THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER
FALL 2015 CULTURAL PROGRAMS
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

This fall, I invite you to come visit Asia without having to find your passport!

Stony Brook University is a premiere hub of ethnic and cultural diversity, and the Charles B. Wang Center is a superb example of this diversity as well as a gateway to Asian culture. This fall, the Wang Center is leveraging all its cultural resources to provide broad-ranging programs that will give our visitors the opportunity to explore Asia without ever leaving Long Island.

Our programs offer you the opportunity to traverse great distances and leap across time as you experience places from ancient China to medieval Japan to contemporary Singapore. Learn, for example, through the Origami Heaven exhibition and accompanying workshops and lectures that the Japanese art of origami is no longer considered to be only a children’s craft, but in fact influences science, mathematics and high fashion. Commemorate the end of World War II and mark the 50th anniversary of Singapore’s Independence through our exhibition, Reality Override: Mixed Media Works by Ren Zi and a performance by Verena Tay.

Broadening and deepening our Asian cultural journey this fall, the Charles B. Wang Center is providing a one-of-a-kind people’s exhibition entitled Explore History: Objects from Asia that gives you, our community, the opportunity to exhibit family stories and artifacts. Included among these objects will be a grandmother’s Masala brick from India, tiger balm from Singapore and a Japanese beer poster made in the 1930s. We will also explore Asian culinary history through chopsticks, celebrate Halloween by presenting stories of tricksters from Southeast Asia, and during the time of traditional harvest festivals, our center will resonate with the harmonized rhythms of the Beat to the Moon drum festival.

Jinyoung Jin
Associate Director of Cultural Programs
FALL ’15 EXHIBITIONS
ON VIEW 9/9 - 12/31

OPENING RECEPTION
Theatre Lobby

ORIGAMI HEAVEN
Skylight Gallery
Video Gallery

REALITY OVERRIDE
MIXEDMEDIA ART BY SINGAPOREAN ARTIST REN ZI
Zodiac Gallery

EARTH AND SKY
CAPTURED MOVEMENT WORKS BY SOOK JIN JO
Theatre Gallery

EXPLORE HISTORY OBJECTS FROM ASIA
MONTHLY EXHIBITS

SEPTEMBER
TIGER BALM: THE LEGENDARY PAIN RELIEVER FROM SINGAPORE

OCTOBER
PRE-WAR BEER POSTERS FROM JAPAN

NOVEMBER
AMAZING WORLD OF RICE

DECEMBER
GRANDMOTHER’S INDIAN MASALA BRICK

PERFORMANCES, LECTURES & OTHER PROGRAMS

9/9
5 PM
LECTURE | ORIGAMI AND THE MAKING OF BETWEEN THE FOLDS | THEATRE

9/10
2:30 PM
LECTURE | CONTEMPORARY ART PRACTICE FROM A TRANS-ASIAN PERSPECTIVE

9/16
WORKSHOP | FABRIC ORIGAMI TECHNIQUES
10AM - 12PM & 1PM - 3 PM

9/23
1 PM
WORKSHOP | THE ART OF MAKING DHAL PURI - EAST INDIAN FLATBREAD

9/23
6 PM
PERFORMANCE | THE HYPHENATED LIFE: BEING A MULTI-GENRE ARTIST IN MULTICULTURAL SINGAPORE

9/28
6 PM
FESTIVAL | BEAT TO THE MOON!

10/8
2:30 PM
LECTURE | CHOPSTICKS : A CULTURAL AND CULINARY HISTORY

10/15
2:30 PM
LECTURE | ARTIST TALK BY KUMI YAMASHITA

10/24
1:30 PM
WORKSHOP | TRICK OR TREAT : SHADOW PUPPET MAKING

10/24
4 PM
PERFORMANCE | TWO TALES OF TRICKSTERS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA

