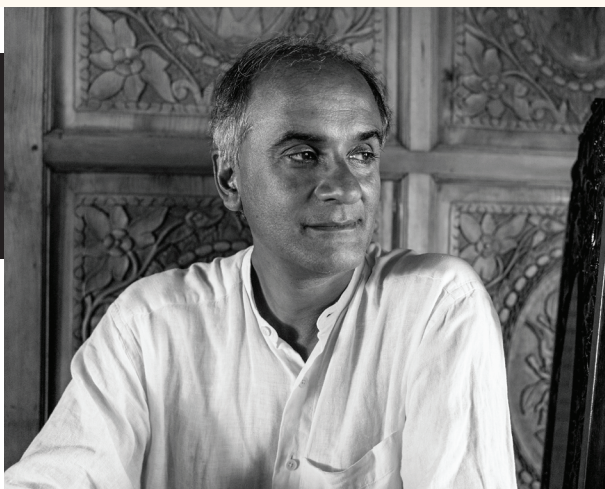


An Evening with Pico Iyer

SACHI and Asian Art Museum present Essayist, Novelist and Travel Writer



In Conversation

Celebrated writer

Pico Iyer

with

Paula Arai

Buddhist Studies scholar-practitioner

and

Robert Mintz

Deputy Director, Asian Art Museum

Thursday

June 10, 2021

6.30 PM - 8.00 PM

(Pacific Standard Time, USA)

A Virtual Zoom Webinar

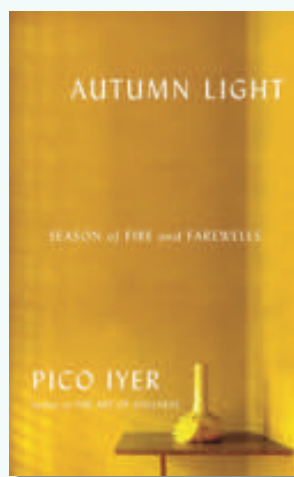
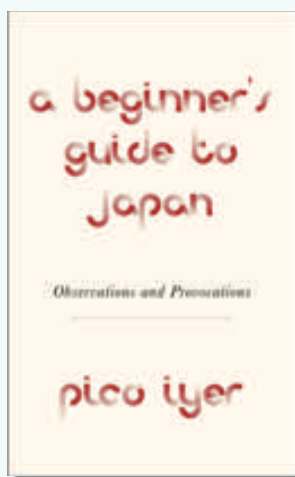
Fees: \$20, SACHI Members and Asian Art Museum Members; \$30, Non-Members

Public program, open to all attendees;
Advance registration required

For queries, please email info@sachi.org

Pico

featuring two most recent works
on his adopted home country



Pico Iyer is one of the most revered and respected travel writers today. He was born in England to Indian parents, raised in California, and educated at Eton, Oxford, and Harvard. Based in Nara, Japan for more than three decades, he has published over a dozen works of nonfiction, two novels, and thought-provoking essays with a devoted fan base that encircles the globe. His far-reaching reflections extend from the Fourteenth Dalai Lama to globalism, the Cuban Revolution to Islamic mysticism. He has been a constant contributor for over thirty years to *Time*, *The New York Times*, *Harper's Magazine*, *the Los Angeles Times*, and over 200 other periodicals worldwide. His book, *The Art of Stillness*, an outcome of a 2013 TED talk probes a key issue of our times: if the best ideas are nurtured in “moments of solitude” how do we retreat from a world in constant motion? His previous book on Japan is titled, *The Lady and the Monk: Four Seasons in Kyoto* (1991). Pico splits his time between Nara, Japan where he lives with his wife, Hiroko, and the United States, spending part of each year in Santa Barbara, and in a Benedictine hermitage in Big Sur, California.

“Despite living in Japan for over three decades, author Pico Iyer nurtures an apartness that he believes enhances his own dialogue with the country”.

BRIGITTE LACOMBE



Paula Arai, Religious Studies scholar at Louisiana State University, received her Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies from Harvard University, specializing in Japanese Sōtō Zen. She is the author of *Painting Enlightenment: Healing Visions of the Heart Sutra*—The Buddhist Art of Iwasaki Tsuneo, *Women Living Zen: Japanese Buddhist Nuns*, and *Bringing Zen Home: The Healing Heart of Japanese Buddhist Women's Rituals*. She currently holds the Urmila Gopal Singhal Professorship in Religions of India at Louisiana State University.

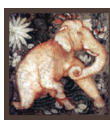


Robert Mintz, Deputy Director, Art and Programs at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, is a scholar of Japanese art with deep interests in cross cultural artistic traditions. Previously, Mintz served as Chief Curator of Asian art at the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore curating a range of exhibitions on 18th century Japanese painting, Japanese decorative arts, modern woodblock prints, and contemporary art from India, Thailand, Japan and China. His publications, *Japanese Ceramics for the 21st Century* and *Japanese Cloisonne Enamels* accompanied exhibitions at the Walters.

Autumn Light: Season of Fire and Farewells is a moving meditation on impermanence, mortality, loss, and grief. Pico leads us through the year following his father-in-law's death. Suddenly he begins to grapple with the question of how to hold on to the things we love in a fragile and impermanent universe. Introducing us to his family in Japan, and the men and women in his ping-pong club many years his senior, who traverse their autumn years in different ways, the memoir is filled with musings about home, family, culture and death. Upholding death as an affirmation of life in all its seasons, Iyer pays homage to a unique Japanese culture - one of delicate manners, self-restraint, and acceptance - in an evocative portrait.

In A Beginner's Guide to Japan: Observations and Provocations Iyer draws on his years of experience—his travels, conversations, readings, and reflections—to craft a playful and profound book of surprising, brief, incisive glimpses into Japanese culture. He recounts his adventures and observations as he travels from one destination in Japan to the next, in a series of provocations guaranteed to pique the interest and curiosity of those who don't know Japan, and to remind those who do, of its myriad fascinations.

SACHI expresses gracious thanks to Vinita & Naren Gupta, Yumi Iwasaki & Anoop Gupta, and Gita & Ashok Vaish for generous program sponsorship.



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