

Asia House

Programme

February - March 2012



Welcome to Asia House!

What will be the key risks and challenges resulting from continued Asian growth in 2012? In this programme we launch a new series of Signature Conferences that will address this question. In March we present a stunning collection of films from Iran, China, Indonesia and Kazakhstan in the fourth Pan-Asia Film Festival.



Dame Helen Alexander

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Opportunities and
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Xavier Rolet

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Xavier Rolet, Chief Executive, London Stock Exchange

Thursday 9 February, 8.30

Xavier Rolet, Chief Executive of the London Stock Exchange (LSE), discusses the importance of Asia in global financial markets in the context of the Euro crisis, economic interdependence, foreign exchange risks, and capital flows into emerging markets. The LSE lists more than 200 companies from the Asia-Pacific region and has opened offices in Hong Kong and Beijing, underscoring the importance of building relationships across the region and attracting further Asian companies to London.

Xavier Rolet joined the LSE Group Board on 16 March 2009 and became CEO on 20 May 2009. Prior to joining the LSE, he was Chief Executive Officer of Lehman Brothers in France from July 2007 to 7 January 2009. He is a member of the Board of Overseers of Columbia Business School and Vice-Chairman of the World Federation of Exchanges.



Xavier Rolet



Dame Helen Alexander

Opportunities and Challenges of Developing Business in China

Dame Helen Alexander CBE, Deputy President of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI)

Thursday 8 March, 8.30

Dame Alexander is currently non-executive director and chair of the remuneration committee at Centrica plc and Rolls-Royce Group plc, and senior adviser to Bain Capital. Helen is a trustee of the WWW (World Wide Web) Foundation, deputy chair of the Governors and chair of the Education Committee at St Paul's Girls' School, and chair of the Business Advisory Council of the Said Business School, Oxford University. She was also Chief Executive of the Economist Group till 2008.

Nuclear Weapons in Asia

Monday 19 March, 18:45

The collaboration between China and Pakistan presents great concerns for the international community and the Non-proliferation regime. Growing Pakistan's nuclear program could ultimately force India to strengthen its own nuclear power. The arms race between countries, domestic policy-making, compliance with international regulations, and the consequences of non-state actors obtaining nuclear weapons will be examined in this panel discussion, which focuses on China, Pakistan, North Korea, India and Iran.



Asia House

Business and Policy

Asia House will be holding a series of monthly Signature Conferences in 2012 to create a synergy between business and policy thought leaders on the key growth challenges in Asia.

The Asia Risk Outlook 2012 Conference

Wednesday 15 February, 9.00-12.00

In Asia, rising economic powers hold the promise of becoming the largest consumer markets in the world. Economic reforms and financial market development have accelerated the growth of a multitude of new investment opportunities. But how should the West assess the set of growth challenges emerging from the Pan-Asian region and which challenges should be prioritised over 2012?

Speakers to include:

Danny Quah, Professor of Economics,
London School of Economics
Andrew Patrick, Additional Director to
South Asia, Foreign and Commonwealth
Office
Ade Onitolo, Director of Political Risk,
Exclusive Analysis
John Svenson-Wright, University Senior
Lecturer in Modern Japanese Politics,
University of Cambridge

The Social Innovation in Asia Conference

Wednesday 18 April, 9.00-12.00

A conference that explores the new ideas, strategies and concepts evolving from Asia which attempt to resolve the social, cultural, economic and environmental growth challenges in the pan-Asian region. Social Innovation, through the cooperation of the private sector, government and civil society, can provide solutions to global crises such as the effects of climate change, political conflicts or economic recessions.

Two panel discussions will examine the strategies put forward by Asian governments, private sector organisations and social entrepreneurs to generate positive social impacts in a new form of 'public-private partnerships' through stakeholder relationships.

Speakers to include:

Audrey Selian, Rianta Capital
Felicidad Cristobal, Arcelor Mittal
Foundation



Asia House
Signature Conferences

Pan-Asia Film Festival

8-18 March 2012



The fourth Pan-Asia Film Festival showcases new cinema from across Asia, reflecting the vibrancy and energy in Asian filmmaking today.