10/26
6 PM
FILM | THE KILLING FIELDS OF DR. HAING S. NGOR

10/28
1 PM
WORKSHOP | 12-CARD STAR CONSTRUCTION

10/28
6 PM
LECTURE | MODULAR KirIGAMI

11/2
6 PM
FILM | LOVE MARRIAGE IN KABUL

11/12
4 PM
FILM | PEOPLE ARE THE SKY: A JOURNEY TO NORTH KOREA

11/18
2:30 PM
FILM | COMRADE KIM GOES FLYING

12/8
6 PM
PERFORMANCE | KYOGEN : JAPANESE MEDIEVAL COMEDY
EXHIBITIONS

ORIGAMI HEAVEN

Skylight Gallery
Video Gallery

Origami Heaven showcases the extraordinary power and potential of contemporary origami with the work of artists, Thomas Crain (USA), George Hart (USA), Hiroshi Hayakawa (Japan), Qi Hu (China), Wonju Seo (Korea/USA), Fatima Shakil (Pakistan), Jule Waibel (Germany) and Kumi Yamashita (Japan). In the hands of eight international artists, what was once considered a Japanese children’s craft has become a global art phenomenon. These visionary masters redefine the art of origami into breathtaking paintings, sophisticated furniture, wearable fashion, large-scale installations, and conceptual works that express an extraordinary range of bold statements and beautiful ideas.

RELATED PROGRAMS

LECTURE | ORIGAMI AND THE MAKING OF BETWEEN THE FOLDS
9 SEPTEMBER 5 PM | THEATRE (SEE PAGE 19)

WORKSHOP | FABRIC ORIGAMI TECHNIQUES | 16 SEP 10 AM / 1 PM | CHAPEL
(SEE PAGE 25)

LECTURE | KUMI YAMASHITA | 15 OCT 2:30 PM | LECTURE HALL I (SEE PAGE 22)

WORKSHOP | 12-CARD STAR CONSTRUCTION | 28 OCT 1 PM | CHAPEL (SEE
PAGE 28)

LECTURE | MODULAR KIRIGAMI | 28 OCT 6 PM | LECTURE HALL I (SEE PAGE 23)

WORKSHOP | ORIGAMI HEAVEN RETREAT | OCT 31 - NOV 2 | HILTON GARDEN
INN STONY BROOK (PAGE 29)

Image Credit: Entfaltung, Folded Paper Dress and Objects by Jule Waibel
Korean American artist Sook Jin Jo is a multidisciplinary artist who uses found materials such as wood from discarded furniture that resonates with its previous history. Her interconnected themes include — space and form, destruction and rebirth, the material and the spiritual as well as life and death. Inspired by a recent artist’s residency in Shanghai, Jo’s new series of black paintings explores the iconographies of clouds from traditional Chinese painting by contemplating the current air pollution and the complexity of the metropolis.
REALITY OVERRIDE
MIXED MEDIA WORKS BY REN ZI
Zodiac Gallery

In celebration of Singapore’s 50th anniversary of Independence, the Charles B. Wang Center highlights a multitude of Singaporean cultural themes with the artist Ren Zi. Ren Zi is a self-taught digital media artist who uses nature, his personal memories and Singapore’s transformation as inspiration for his art. Ren Zi investigates the malleability of memory and our internal reality by citing phenomenological psychology and Buddhist and Taoist philosophies. Ren Zi prints on a wide range of materials including acrylic, aluminum and bamboo paper. This is Ren Zi’s first exhibition in the United States and the result of his six-month artist residency at Nars Foundation in Brooklyn. Ren Zi has exhibited in Singapore at Ion Art Gallery, Instinct Gallery and Volvo Art Loft.

RELATED PROGRAMS

LECTURE | CONTEMPORARY ART PRACTICE FROM A TRANS-ASIAN PERSPECTIVE | 10 SEPTEMBER 2:30 PM | LECTURE HALL I (PAGE 20)

PERFORMANCE | THE HYPHENATED LIFE: BEING A MULTI-GENRE ARTIST IN MULTI-CULTURAL SINGAPORE. SHARED BY VERENA TAY | 23 SEPTEMBER 6:00 PM | THEATRE (PAGE 15)
EXPLORE HISTORY
OBJECTS FROM ASIA

Jasmine Gallery

Expand your definition of what an exhibition can be with *Explore History: Objects from Asia*, a rotating collaborative exhibition that examines Asian and Asian-American materials culture. A collaborative exhibition curated by faculty, students and community members, Explore History gives the Charles B. Wang Center’s contributors an opportunity to display their own heritages and experience.

Your passion or collection can be on display. Submissions are being accepted on an ongoing basis. Please visit the Call for Proposals section on our website and make your contribution!

