

The Asian Arts & Culture Program at UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center

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WHAT: The Ginkgo Tree: A talk by Sir Peter Crane
WHEN: Tuesday, October 7
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
WHERE: Bowker Auditorium, University of Massachusetts

"You might think you'd have to be a scholarly sort of tree hugger to wrap your mind around GINKGO: The Tree That Time Forgot, by Peter Crane, but this intelligent, literate history is so enticing it will leave you greedy for more."—Dominique Browning, *New York Times Book Review*

The University of Massachusetts Fine Arts Center Asian Arts & Culture Program will host Sir Peter Crane, former director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK for an illustrated talk about the Ginkgo tree on Tuesday, October 7 at 7:00 P.M. in Bowker Auditorium. Peter Crane is the author of the recently published book, *Ginkgo: The Tree That Time Forgot*, honored with A Best Science Book of 2013, from *New Scientist Magazine*. Tickets for the general public are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door and can be purchased by calling the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, Monday through Friday between 10:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Tickets are available anytime on line at: fineartscenter.com. Group discounts are available. Free to Five College and Greenfield Community College students with ID.

Perhaps the world's most distinctive tree, Ginkgo has remained stubbornly unchanged for more than two hundred million years. A living link to the age of dinosaurs, it survived the great ice ages as a relic in China, but it earned its reprieve when people first found it useful about a thousand years ago. Today Ginkgo is beloved for the elegance of its leaves, prized for its edible nuts, and revered for its longevity. In his talk, renowned botanist Peter Crane explores the history of the ginkgo from its mysterious origin through its proliferation, decline, and ultimate resurgence. Dr. Crane highlights the cultural and social significance of the ginkgo: its medicinal and nutritional uses, its power as a source of artistic and religious inspiration, and its importance as one of the world's most popular street trees. "Peter Crane guides us through every aspect of the tree's provenance, at the same time using it to weave an enthralling tale of people, history, evolution and conservation. He leaves no stone unturned in his quest to present the story of this remarkable tree . . ."—Dr Graham Godfrey, *The Biologist*. **Peter Crane** is Carl W. Knobloch Jr. Dean and professor, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University, and former director of The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK. He divides his time between Oak Park, IL, and New Haven, CT.

The Fine Arts Center's Asian Arts & Culture and Center Series are sponsored by Baystate Health & Health New England. Asian Arts & Culture Program Season sponsor is the Pioneer Valley Hotel Group. High resolution images available at: <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressImages>

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