FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I’d like to wish you a happy new year. I hope that this Year of the Monkey is a healthy and prosperous one for you and your family. This last year has been an amazing one for the Charles B. Wang Center community. Our network of friends both new and longtime, from on campus and all across Long Island, have shown unprecedented enthusiasm for our programs. Their input and energy have even helped to shape the artistic and cultural programs we develop.

If our spring season is any indication, 2016 will be just as exciting.

Expect a number of unexpected programs to feed the mind and the soul. We’ll be featuring lectures on the intersection of Buddhism and stand-up comedy; a theater production that explores what it’s like to be Muslim in New York City, and a performance by one of the best taiko drum groups in Japan. Our arts exhibitions will cover the spectrum from art that uses buildings as a canvas to Korean digital comics.

Come see what this spring has in store for you. Our full schedule of programs is online at thewangcenter.org, and can be found at public libraries throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties. As you browse, please remember that our lectures, hands-on workshops, Chinese New Year celebrations and Cherry Blossom festival all continue to be very popular, and early booking is advised!

I look forward to meeting and getting the chance to talk with you this spring, about what captures your imagination and what programming you would like to see more of.

Best wishes and happy Year of the Monkey,

Jinyoung Jin
Director of Cultural Programs

THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER

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thewangcenter.org
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GALLERY & BUILDING HOURS
Monday through Friday: 10 AM — 8 PM
Saturdays and Sundays: 12 PM — 8 PM
Admission is free and open to the public.

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Image Credit (front and back cover)
Sun K. Kwak Untying Space, Sala Alcala 31, 2007, photo provided by Sala Alcala 31, Madrid

PHOTO BY HEATHER WALKER
SPRING ’16 EXHIBITIONS

ON VIEW 3/10 - 5/31

OPENING RECEPTION
Theatre Lobby

SPACE DRAWING
BY SUN K. KWAK
Long Term Installation
Theatre Gallery

SHIVA AHMADI
SPHERES OF SUSPENSION
Skylight Gallery

WEBTOON
THE EVOLUTION OF KOREAN DIGITAL COMICS
Jasmine Gallery, Video Gallery, Zodiac Gallery

EXPLORE HISTORY OBJECTS FROM ASIA
MONTHLY EXHIBITS

FEBRUARY
MITSUKO’S GARDEN: A BIT OF KYOTO IN STONY BROOK

MARCH
THREE BIRTH SPIRITS FROM KOREA

APRIL
DOROTHY YASUOKA’S EXPERIENCE: WW II JAPANESE INTERNMENT CAMP, 1944

MAY
SHAOXING: DAUGHTER’S WINE

LECTURES, FILMS & OTHER PROGRAMS

3/10
5 PM
SPRING 2016 EXHIBITIONS OPENING RECEPTION
Theatre Lobby

3/23
5:30 PM
FILM | BUDDHA MOUNTAIN
Theatre

4/05
11:30 AM
LECTURE | UNPACKING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE: ASIAN-AMERICANS ON LONG ISLAND
Lecture Hall I

4/06
6 PM
PERFORMANCE | BEYOND SACRED: VOICES OF MUSLIM IDENTITY
Theatre

4/13
6 PM
PERFORMANCE | TAIKO DRUMMING AND DANCE TROUP
Theatre

4/14
1 PM
LECTURE | KOREA’S DIGITAL COMICS: THE EVOLUTION OF WEBTOON IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT
Theatre

4/15
1 PM
LECTURE | IT’S FUNNY BECAUSE IT’S TRUE: BUDDHIST REALISM AND THE DARK COMEDY OF LOUIS C.K.
Theatre

4/16
1 PM
LECTURE | LAUGHING TO DEATH: OVERCOMING EXISTENTIAL ANXIETY WITH BUDDHISM AND COMEDY
Theatre

4/27
5:30 PM
FILM | A SIMPLE LIFE
Theatre

5/01
12 PM-5 PM
FESTIVAL | CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL
Charles B. Wang Center

5/04
1 PM
LECTURE | CONFUCIUS: HIS THOUGHTS ABOUT FOOD
Theatre

5/13, 27
1 PM-3 PM
WORKSHOP | INK PAINTING: PLUM BLOSSOM FOR BEGINNERS
Chapel

5/14
1 PM-6 PM
FESTIVAL | ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH
Charles B. Wang Center
EXHIBITIONS

SPACE DRAWING
BY SUN K. KWAK
Theatre Gallery

New York-based Korean-American artist Sun K. Kwak's canvas is architectural space and her primary medium is black masking tape. Kwak achieves the effect of painterly strokes by tearing away the tape from the surfaces of architectural spaces. Her sprawling freehand strokes weave designs over surfaces to dramatic effect. Sun K. Kwak creates a site-specific installation at the Charles B. Wang Center by creating lines that liberate the space, and in doing so, transforming the space into a new pictorial reality.

