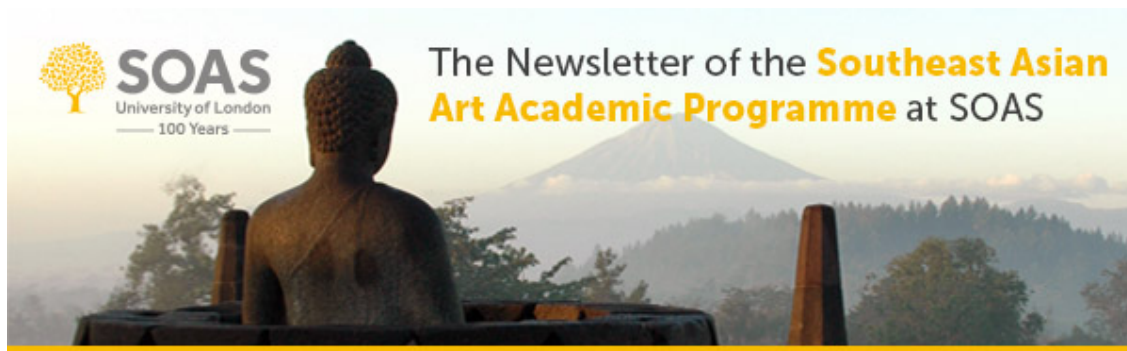


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The Newsletter of the Southeast Asian Art Academic  
Programme at SOAS

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*Note from the Editor:*

The [Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme](#) (SAAAP) was created with a donation from the Alphawood Foundation in Chicago to build a world-leading centre for the study of ancient to pre-modern Buddhist and Hindu art of the region. This newsletter will record Southeast Asia related academic art events at SOAS and events taking place in the institutions of the region that are sending over 80 scholarship students to SOAS through the Alphawood Scholarships programme within SAAAP. The termly Newsletter will be edited by an Alphawood scholar and the alumni of the programme are the major contributors. Our first editor is Eko Bastiawan from Indonesia. Please send us news from your region and about yourselves and your projects.

*Dr Peter D. Sharrock*

### The Alphawood Scholarships at SOAS

The [Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme](#), with the generous help of the Alphawood Foundation, is proud to announce the awardees of the 2016 Alphawood Scholarships. This year 23 students from five different countries in Southeast Asia have been awarded scholarships to study for the Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art, MA History or Art and/or Archaeology and MA Religious Arts of Asia. The awardees are comprised of nine from Cambodia, five from Indonesia, four from Thailand, three from Myanmar/Burma and two from Vietnam.

The Alphawood Scholarships are available for another two years, the final round will be awarded in February 2018 for 2018/19 entry. The Scholarship covers tuition fees in full, a maintenance allowance towards the costs of living and studying in central London, as well as flights to and from the UK. Visa costs are also covered. The Maintenance allowance will be provided in line with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) guidelines for London (Doctoral) and will be calculated pro-rata for programmes of less than a year. It is expected to cover the cost of accommodation. *Read more about the Alphawood Scholarships [here](#).*

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### Cambodian ministerial delegation at SOAS to plan major restoration of Banteay Chhmar temple: Field School to deliver on-site training in a broad range of skills associated with conservation of the temple

The Cambodian Minister of Culture and Fine Arts (MCFA), Phoeurng Sackona, visited SOAS with her top officials for an exceptional 3-day meeting to prepare a 5-year project to restore the major Cambodian temple of Banteay Chhmar and to set up a SOAS Field School beside it. This high level of commitment by the Cambodian government attests to the importance of the project for Cambodia and the growing reputation of the SOAS [Southeast Asian Academic Art Programme \(SAAAP\)](#).