MONTHLY EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>TIGER BALM: THE LEGENDARY PAIN RELIEVER FROM SINGAPORE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>PRE-WAR BEER POSTERS FROM JAPAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>AMAZING WORLD OF RICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>GRANDMOTHER’S INDIAN MASALA BRICK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE HYPHENATED LIFE
BEING A MULTI-GENRE ARTIST
IN MULTI-CULTURAL SINGAPORE

Shared by Verena Tay

23 SEPTEMBER at 6PM

Theatre
Admission: $10 (General)
$5 (Students/Seniors)

Tickets may be purchased at thewangcenter.org

Verena Tay shares stories from Singaporean folktales with a twist using her quirky brand of humour to delight and encourage her audience to appreciate a different perspective on life. For thirty years, Verena Tay has practiced theater as well as telling, writing and editing stories in Singapore, one of the world’s most multi-cultural and fastest developing nations. In this sharing, she will read/perform excerpts from her plays and short stories, talk about her creative inspirations and journey, as well as give some insights about the English language literary and theatrical scene in contemporary Singapore. Supported by the Singapore International Foundation and Something to Write Home About.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

A Singapore-based writer and editor, Verena Tay (www.verenatay.com) has published a short story collection, Spectre: Stories from Dark to Light (2012) as well as three play collections, and has edited seven fiction anthologies, including the popular Balik Kampung series published by Math Paper Press. A seasoned storyteller and theatre practitioner, Verena has brought traditional and original stories alive in her unique fashion, delighting audiences in Singapore, Scandinavia, Australia, the U.S. and Malaysia. An Honorary Fellow at the International Writing Program, University of Iowa (Aug–Nov 2007), she holds three Master’s degrees in English Literature, Voice Studies and Creative Writing.
TWO TALES OF TRICKSTERS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA

Performed by Caroline Borderies and Christian Barthod

Puppet masters Caroline Borderies and Christian Barthod revive this cross-cultural art form by interpreting classical Southeast Asian folk tales with their own distinctive French flair. In this performance Ms. Borderies and Mr. Barthod present Two Tales: Xieng Mieng Stories, a shadow play in which the popular Lao character Xieng Mieng uses his quick wits and his sly sense of humor to challenge the king, and The Adventures of Sang Kancil the Mouse-Deer, a Malaysian tale featuring a popular character who uses cleverness and intelligence to triumph over big, mean-spirited animals.

RELATED PROGRAMS

WORKSHOP | TRICK OR TREAT: SHADOW PUPPET MAKING
24 OCTOBER 1:30 PM | CHAPEL (SEE PAGE 27)
ORIGAMI AND THE MAKING OF BETWEEN THE FOLDS
by Vanessa Gould, Director of Documentary Film, Between the Folds

9 SEPT at 5PM

For over four years director and producer Vanessa Gould researched and documented origami and paper artists around the world. Her investigation that revealed unexpected metaphors about film, life, creativity, and the idea of transformation. Gould will share observations on the enigmatic and surprising process of making Between the Folds, and the seemingly unending inspiration found in the medium of origami. Between the Folds premiered on PBS’s Independent Lens in December 2009 and received a Peabody Award in 2010. Between the Folds has been translated into more than ten languages and broadcast in dozens of countries.

The film Between the Folds on view during the exhibition period at the Video Gallery.

RELATED PROGRAMS
EXHIBITION | ORIGAMI HEAVEN | SKYLIGHT GALLERY (SEE PAGE 7)

Image Credit: Entfaltung, Folded Paper Dress by Jule Waibel
CONTEMPORARY ART PRACTICE FROM A TRANS-ASIAN PERSPECTIVE

with Artist Ren Zi | moderated by Prof. Kyunghee Pyun, SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology

Ren Zi is a contemporary artist of Singapore. He studied psychology and worked as a commercial writer before he devoted himself full-time to the arts. Figurative characters in his fantastic drawings are created in digital mediums and then printed on various media such as acrylic, aluminium and bamboo paper. Ren Zi is a product of Singapore, exposed to its multi-ethnic geo-political environment as well as global currents in high art and pop culture. Professor Kyunghee Pyun will open a dialogue with this quirky artist who is also partly otaku, partly science geek, and partly utopian dreamer.

CHOPSTICKS A CULTURAL AND CULINARY HISTORY

Dr. Q. Edward Wang

Chopsticks have become a quintessential part of the Japanese, Chinese and Korean culinary experience across the globe, with more than one-fifth of the world’s population using them daily to eat. In this talk on the culture, custom and history of chopsticks, Q. Edward Wang will chart their evolution from a simple eating implement in ancient times to their status as a much more complex cultural symbol today. He will also illustrate how chopstick use has influenced Asian cuisine and how, in turn, the cuisine continues to influence chopstick use, both in Asia and across the globe.