Featuring work by high profile international directors alongside some of the freshest emerging filmmaking talent from the region.





11 Flowers

Dir. Wang Xiao-Shuai
China 2011, 110 Minutes
Chinese + English subtitles
UK Premiere

By the director of *Beijing Bicycle*, this semi-autobiographical story is set in rural Guizhou Province in the latter days of the Cultural Revolution. The mother of 11 year old Wang Han buys him a new shirt which he wears with pride. As news of a local murder spreads, Han unwittingly comes face to face with the fugitive and is forced to give him his shirt and conceal his whereabouts. However, unable to keep the secret, Han confides in his closest friends, drawing them into a seemingly inescapable world of fear and unease. This is a warm coming of age tale, infused with symbolic resonances of the bridge between childhood and adulthood, memories of the past and human relationships.

Official Selections:
Toronto International Film Festival 2011
Busan International Film Festival 2011
Tokyo International Film Festival 2011



The Mirror Never Lies

Dir. Kamila Andini
Indonesia 2011
100 mins
Indonesian + English subtitles
UK Premiere

With its exotic, pristine coastal landscape, the Wakatobi Peninsula is home to the Bajo tribe, a community that lives by and off the sea. When 12 year old Pakis' father is lost at sea, she embarks on a spiritual journey, ultimately leading to her acceptance of his death. This is equally a journey of self-discovery in which a mirror she was given by her father reflects every aspect her own experiences. Andini's debut feature is a feast for the eyes, exploring the universal themes of love, loss and hope, whilst sharing with us the stunning beauty of this hidden corner of Indonesia.

Official Selections & Awards:
Busan International Film Festival 2011 - New Currents Award Nomination
Tokyo International Film Festival 2011 - Asian Film Award Special Mention



Mother's Paradise

Dir. Aktan Arym Kubat
Kazakhstan 2011
82 mins
Kazakh + English subtitles
UK Premiere

In rural Kazakhstan, a poverty-stricken family struggles to cope with the strains of everyday life. As a result, the father of two young boys, Amir and Serikbai, leaves for Russia in search of work. The boys begin to witness various household items being sold off and soon come to learn that their mother has turned to prostitution to make ends meet. Despite the harsh realities it depicts, the film nevertheless retains an optimistic tone with Kubat's signature of gently humorous and endearing moments. This collaboration between director of *The Light Thief* (Pan-Asia Film Festival 2011) and Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf who scripted the film, gives rise to a piece of cinematic poetry that is at once both bleak and tender.

Official Selections:
Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2011
Busan International Film Festival 2011



The Sun-Beaten Path

Dir. Sonthar Gyal
Tibet 2011, 89 mins
Tibetan + English subtitles

This debut feature follows a young man's journey from Lhasa to his home in a remote part of the north-eastern Tibetan Plateau. Through a series of flashbacks, we learn the reason for Nyma's melancholic disposition and the guilt that drives him to embark on this journey. Having gone on a pilgrimage, prostrating all the way to Lhasa, angst-ridden Nyma is joined on his return by an old man. The vast and desolate backdrop stands as a striking metaphor for Nyma's sense of desolation, whilst the old man's musings contrast sharply with Nyma's inner reflections and near silence throughout. With breathtaking, windswept landscapes and often dreamlike sequences, Gyal brings to the screen a cinematic gem, affirming the emergence of a new Tibetan cinema.

Official Selections:
Locarno Film Festival 2011

Awards:
Vancouver International
Film Festival 2011– Dragons
and Tigers Award
Hong Kong International Film
Festival 2011– Asian Digital
Competition Special Mention



Three and a Half

Dir. Naghi Nemati
Iran 2011, 80 mins
Farsi + English subtitles
UK Premiere

Nemati's second feature follows three young women, Hanieh, Homa and Banafsheh, on a three day release from prison. Banafsheh learns that the father of her unborn child, Nasser, has crossed the border and along with Hanieh and Homa, she decides to head for the border with the hope of escaping. Each is battling with their own inner conflicts which ultimately lead to tensions among them and a final abrupt twist. As their secrets unravel, there remains an overriding sense of togetherness, hope and freedom in this telling portrayal of the constraints of modern Iranian society on women. Nemati's debut feature *Those Three* was shown at Pan-Asia Film Festival 2009.

