

[October 2023 Rotunda Rotation – New Accessions]



[Side label for rail, SW corner of rotunda]

China

Scholar's Box, 17th century

Carved huanghuali hardwood

Gift of Sue Talley 2022.77a-f

This carved wooden chest would have been used to store writing brushes, inksticks, seals, and other implements used by educated gentlemen. Many such boxes were produced during the late Ming and early Qing dynasties, conveying elegance and austerity through perfect lines and the material itself. This scholar's box, with its unique carved designs, is more ornately decorated than usual—a style that became preferred in the later Qing dynasty.



[WALL LABEL, NE Corner Rotunda]

Hendrick Goltzius

Dutch, 1558–1617

The Great Standard-Bearer, 1587

Engraving

Gift of Chichi Steiner and Tom Rassieur in honor of Kristin Lenaburg 2023.32

Today's soldiers wear digital camouflage to conceal themselves from the enemy. That's certainly an advance on the 16th-century custom, in which the bravest men were outfitted in embroidered silk jackets, pantaloons tied with bows, starched ruffs, and feathered caps and made to wave enormous billowing banners (or standards). It may not look it, but as this soldier tells us in the caption, his was a serious job: "I, the standard-bearer, ensure steadfastness of mind and heart. As

long as I stand, the line holds; if I flee, it flees also.” Because he had to pay for his own finery, and as compensation for being a prime target, the standard-bearer received three times the pay of the ordinary soldier.



[DECK or STAND LABEL?? Not sure how this will be installed exactly, Center of Rotunda]

Seymour Lipton

American, 1903–1986

Visionary, c.1980

Nickel-silver on Montel metal

Gift of Alan and Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Bernadette Lipton 2022.66

Seymour Lipton made metal sculptures that appear abstract but always have a reference point in storytelling or the natural world. His titles often provide clues. *Visionary* suggests someone who can see or imagine the future, either because of an unconventional mindset or by supernatural

means. The dome-like structure at the top of the sculpture implies a skull or head, and the pipelike form could be a telescope or an eye. Might this represent a guardian or an oracle?

Lipton's interest in ancient sculpture and its role in sacred sites also inspired his modern forms.



[Side label for rail, SE Corner of Rotunda]

Indonesia

Dvarapala, c. 14th–15th century

Andesite

The Helen Jones Fund for Asian Art and the Ruth B. Anderson Memorial Endowment for Asian Art 2023.53

On the Indonesian island of Java, Buddhist and Hindu temples both adopted the Indian architectural trope of the guardian figure. These statues flanked the entrances of temple complexes to protect the inner sanctum and mark the threshold between the sacred and profane. This sculpture of a Dvarapala (*dvara* meaning “door,” and *pala* meaning “protector”) was carved

from a soft volcanic stone indigenous to Java. With fierce expression (bulging eyes, glaring fangs) and firmly grasping a club, Dvarapalas became increasingly popular during the rule of the Majapahit dynasty (1293–1526) in eastern Java.



[WALL LABEL, NW corner rotunda]

Anthony Hernandez

American, born 1947

Downtown Civic Center, Public Use Areas #12, 1980

Gelatin silver print

The Ted and Dr. Roberta Mann Foundation Endowment 2023.38.2

Anthony Hernandez's 1980 photograph is a portrait of Los Angeles. It focuses on an everyday activity, a moment of reflection amid what may be considered Los Angeles's uninviting landscape. The woman at right stares into the distance, drawing attention to the desolate urban plaza before her. Through Hernandez's lens, however, the humanity of the lone sitter is as central to Los Angeles as the cityscape itself.