A BOOK SIGNING WILL FOLLOW THE LECTURE; BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

SUPPORTED BY THE SBU CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE.

RELATED PROGRAMS

EXHIBITION | REALITY OVERRIDE: MIXED MEDIA ART BY SINGAPOREAN ARTIST REN ZI SKYLIGHT GALLERY (SEE PAGE 11)
ARTIST TALK
KUMI YAMASHITA

by Kumi Yamashita

Much of Kumi Yamashita’s artwork begins with everyday objects such as building blocks, paper, numbers and thread. While employing these everyday objects, Ms. Yamashita transforms each one in something extraordinary. Ms. Yamashita will give an overview of her work and will discuss how she has recently been inspired by origami.

MODULAR KIRIGAMI

by George Hart

Related to origami (paper folding) is kirigami (paper cutting) and just as modular origami involves assembling many identical pieces of folded paper, so modular kirigami involves assembling many identical pieces of cut paper to make a beautiful symmetric structure. This talk will be a highly visual introduction to the techniques of modular kirigami and some of the mathematical ideas that underlie it.

RELATED PROGRAMS

EXHIBITION | ORIGAMI HEAVEN | SKYLIGHT GALLERY (SEE PAGE 7)
WORKSHOP | 12-CARD STAR CONSTRUCTION | CHAPEL (SEE PAGE 28)
Fabric Origami Techniques

with Wonju Seo

16 Sept at 10AM & 1PM

Each session is the same, so please only sign up for one.

Session 1 | 10AM - 12PM
Session 2 | 1PM - 3PM

Chapel
Admission: $20 (General)
$10 (Students/Seniors)

Each session is limited to 20 participants

Tickets may be purchased at thewongcenter.org

Patchwork artist Wonju Seo teaches an array of origami techniques for folding fabric in order to create exciting and beautiful geometric designs influenced by traditional Korean temple door patterns. Participants at all origami experience levels are welcome.

Related Programs

Exhibition | Origami Heaven | Skylight Gallery (Page 7)

Exhibition | Wrappings with Blessings: Korean Patchwork by Wonju Seo | On View Between Stony Brook University Hospital and the Health Science Tower on Level 5.
THE ART OF MAKING

DHAL PURI
EAST INDIAN FLATBREAD

CULINARY WORKSHOP
with Shakeera Thomas

Dhal puri is a type of Indian-inspired flatbread that is made in Guyana. The flatbread is stuffed with a seasoned filling of ground yellow split peas. It is made for family and friends during holidays and especially for weddings. Shakeera Thomas will demonstrate the process of using the masala brick, a grinding kitchen tool, to make dhal puri. Participants will have the opportunity to make and knead their own dough that they can take home to bake. Before participants leave, they will have the opportunity to savour homemade dhal puri.

RELATED PROGRAMS

EXHIBITION | EXPLORE HISTORY: OBJECTS FROM ASIA GRANDMOTHER’S INDIAN MASALA BRICK | JASMINE GALLERY | (SEE PAGE 13)

TRICK OR TREAT
SHADOW PUPPET MAKING

by Caroline Borderies and Christian Barthod

Acclaimed French puppetry artists Caroline Borderies and Christian Barthod present a hands-on workshop before their performance of Two Tales of Tricksters from Southeast Asia. Participants will be introduced to the colorful mechanics, techniques, and history of shadow puppetry, preparing them for a deeper appreciation of the performance to follow.

It’s a great afternoon for kids! Workshop participants will make puppets in the shape of traditional Halloween figures such as witches, cats, ghosts, and bats, as well as other scary characters celebrated in Asia.

RELATED PROGRAMS

PERFORMANCE | TWO TALES OF TRICKSTERS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA | (SEE PAGE 16)
12-CARD STAR CONSTRUCTION

by George Hart

In this workshop, participants will learn how to make an intricate construction from playing cards. The cards are both slotted and folded, so ideas from both modular origami and modular kirigami are involved. Each participant can take home their own unique construction.

ORIGAMI HEAVEN RETREAT

Complete your Origami Heaven experience with the Origami Heaven Retreat at the Hilton Garden Inn. Participate in workshops and classes on origami and be a part of the origami community with artists and folders from around the globe.