Official Selections:
Busan International Film
Festival 2011
Warsaw International Film
Festival 2011



3.11 A Sense of Home

A project by Naomi Kawase
Japan 2011, 75 mins
Japanese/Spanish/French/
English + English subtitles
UK Premiere

Award-winning director Naomi Kawase initiated a project in response to the devastating earthquake and tsunami which hit the Tohoku region of Japan on 11 March 2011. The result is an anthology of films, all 3 minutes 11 seconds in duration, addressing the theme of 'home'. From Apichatpong Weerasethakul's *Monsoon*, to Jia Zhang-ke's *Alone Together* to Naomi Kawase's own contribution *Home*, this is a deeply personal and moving dedication to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami, and a poignant reminder of the universal significance of home. This screening will coincide with the one year anniversary of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami.

Official Selection:
Nara International Film
Festival 2011

Dates and venues to confirmed

Full programme available at www.asiahouse.org

Chinnery Exhibition: Closing Weeks! Friends Private View

Wednesday 11 January 2012, 18.45

We are delighted to offer Friends an opportunity to view our acclaimed exhibition *The Flamboyant Mr Chinnery* with curator Dr. Patrick Conner who is the world's leading expert on this fascinating painter.

£10

Asia House Friends free

Tea Master Class

Thursday 9 February, 18.45-20.45

Join us in our tea master class with Jane Pettigrew to learn more the journey of tea from leaf to cup, the difference between a green and a black, and how to make the perfect brew.

Jane Pettigrew is a tea specialist, historian, writer and consultant. She has written 13 books on the many and varied aspects of tea, its production, history and culture, and she writes for tea related magazines and journals.

£25/ 20 concessions

Asia House Friends £15



Confessions of an *Otaku*

David Blandy in conversation with
Japanese manga artist Inko

Talk and Screening

Thursday 16 February, 18.45

Video artist David Blandy unravels his obsession with Chinese and Japanese popular culture. From philosophical conversations with Bruce Lee to the quandary caused by loving Anime and being the grandson of a veteran of the Japanese concentration camps, Blandy will discuss the misrecognitions, mistranslations and revelations in Kung-Fu flicks, Manga and computer games.

Blandy uses video, performance and comics to address how identity is constructed, investigating our relationship to the mass media and cultural heritage. Blandy won the Times/South Bank Show Breakthrough Award in 2010.

Inko was born in Kyoto, Japan, and has been working as a Manga artist, and as a culture and language ambassador with SOAS.

£10 / £8 concessions

Asia House Friends £6



Babur in London

Tuesday 20 March, 18.45

The Opera Group and Asia House invite you to an exclusive preview of a new opera, Babur in London by the British composer Edward Rushton and the renowned Indian poet Jeet Thayil.

Startling, resonant and at times wickedly funny, Babur in London explores a dialogue of faith, politics and cultural identity in modern day society. This major international collaboration is the fourth work for The Opera Group by Edward Rushton, who was called “a highly promising new voice in British opera” by the Independent on Sunday and “brilliant” by The Guardian. This is the first opera by Indian poet and musician Jeet Thayil whose distinctive and versatile poetic voice has won him acclaim across the globe.

The evening will feature live music from the opera, ahead of its world premiere in Zurich the following week, and also offer an opportunity to meet the team behind this exciting new international collaboration.

Babur in London will tour throughout the UK, Switzerland and India in 2012.

The Opera Group production, co-produced with Anvil Arts, Basingstoke and Opera North.

