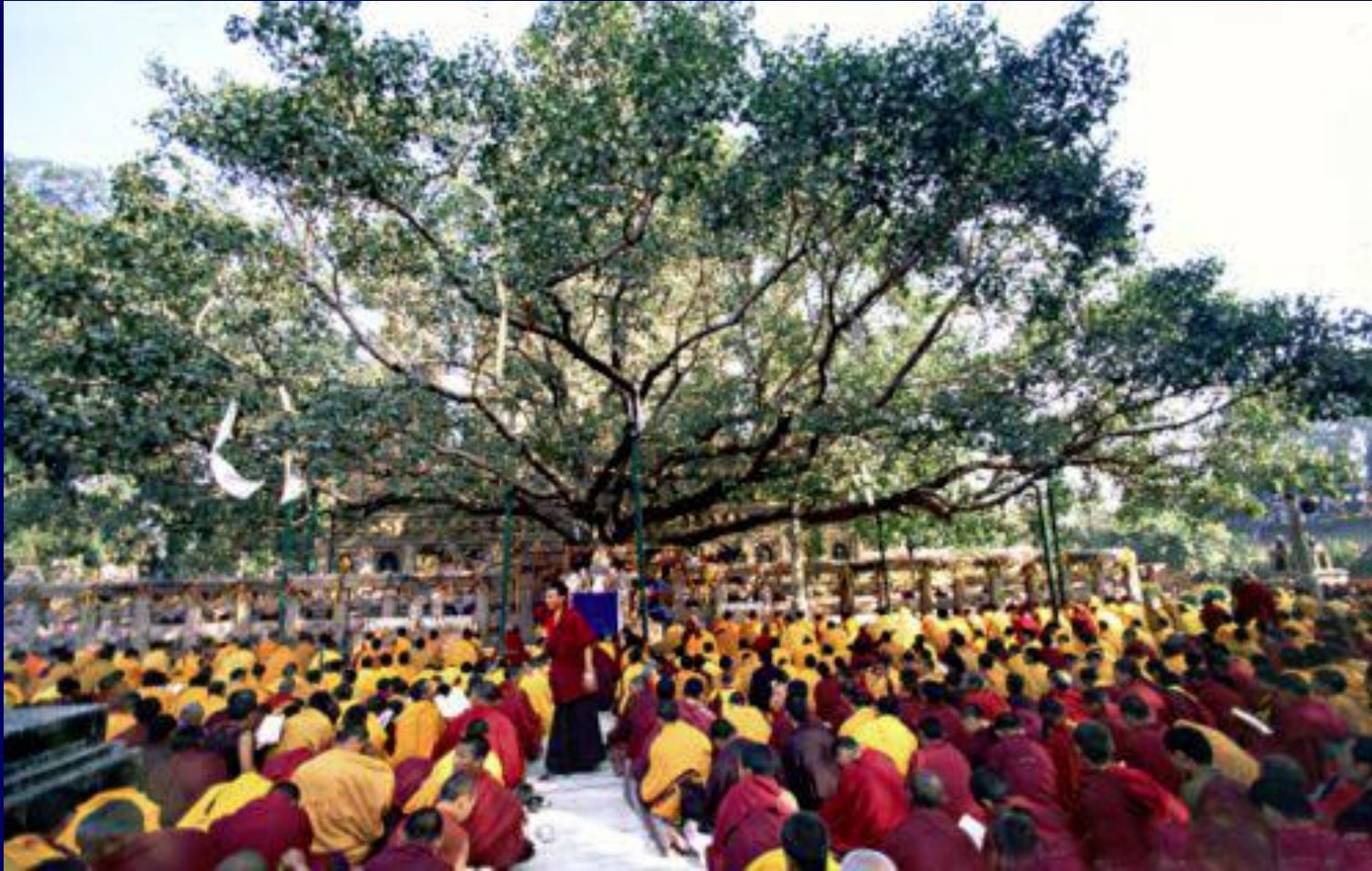
Two hands together in the gesture of 'sprinkling' the nectar of immortality.



**Uttarabodhi
Mudra**

Two hands placed together above the head with the index fingers together and the other fingers intertwined. The gesture of supreme enlightenment.

Gathering at Bodh Gaya, place of Buddha's enlightenment





Hanukkah

Festival of Lights

Begins at sunset on December 12,
lasts for 8 days (through Dec 20)



Hanukkah lamp



Menorah



Rotger Herfurth, Germany, *Hanukkah Lamp*, c. 1760,
2008.2.1a,b



Michael Ende, Israel, *Hanukkah Lamp*, 1986, 2000.172a-1



Robert Lipnick, *Hanukkah Lamp*, 1989, 2005.145.2



Hanukkah Lamp, early 20th c.
98.136.6A,B



Europe, *Dreidl*, 19th-20th c.,
98.136.1



Dreidel and gelt



Winter Solstice

December 21

“A day without sunshine is like, you know, night.”

