
WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

Education Program Presents

Behind the Scenes: the Making of an Exhibit on the *Tamang and Rai Mountain Minorities of Nepal*

Michael Schuster, *Curator of the East-West Center*; and,
Eric Chang, *Arts Program Coordinator at the East-West Center*

Wednesday, February 4th, 2015

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Wailana Room, Garden Level, Imin International Conference Center

Nepal, high in the Himalayas and the birthplace of the Buddha, is a crossroads between India and China. This small landlocked country is home to a great diversity of peoples, languages, flora, and fauna. Nepal has a population of more than 26 million people, made up of over 80 different ethnic communities. Although people often think of the Sherpas guiding trekkers and mountain climbers up to the Everest base camp, there are many lesser known communities living in the lower ranges of the mountains.

These are very isolated communities who are often very poor, and have unique ritual practices, clothing, weavings, paintings, and utensils, many of which are on display. This seminar will explore the approach and complexities of curating an exhibit that tells the story of two of these communities: the Tamang and the Rai peoples.



Michael Schuster has studied Asia Pacific arts for over forty years, training with master artists from India, Burma, Indonesia, and Japan. Schuster currently works as curator for the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii and has created over 40 exhibitions on Asian and Pacific art. He has been EWC Gallery Curator for the last 11 years. He received his Ph.D. in Asian Theater from the University of Hawai'i, focusing on the puppet arts of South and Southeast Asia.

Eric Chang was awarded the first Taiko Center of the Pacific Fellowship and moved to Hawai'i to study taiko (Japanese drumming) with Kenny Endo. He has continued his studies of various Japanese drumming forms in Hawai'i and Japan. In 2007 Chang began working for the East-West Center Arts Program, where his early interest in East Asian arts and cultures has expanded to include South, Southeast, and Central Asia, as well as the Pacific Islands. He is currently coordinator of the EWC Arts Program.

We are firm believers in food-based learning. Excellent refreshments will be served. Please bring your own cup, plate/bowl and utensil. The public is invited to attend.