The Field School will be the first site in the region for SAAAP, whose purpose is to create a network of counterpart institutions who send students to SOAS on Alphawood scholarships. The alumni of the Programme are key contributors to capacity-building in Southeast Asia to future tuning of SOAS teaching modules in line with regional needs. H E Sackona was warmly welcomed by Director Valerie Amos. *See the full story [here](#).*



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### Scholars further discussions to develop a Field School and Conservation Programme at Banteay Chhmar

Members of the [Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme](#) Professor Ashley Thompson, Dr Christian Luczanits, Dr Louise Tythacott and Dr Peter Sharrock, and Project Coordinator Dr Joanna Wolfarth, spent ten days in Cambodia as part of the final component of the Alphawood-funded Scoping Phase for a Field School and Conservation Programme at 12th-century Banteay Chhmar Temple. A proposal for the long-term project – a partnership between SOAS and the Cambodian Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts – will be submitted to Alphawood in the first quarter of 2016. The SAAAP team were accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, representatives from Global Heritage Fund UK, and a team of conservation experts resident in Siem Reap. The group spent a day at Koh Ker temple complex, two days at Banteay Chhmar temple, a day at the Angkor Conservation Office and the APSARA Authority, a day at the National Museum and a morning at the Royal University of Fine Arts, in addition to other meetings and site visits in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh. *Read more about the trip in a report by Alphawood Alumnus 2014 Socheat Nhean [here](#).*



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### Cambodian Minister of Culture and Fine Arts Phoeurng Sackona visits the Arts of South East Asia from the SOAS Collections

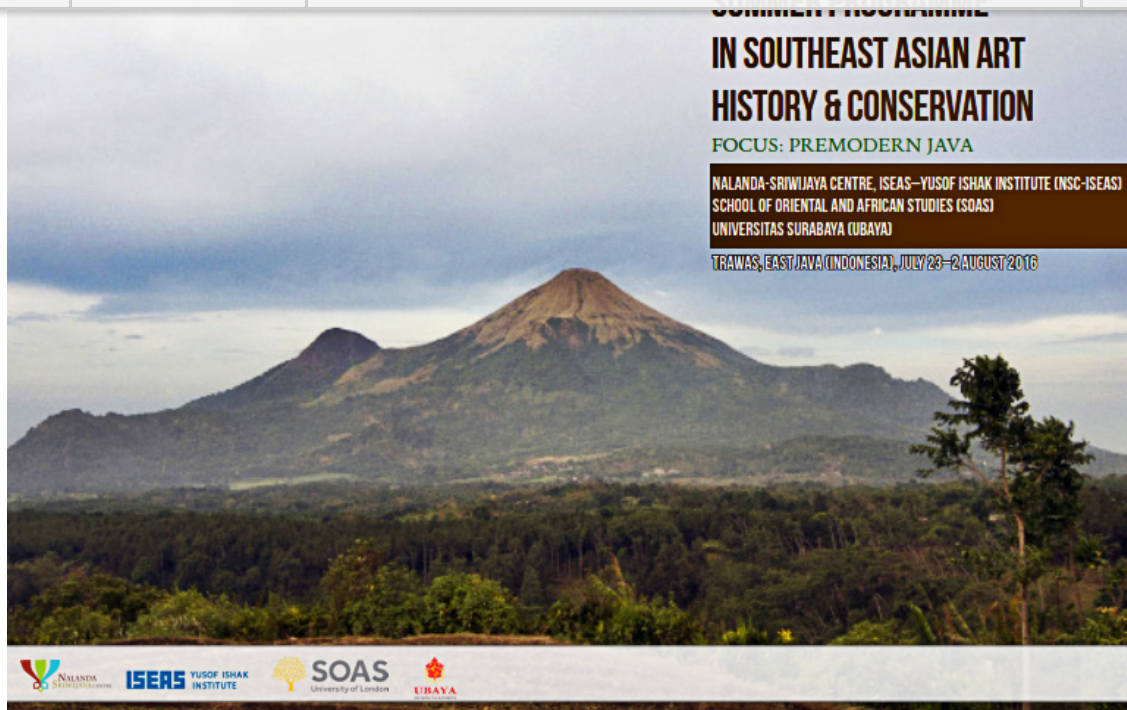
The Cambodian Minister of Culture and Fine Arts (MCFA) Phoeurng Sackona visits the Arts of South East Asia from the SOAS Collections exhibition in the Foyle Gallery at SOAS. The Minister was at SOAS with her top officials for a planning session of a 5-year project to restore the major Cambodian temple of Banteay Chhmar.