£10/ £8 concessions
Asia House Friends £6



Jeet Thayil

Persian New Year

Wednesday 28 March, 18.45

Marking the first day of Spring, Persian New Year or “Nowroz” has been celebrated by Iranians and other Farsi-speakers around the world for over 3000 years.

Join us at Asia House to enjoy a traditional night of music, poetry and other festivities to serenade us into the new Persian year.

£10/ £8 concessions
Asia House Friends £6



Photo: M. Neza

Heaven On Earth - A Journey Through Sharia Law

Sadakat Kadri

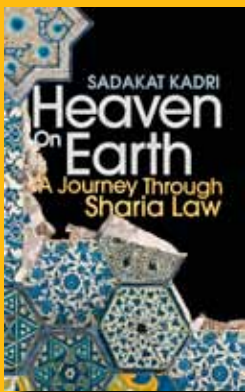
Wednesday, 29 February, 18.45

Almost 1400 years after the Prophet Muhammad first articulated God's law - the shari'a - its earthly interpreters are still arguing over what it means. Hardliners reduce it to amputations, veiling and holy war. Others say that it is humanity's only guarantee of a just society.

Travelling the Islamic world, the human rights barrister and prize-winning writer, Sadakat Kadri, takes us on a journey through Islam's past and present. In Pakistan's madrasas, stern scholars ridicule human rights and demand explanations for NATO drone attacks in Afghanistan. In Iran, he hears that God is forgiving enough to subsidise sex-change operations but requires the execution of Muslims who change religion.

Kadri finds that the promise of a perfect social order can be compelling. But when human beings attempt to apply divine justice, they risk creating not a heaven on earth - but something much closer to hell.

£10 / £8 concessions
Asia House Friends £6



Dispatches from the Faultline Between Christianity and Islam

Malise Ruthven and Eliza Griswold in conversation

Thursday, 29 March, 18.45

The tenth parallel is a geographical and ideological front line where Christianity and Islam collide. On both sides of the line, the religions and their people are experiencing reawakenings of faith.

Eliza Griswold, an award-winning investigative journalist, has travelled the space between the equator and the tenth parallel, exploring the meanings and ramifications of this reawakening. Her book, *The Tenth Parallel*, examines the conflicts over religion, nationhood and natural resources that will remake the world in the years to come.

Malise Ruthven is internationally recognised for his work on Muslim thought and theology, fundamentalism and the social impact of religion and migration. He has been a the forefront of the discussion on the Islamic world and its relations with the predominantly secularised and Christian societies of the West. His latest books are *Encounters with Islam: On Religion, Politics and Modernity* and *Islam: A Very Short Introduction*.

£10 / £8 concessions
Asia House Friends £6



Eliza Griswold

Asia House Festival of Asian Literature 15-31 May

**The only festival dedicated
to writing from the Persian Gulf
to the Pacific.**

**Back for a sixth year, The 2012 Asia House Festival
of Asian Literature will feature:**

**Writing about Afghanistan, Burma, Cambodia, China,
Hong Kong, Iran, Iraq, India, Japan, Kashmir, Pakistan,
Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and Asians in Britain**

**New writing from Hardeep Singh Kohli, Marina Warner,
Romesh Gunsekera, William Dalrymple, and more.**

**Emerging authors: Zarghuna Kargar, Roshi Fernando,
Jeet Thayil, Madeline Thien, Joydeep Roy Battacharya**

**Participation in the exciting Alchemy Festival at
Southbank, and the Festival of Ideas in Bristol**

**Fiction, non fiction, journalism, poetry, storytelling,
workshops for families, exhibitions, and film**

Join us for our best Festival yet!