RELATED PROGRAMS

EXHIBITION | ORIGAMI HEAVEN | SKYLIGHT GALLERY (SEE PAGE 7)
LECTURE | MODULAR KIRIGAMI | THEATRE (SEE PAGE 23)

RELATED PROGRAMS

EXHIBITION | ORIGAMI HEAVEN | SKYLIGHT GALLERY (SEE PAGE 7)
Set against the backdrop of Cambodia’s Khmer Rouge reign of terror, *The Killing Fields of Dr. Haing S. Ngor* chronicles a powerful journey of love, loss and reconciliation. The years encapsulating this horrific period are seen through the eyes of Dr. Haing S. Ngor, who escaped to America and recreated his experiences in *The Killing Fields*, winning an Oscar® for his first film. From 1975 to 1979, the Khmer Rouge’s social experiment transformed the country into a communist agricultural utopia, causing the deaths of some two million Cambodians who perished from mass starvation, forced labor, torture, slavery, ethnic cleansing and political executions. Dr. Ngor became the de facto worldwide ambassador for truth and justice in his homeland, only to be gunned down in an alley in Chinatown Los Angeles – a case still surrounded by transnational conspiracy theories.
LOVE MARRIAGE IN KABUL

Port Jefferson Documentary Film Series

Love Marriage In Kabul is a fascinating and moving story following romance, courtship and marriage practices in Afghanistan. The film won the Audience Award for best documentary at the 2014 Sydney Film Festival. Love Marriage in Kabul details Mahboba’s untangling of a seemingly forbidden love between Abdul, an orphaned boy, and Fatemeh, the girl next door. The documentary is driven with suspense as the characters plot and journey tirelessly to unite Abdul and Fatemeh. This is a film which transcends its genre. It is not a mere recounting of events, nor is it a dramatisation. Rather, the filmmakers have cracked the surface of the story, allowing audiences to be compelled and engrossed in the human drama. In addition, an unexpected pivot escalates tension to a feverish pitch, and the documentary becomes gripping reality.

(2014 | 85 MIN. | AUSTRALIA | AFGHANISTAN | PERSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | DOCUMENTARY)

PEOPLE IN THE SKY

JOURNEY TO NORTH KOREA

Introduction & Q&A by film’s producer, Dai Sil Kim-Gibson

People Are the Sky, Kim-Gibson’s eighth, and most personal film, connects two ideas: the search for home, and the nature of ordinary people, while exploring the evolution of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) in relation to the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the USA. The film’s title was inspired by Dong Hak, or Eastern Learning, the indigenous Korean religion / philosophy that arose in the late 19th century. Dong Hak teaches that God is Ha Nu Nim – he who resides in the sky – and that all people are equal with God: a teaching that elevates common people and gives rise to the saying “People Are the Sky.”

(2015 | KOREA | 90MIN | KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | DOCUMENTARY)

SUPPORTED BY SBU CENTER FOR KOREAN STUDIES.
COMRADE KIM GOES FLYING

Introduction and Q&A by Producer/Director Nicholas Bonner

Comrade Kim Goes Flying is a 2012 joint British-Belgian-North Korean romantic comedy set and filmed in Pyongyang, North Korea. The film’s star Han Jong-sim, an actual aerialist who took acting lessons especially for this role, plays a young woman named Kim Yong Mi, who is sent from her small mining town to Pyongyang to work at a construction site. She then pursues her dream of becoming a circus trapeze artist despite her family and her community’s disapproval. This groundbreaking film tells a story not common in North Korea, one that highlights feminist individualism. Comrade Kim Yong Mi succeeds in winning over the circus bureaucracy and her nemesis, the circus strongman Pak Jang Phil (and his mother), through her talent, beauty, personality and cleverness.

(2012 | 81 MIN | KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | ROMANTIC COMEDY)
FULL MOON FESTIVAL
BEAT TO THE MOON!

28 SEPT at 6PM
Charles B. Wang Center Outdoor Garden
FREE ADMISSION

RSVP as an audience or drummer at thewangcenter.org
Percussionists of all ages, musical levels and instruments are welcome to celebrate with us.

For thousands of years right down to the present day, the rise of the autumn full moon has launched harvest festivals across East Asia. This year, the Charles B. Wang Center will be celebrating as well—with an evening of joyous drum performances. Professional and amateur percussionists from on- and off-campus will gather together in our outdoor garden to beat pulse-quickening rhythms and harmonies. Come and join us, whether to listen or to drum.
SUPPORTER OF CULTURAL PROGRAMS AT THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER
Bishembarnath and Sheela Mattoo
CENTER FOR INDIA STUDIES

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