### SOAS and SAAAP in Laos Educational Delegation

As part of a UK Higher Education delegation led by film-maker and politician Lord David Puttnam, Prof. E. Moore represented SAAAP in meetings with the National University of Laos (NUOL) at the first UK Education Fair held at Vientiane from 5-7 November 2015. Further meetings were arranged with the NUOL's Dept. of History and Archaeology, Faculty of Social Sciences to encourage applicants to the Alphawood Scholarships and to discuss a potential MoU with SOAS. See [full story here](#).





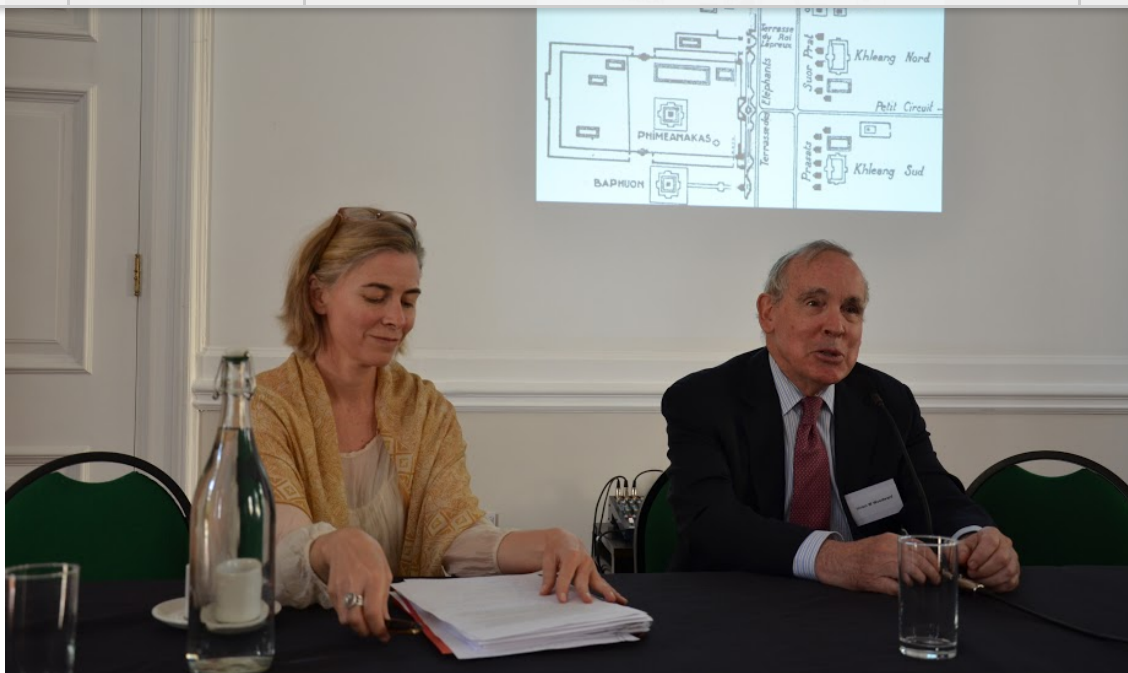
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## Summer programme in Southeast Asian Art History and Conservation in Trawas, East Java, Indonesia

This Summer School, open to international but especially Indonesian students, will study aspects of premodern Javanese Art History, from the Central Javanese 'Hindu-Buddhist' period to the late Majapahit and Early Islamic period (ca. 8th-early 17th century).