– Steve Martin

Dextra Quotskuyva, Hòpituh Shi-nu-mu (Hopi)-Tewa,
Southwest region, North America, *Awatovi Birds*,
1990, 91.3



Ancestral Pueblo, Southwest region, North America,
Pot (Olla), c. 1000-1300



Yalda

Birthday of the Sun
Iranian Winter Solstice

December 20-21, 2017

Iranian Students' Association of University of Alberta (ISAUA) **Presents**

Friday, December 19, 2014

The
YALDA
شب یلدا
Night

NO MINORS



8:00 pm - 1:00 am
Dinwoodie Lounge
University of Alberta
SUB 2nd Floor
8900 114 St NW
Edmonton, AB T6G 2J7

Ticket Fees:
ISAUA Members: **FREE**
Non-Members: **\$15**

Tickets are available:
Online Ticket : www.ISAUA.ORG
At the Door



(Please bring your ISAUA Membership Card and a PHOTO ID to get in)

<http://www.isaua.org/become-a-member/>



www.isaua.org
isaua@ualberta.ca



Designed by: Shahrnam



Even
After
All this time
The SUN never says to the Earth,
"You owe
Me."

LOOK
what happens
with a love like that
IT LIGHTS THE
WHOLE
SKY

SCGladd '12

HAFIZ 1320-1389

The
Great religions are the
Ships

Poets the life
Boats.

Every sane person I know has jumped
Overboard.

That is good business
Isn't it

Hafiz?

Persia (Iran), *Large Bowl*, 10th century, 2003.98.2



Persia, Abbasid dynasty, *Page from the Koran*,
9th-10th c., 51.37.7 – kufic (rectilinear) script

فَتَنَّا لَهُمْ قَادِرْتَعِيمَهُمْ وَصَامِكُمْ وَنَبِيَّهُمْ أَرْسَلْنَا
فَسَمِعْتُمْ نَبِيَّهُمْ مِنْ كُلِّ شَرِّبٍ هَذَا فَتَنَّاكُمْ وَأَمَّا
جَنَّتُمْ فَتَعَاكُمُ فَتَعَفُّوْكُمْ كَيْفَ كَارَكُمُ أَرْسَلْنَا
وَنَحْرِيَّانَا أَرْسَلْنَا كَلِمَةً مَوْصِيَّةً وَأَيُّدَةً فَكَا



Egypt, Page from the
Koran, c. 1350, 51.37.21

– muhaqqaq (cursive)
script



بیاتاکل برافشانیم دی درساغراندازیم
 فککے استفت بکافیم و طرسی نو دراندازیم
 اگر نم شکر اگینزد که خون عاشقان ریزد
 من ساقی براو تا زیم و بنیادش اندا زیم
 شراب ارغوانی را کلاباندر قوح ریزیم
 نیم عطسه کردان اسکرده محسرا ندا زیم
 چو در دست است و دغغی شمن من طرب سدی شمش
 که دست افشان غزل خوانیم و پاکوبان سنا ندا زیم
 صبا خاک وجود ما بدان عالی جناباندا
 بودگان شاه خوبان اظنبر بر نظر اندا زیم
 یغی از عقل می لاسندی بی طامات می بغا
 بیاکاین دوری ڈارابه پیشین اوراندا زیم
 بشت عدن اگر خواهی بیابا ما به بنجا
 که از پای خمست کیمبر جوض کوثراندا زیم

سخن انی و خوشخوانی نغمی رزنده شیران

بیاحتفا که تا خود را به ملکت دیگراندا زیم

مولوی
 دولت علی احمد و من چن
 دولت علی احمد و من چن

Iran (Persia), Safavid dynasty,
Plate, 17th c., 86.44



Turkey, Ottoman period, *Iznik*
ware: plate, 16th c., 17.54



Eid Milad un-Nabi (Mawlid)

Birthday of the Prophet

Eve of Nov 30 to eve of Dec 1 (date varies)

اَلصَّلٰوَةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُوْلَ اللّٰهِ

Eid Milad Un Nabi Mubarak



Madeenah Chhor Kar

Jannat Ki Khushboo Mil Nahin Sakti

*Madeene Se Mohabbat Hai To
Jannat Ki Zamaanat Hai*

*Nisar Teri Chahel Pehel
Hazaaro Eide Rabbi Ul A*

*Sivae Iblees Ke Jahann
a R*

May the blessings of Allah
be with you on
Mawlid al-Nabi
and always!