THE  TIMES



Festival of Asian Literature 2012

Preview

Before the Festival:
Asia House at Southbank Centre

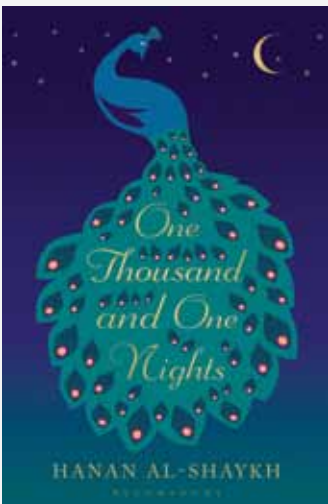
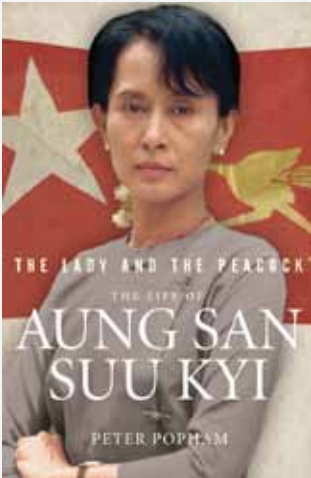
Dates to be confirmed

The Many Faces of Love
Moni Mohsin – TenderHooks
Rosie Thomas – The Kashmir Shawl
and others

Women and Water in Pakistan
Kamila Shamsie
Ziauddin Sardar
And others

Wednesday 9 May

Asia House will host a special event as part of The MyVoice mentoring programme featuring selected young British Asian writers and their mentors in their first public appearances



Hardeep Singh Kohli

Tuesday 15 May

Opening Night with Hardeep Singh Kohli
The Food of the Grand Trunk Road

Wednesday 16 May

The Ghosts of Empire by Kwasi Kwarteng

Thursday 17 May

Focus Sri Lanka
Romesh Gunsekera, - The Prisoner of Paradise
Roshi Fernando – Homesick
Special guests and exhibitions in partnership with the Sri Lanka High Commission

Friday 18 May

Security in the Age of Kali
Misha Glenny – The Dark Market
Andrew Feinstein – The Shadow World

Saturday 19 May

Barefoot Across Asia
A full day of interactive family programmes including yoga for kids, storytelling, workshops and music

Monday 21 May

The Poetry of the Persian World
Visiting poets from Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan
In partnership with Iran Heritage Foundation and the Poetry Translation Centre

Tuesday, 22 May

Women, Power & Politics
Peter Popham – The Lady and the Peacock – Aung San Suu Kyi
Rani Singh – Sonia Gandhi – In a New Light
And others

Wednesday 23 May

Writing from the Danger Zone
Zarghuna Kargar and a selection of authors from Afghanistan and Iraq

Thursday 24 May

One Thousand and One Nights for the 21st Century
Marina Warner – Stranger Magic
Hanan al Shaykh – One Thousand and One Nights

Friday 25 May

Asia House “Untied”
An open evening featuring music, film, and a lively literary competition

Monday 28 May

Kashmir – The Case for Freedom

Tuesday 29 May

Discovery – new writing from across Asia
India, Cambodia, Japan, Afghanistan and more

Wednesday 30 May

Writing Revolutions
Writers discuss how the Arab Spring could have repercussions in some of the political hot spots of Asia

Thursday 31 May

Closing Night
A very special guest

2011 Man Asian Literary Prize Shortlist Announcement

Tuesday 10 January, 9.30

Since being established in 2007, the Man Asian Literary Prize has grown to become the leading prize for Asian writers, often touted as the 'Asian Booker'. The longlist for the 2011 Prize was announced in Singapore in October and features writers from across Asia including Iran, Bangladesh and Pakistan, as well as literary titans such as Haruki Murakami and Amitav Ghosh.

Join Chair Judge, Razia Iqbal for this unique morning event as she announces the shortlist for this year's Man Asian Literary Prize live from Asia House in front of an invited audience twinned simultaneously with an event in Hong Kong, the home of the Prize.

A light breakfast will be served.

Free event for a limited number but booking is essential.



Asian Business Leader Award Dinner 31 October 2011



1
Tej Lalvani
Tara Lalvani

3
The Right Honorable Oliver Letwin
Ratan Tata

5
Anthony Osmond-Evans
Hasan Askari
Lady Magan
Zed Cama

2
Lady Boyd
Ratan Tata
Sir John Boyd
Sumi Ghose

4
Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg

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Formerly INDIA ART SUMMIT

Birkbeck Spring Courses Enrolment Now Open!