The programme, which is intended to become annual, is the result of a partnership between the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre (NSC) and ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (Singapore), Universitas Surabaya (Indonesia), and the SOAS Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme (SAAAP) at the Department of the History of Art and Archaeology, School of Art. *See the full programme [here](#).*



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### Theravada Buddhism Research Project

In June-July 2015 SAAAP, in conjunction with King's College, hosted two linked events on Theravada Buddhism, with a view to launching a long-term collaborative research initiative on the art and archaeology of Theravadin Buddhist Southeast Asia. The events included a day symposium convened by SAAAP Academic Lead, Professor Ashley Thompson, entitled *The Emergence of Theravada Buddhism in Cambodia: Southeast Asian Perspectives*. This symposium, linked to the deep and varied Theravada specific expertise of the Luce Foundation Group, aimed to provide a first forum for professional interdisciplinary exchange on this new body of research. *Read more about the event [here](#).*



### Alphawood Scholar Sathal Khun wins Bhasi Pannikar Progress Prize at IFCELS

Congratulations to Alphawood Scholar Sathal Khun from Cambodia who has been awarded the Bhasi Pannikar Progress Prize for her outstanding progress on the ELAS course at IFCELS. The prize is awarded annually to the



### Alphawood Scholars gather together at the SOAS Annual Scholars Reception 2015

Over 150 scholars joined benefactors and staff for the reception on Wednesday 21 October 2015 in the illustrious surroundings of MacMillan Hall in Senate House. The event, held every year, is designed to welcome the scholars to the School, as well as to thank the



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student who, it is felt, has made the most progress during their time at SOAS. Her progress was particularly remarkable having achieved in a six month period what would normally require nine months of study. See the full story [here](#).

benefactors who have made it possible for them to study at SOAS University of London. This year SOAS welcomed the second cohort of 18 Alphawood Scholars. See the full story [here](#).

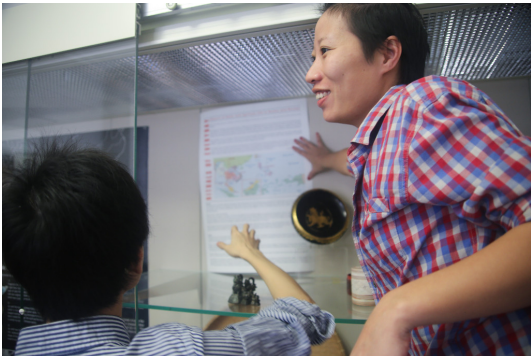


Paris Study Trip 2016

In March 2016 Ashley Thompson, Pamela Corey, Louise Tythacott and Simone Green led a group of 24 MA students from the Department of the History of Art and Archaeology, including the 13-strong cohort of Alphawood MA students, on an exploration of Southeast Asian art museum and archival research collections in Paris.

The group enjoyed detailed and bespoke expert tours by scholars and curators at the Musée Guimet des Arts Asiatiques, the Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, and the Musée Cernuschi, as well as a day-trip to the Château de Fontainebleau to visit Empress Eugénie's Musée chinois with its extraordinary Thai collections. They also enjoyed a special visit to Vietnamese artist Truong Tan's studio and simply being together for a full three days of thinking and discussing Southeast Asian Art.

This year's trip built on the 2015 inaugural Paris study trip, and was again supported by the Southeast Asian Art Academic programme. We look forward to the trip becoming a yearly event for the Department.



From September-December 2015, Alphawood students on the 'Curating Cultures' MA course worked in exhibition teams to devise displays using the History of Art and Archaeology teaching collections. The collection consists mainly of Southeast Asian material, donated to SOAS by Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Moore. *Images by Scarlett Crawford, MA student and photographer.*



Jalur Rempah (Spice Trail) at Jakarta's  
Museum Nasional Indonesia

*From the region: Indonesia.* Jakarta's Museum Nasional Indonesia mounted a Jalur Rempah (Spice Trail) exhibition in late October to show how spices had changed the entire history of the Indonesian archipelago. A video first qualified the use of 'Silk Road', pointing out that many commodities were traded and spices were as precious as silk and more voluminous. The exhibition took us on a journey from the island of Barus in modern day Sumatra, to the Hindu kingdom of Tarumanegara. *See full article by Liliek Suhardjono, Alphawood Alumnus 2014, [here](#).*



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### Professor David Llewelyn Snellgrove (29 June 1920 – 25 March 2016)

Professor David Snellgrove, a leading SOAS scholar of the religion, languages and history of Buddhist India and Tibet, died earlier this year aged 95. He joined SOAS in 1950 and made a major contribution to Tibetan and Buddhist studies.

The Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme enabled the endowment of a Senior Lectureship in Tibetan and Buddhist Art in the Department of History of Art and Archaeology in the School of Arts at SOAS. Dr Christian Luczanits was appointed as the first David L. Snellgrove Chair in Tibetan and Buddhist Art in September 2014.

Dr Tadeusz Skorupski, Emeritus Reader in the Department of Religions and Philosophies at SOAS; Cathy Cantwell, Associate Faculty Member, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford; and Francesca Fremantle, scholar and translator of Sanskrit and Tibetan works, have shared their stories of his life [here](#).

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### World-class Exhibition Hall at the National Museum in Bangkok, Thailand

*From the region, Thailand:* The National Museum in Bangkok houses the largest collection of Thai art and artefacts in the world. The museum's front hall has now been furnished as a world-class gallery, bringing many of the museum's masterpieces into a single room. A monumental Buddha head from the Ayutthaya surveys the hall, while a graceful bronze Bodhisattva from the Peninsula takes centre stage with magnificent Khmer and Hindu sculptures. Smaller pieces are housed behind glass on both sides of the room. See full article by Suppawan Nongnut, *Alphawood Alumnus* 2014, [here](#).





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# FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



The 2nd SEAMEO SPAFA International Conference on



## SOUTHEAST ASIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

30 May - 2 June 2016, Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO SPAFA) is pleased to announce the venue for the second Southeast Asian Archaeology conference, to be held from 30 May - 2 June, 2016. Following the success of the first conference in 2013 at Chonburi, we hope to advance Southeast Asian archaeology by facilitating a venue for researchers in Southeast Asia to present their work and to make connections with colleagues and partners from the region.

Next year's conference will be held at the Amari Watergate hotel, a central location in downtown Bangkok with easy access to food, accommodation and, of course, shopping. We are also planning several post-conference tours to archaeological sites around Bangkok (details to be announced at a later date). A call for panel and paper proposals will be released between August and October this year. More information will also be available at the SEAMEO SPAFA website.

SEAMEO SPAFA is the Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts, operating under the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization. Based in Bangkok and founded in 1978, SEAMEO SPAFA's mission is to promote the archaeology, fine arts and performing arts of the region to the world.

[www.seameo-spafa.org/conference2016](http://www.seameo-spafa.org/conference2016)

#spafacon2016

Contact person: Noel Tan ([conference@seameo-spafa.org](mailto:conference@seameo-spafa.org))



**SAAAP EVENT: Second SEAMEO SPAFA Southeast Asian Archaeology conference, 30 May - 2 June 2016**

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO SPAFA) is pleased to announce the venue for the second Southeast Asian Archaeology conference, to be held from 30 May - 2 June, 2016. Following the success of the first conference in 2013 at Chonburi, we hope to advance Southeast Asian archaeology by facilitating a venue for researchers in Southeast Asia to present their work and to make connections with colleagues and partners from the region. *See full programme [here](#).*

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GLOBAL HERITAGE FUND UK and SOAS present:



## Uncovering the Real Angkor: Early Civilisations Mapped Using Cutting-Edge Technology

**MONDAY**

13 June 2016  
doors open 18:30, lecture  
begins 19:00

**ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL  
SOCIETY**

1 Kensington Gore  
London, SW7 2AR

Presented publicly for the first time, Dr. Damian Evans and Dr. Peter Sharrock's lecture will reveal the illuminating results of two new lidar studies on Cambodia's temple complexes at Angkor Wat and Banteay Chhmar.

Tickets available from  
[www.gfhukangkorandbeyond.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.gfhukangkorandbeyond.eventbrite.co.uk)  
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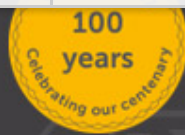
[See all SAAAP Events here](#)


If you would like to contribute to this newsletter please send articles or suggestions to Eko Bastiawan [ekobastiawan@yahoo.com](mailto:ekobastiawan@yahoo.com) or Dr Peter D Sharrock [ps56@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ps56@soas.ac.uk).

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