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“Blessed Eid”

Aap Ko Jashan-e-Eid Mulad Un Nabi Mubarak Ho



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Christmas

Birth of Jesus Christ

December 25



Fra Angelico, *The Nativity*,
c. 1425, 68.41.8



Italy, *Presepio* (Christmas crib), 19th c., RBL60.1084



Josefina Aguilar, *Nativity scene*, 1992, 97.29.1-13



James Tissot, England, *Journey of the Magi*, about 1894,
70.21



England, *Adoration of the
Magi*, 15th c., 2001.268



Madonna and Child images Renaissance galleries



Kwanzaa

Celebration of African Heritage

December 26 – January 1

Celebrating and Living Kwanzaa:
Sowing and Harvesting Seeds of Good

www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org

Founder: Dr. Maulana Karenga

The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa

A Celebration of African Heritage

The week-long Kwanzaa holiday is based on traditional African celebrations of the harvest season. Its name comes from the Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza*, or “first fruits.”

Kwanzaa is more than a harvest festival, however. Dr. Maulana Karenga, an African American university professor, created the holiday in 1966 as a way to strengthen the African American community through a shared recognition of basic values rooted in traditional African culture.

Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa, December 26 through January 1, reminds us of one of the Nguzo Saba, or seven principles, that are the building blocks of community. Look around the walls of this gallery for symbols identifying examples of each of these principles. Can you find other examples as well?



Umoja (Unity)

The first day of Kwanzaa emphasizes the importance, for the family and the community, of maintaining a sense of togetherness.

Like many Akan goldweights, the double-headed crocodile represents a familiar proverb of the Akan people. “The crossed crocodiles have one belly, but when eating they struggle, saying that each must feel the food passing down his own throat.” When the family as a whole benefits, quarreling and greed are senseless.



Kujichagulia (Self-determination)

The second day of Kwanzaa reminds individuals that they have the power to shape and define their own lives.

Asante legend tells the story of Akua. Unhappy because she was not able to have a child, Akua consulted a diviner. The diviner told her to make a wooden doll and treat it as if it were a real child. Although the other villagers laughed at her, Akua persisted and eventually had a child of her own. Tradition can provide the framework to believe in one’s dreams until they come true.



Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)

The third day of Kwanzaa shows how the community is strengthened when individuals help each other, working together to solve problems.

One way that traditional Kongo villagers make commitments as a community is with the aid of an *nkisi nkonde*. Each person who drives a knife blade or nail into the figure awakens the power of the figure’s spirit, which then works to hold everyone to the agreement that has been reached.

Day 1: Unity (Umoja)

Ghana, Gold weights (3rd floor)

Birds: “It is one of its own family that a bird roosts with.” (proverb)

Linked knots: A reminder to contribute to the community, that in unity lies strength. However, neither party has to surrender his or her individuality.



Day 3: Collective Work and Responsibility (Ujima)

Kongo, *Power figure*, early 20th c. 71.3



Day 6: Creativity (Kuumba)

Luba Helmet mask 53.14

Dogon Hornbill mask 95.1

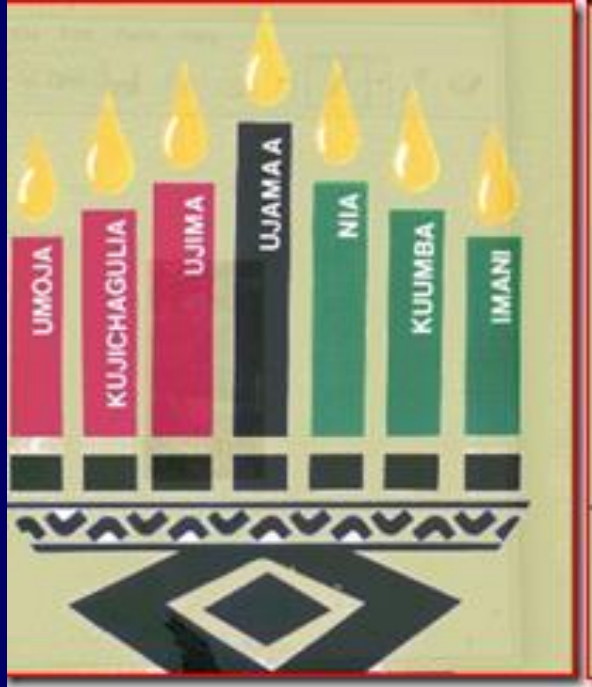
Tabwa Diviner's mask 89.14



Day 7: Faith (Imani)

Yoruba, Nigeria, *Crown*,
about 1920, 76.29





Japanese New Year

January 1-3

mayudama



Ohara Shoson, *Rooster and Hen with Chicks*, 1930s,
P.77.28.65 (G252)