Modern and Contemporary Art
from the Middle East and Iran

**Thursday 12 January - Thursday 22
March 2012**

This module offers an insight into the development of modern and contemporary art in the Middle East and Iran. Starting from early Orientalist painters, we will move on to examining the works of more recent artists from Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt and Iran, whose works on gender, children, war and peace creatively challenge political and social predicaments of their countries.

Course fee £150 - £225 (concessions vary, please check when booking)

To enrol call: +44 (0)20 7631 6316

Full course outline and further information is available online:
www.bbk.ac.uk


Chinese Art Around the World:
Exchanging Treasures and Cultures

Tuesday 24 April - Tuesday 10 July 2012

Tracing old and new itineraries of Chinese artefacts around the world, this module explores the variety and richness of objects and ideas. As we follow shiny porcelain, elegant lacquerware, glimmering silks and much more, we will consider how materials, technologies and styles intrigue admirers across continents, and how Chinese cultural traits come into dialogue with other realities.

Asia House

Study



Join Us !

Asia House Friends and Patrons

Friends

Asia House Friends support our mission to build dynamic links with Asia. Enjoy special privileges and become part of a vibrant community celebrating the arts, culture, and current affairs of Asia!

To find out more, please contact:

Mia Gulati

Individual Membership Coordinator

Mia.Gulati@asiahouse.co.uk


Patrons and Young Leader Patrons

Asia House Patrons are at the heart of our organisation – inspiring, influencing and sustaining our work.

In addition to shaping programmes in each of our three focus areas, Patrons enjoy a private programme of events, including ambassadorial dinners and exclusive viewings of private and gallery collections.

The Asia House Young Leaders Programme has been created to engage the next generation of leaders. Young Leaders (21-40) have access to Patron level benefits, in addition to regular parties and networking events at Asia House.

To learn more about these programmes, please contact:
patrons@asiahouse.co.uk



Corporate Membership

Outstanding business intelligence

We offer our Corporate Members outstanding business intelligence through our exclusive events and private meetings arranged by Asia House.

For further information on Business and Policy events, and to become a Corporate Member, please contact:

Priya Shah
Corporate Programme Coordinator

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Email: priya.shah@asiahouse.co.uk
Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7307 5454
www.asiahouse.org

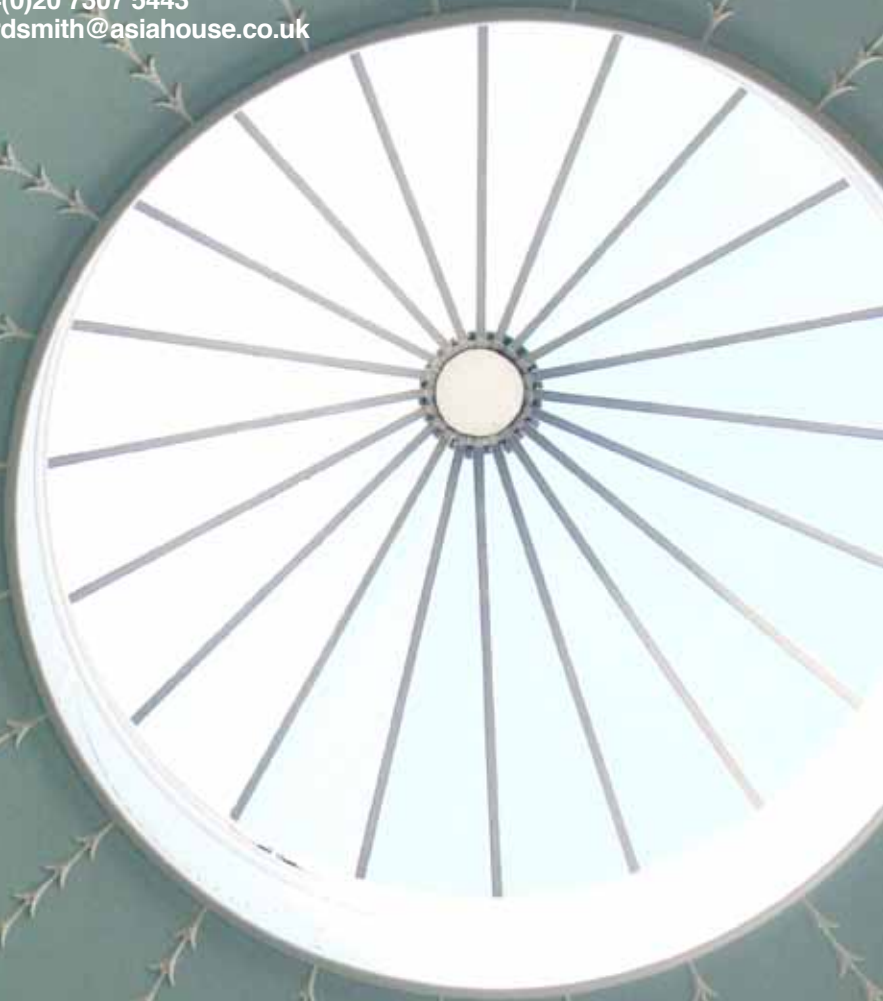
Asia House

Membership

Hire our beautiful 18th century premises for your conference, exhibition, or wedding.

For further information, please contact:
Philip Woodford-Smith

Telephone +44(0)20 7307 5443
philip.woodfordsmith@asiahouse.co.uk





Asia House Studio

Our stunning new contemporary art space is now open and available for hire.

Restoration generously funded by the Rangoonwala Foundation

For further information, please contact:
Philip Woodford-Smith

Telephone +44(0)20 7307 5443
philip.woodfordsmith@asiahouse.co.uk

Asia House

Asia House, the leading pan-Asian organisation in the UK, exists to build dynamic links with Asia, important now more than ever. By providing unique insights into culture, policy, business and education, Asia House promotes informed understanding and the mutual exchange of ideas, building stronger relationships between the diverse communities of Europe and Asia.

Asia House is a non-profit, non-political organisation.

-  Join us on Facebook
-  Follow us on Twitter: @asiahouseuk

How to book

Telephone +44 (0)20 7307 5454

Email: enquiries@asiahouse.co.uk

Online: eventbrite.co.uk

Booking is required for all events

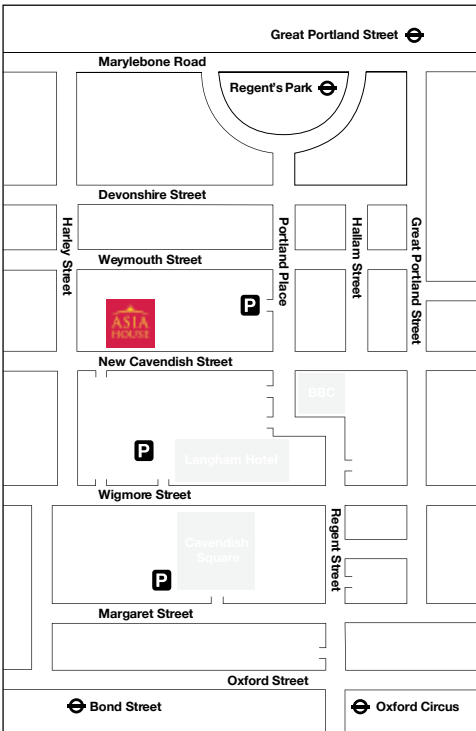
Tickets are not issued but bookings are confirmed by email

Your name will appear on a guest list held at reception

Bookings are not refundable or transferable

Seats will be held only up to the start of the event and may be released to those on the waiting list

Latecomers will not be admitted



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www.asiahouse.org

Nearest Tubes

Oxford Circus

Great Portland Street

Bond Street

Regents Park