OPENING RECEPTION
MAR 10 at 5 PM
Remarks by Sun K. Kwak
Theatre Lobby
Free and Open to the Public
RSVP at thewangcenter.org

The Charles B. Wang Center thanks Shurtape for its in-kind donation of materials in support of this exhibition.

ON VIEW
LONG TERM INSTALLATION
Image Credit: Untying Space Installation view at Gwangju Biennale, 2006, Masking Tape, Wooden Panel Structure | Photo by Youngha Cho
SHIVA AHMADI
SPHERES OF SUSPENSION
Skylight Gallery

This exhibition features the lush, imaginative artwork of contemporary Iranian-American artist Shiva Ahmadi and includes work across a variety of mediums, such as painting, video, and paper-based art. With a nimble point of view reflected through dexterous brush strokes, Ahmadi’s work wrestles with the global subjects of social trauma and corruption.

ON VIEW
MARCH 10 — MAY 31, 2016
Image Credit: Untitled 12, 2013, Graphite on paper, 14 x 11 inches
Courtesy of Leila Heller Gallery
South Korea’s entertainment landscape is shaped by a force that’s not widely known in the West: The webtoon. The Webtoon is digital comics run the gamut from comedies to dramas, from thrillers to romances and elaborate fantasies. It can be enjoyed anywhere, anytime, online and on mobile devices. This exhibition showcases the diverse genres of Webtoon as well as Webtoon originated films and TV dramas, musical performances, and souvenirs.

**RELATED PROGRAMS**

**LECTURE | KOREA’S DIGITAL COMICS: THE EVOLUTION OF WEBTOON IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT | APRIL 14, 1 PM | THEATRE (PAGE 22)**

The exhibition is organized by the Korean Cultural Service in New York and supported by Naver’s Line Webtoon, RollingStory’s Spottoon and TappyToon.
EXPLORE HISTORY
OBJECTS FROM ASIA

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.

Please visit our website and make your contribution!

MONTHLY EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

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BEYOND SACRED
VOICES OF MUSLIM IDENTITY

by Ping Chong + Company and directed by Ping Chong and Written by Ping Chong and Sara Zatz, with Ryan Conarro and in collaboration with performers Tiffany Yasmin Abdelghani, Firdous Dehghan, Kadin Herring, Amir Khafagy and Maha Syed.

APR 6 at 6 PM

Theatre
Admission: $10 (General)
$5 (Students/Seniors)
Tickets at thewangcenter.org

Beyond Sacred is an interview-based theatre production exploring the diverse experiences of Muslim communities within New York City. The five cast members of Beyond Sacred share the common experience of coming of age in a post-9/11 New York City, at a time of increasing Islamophobia. Participants come from a range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds and include young men and women that reflect a wide range of Muslim identities; including those who have converted to Islam; those who were raised Muslim, but have since left the faith; those who identify as “culturally” Muslim, and those who are observant on a daily basis.

Beyond Sacred was commissioned by LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, where it premiered in April 2015, with the generous support of APAP and the Doris Duke Foundation Building Bridges Grant. 2015-2016 presentations are taking place with the support of the Doris Duke Foundation For Islamic Art.
**TAIKO DRUMMING AND DANCE TROUPE**

Performed by Tamagawa University Dance and Taiko Group

One of the top-ranking taiko groups in Japan will perform thundering taiko drumming rhythms accompanied by traditional Japanese dance, with nearly 30 drummers and dancers taking the stage. Tamagawa University Dance and Taiko Group has been touring the world since 1961, visiting Mexico, England, Greece, Canada, Malaysia, Russia, Indonesia, Africa and the United States. This is their 12th Annual East Coast Tour, which takes them from Washington, D.C. to Philadelphia and New York. Tamagawa University Dance and Taiko Group recently won third prize in a competition against 450 other groups at the Tokyo International Taiko contest.

**APR 13 at 6 PM**

Theatre

Admission: $10 (General)

$5 (Students/Seniors)

Tickets at thewangcenter.org

Presented with the support of the Japan Center at SBU.
ARTIST TALK
by Sun K. Kwak

New York-based Korean-American artist Sun K. Kwak is creating a site-specific installation at the Charles B. Wang Center’s Theatre Gallery using a black masking tape. As part of the artist’s opening reception, Sun K. Kwak will talk about her choice of mediums and architectural spaces.

UNPACKING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE
ASIAN-AMERICANS ON LONG ISLAND

Professor Peg Christoff and her students researched Asian and Asian-American groups on Long Island in order to raise awareness about stereotyping, challenges of immigration, rituals and values embedded in pop culture and film, multiculturalism, and Asian and Asian-American identities. Prof. Christoff will discuss how these projects reveal the “presence of the past.”

APR 5 at 11:30 AM
Lecture Hall I
Free Admission
RSVP at thewangcenter.org
KOREA’S DIGITAL COMICS
THE EVOLUTION OF WEBTOON IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

by Ernest Woo

From TV dramas to K-pop, recent years have seen Korea’s cultural industry gain a global audience. Much of the fodder for that content has come from Korean webtoon: digitally based comics. With an impressive range of stories in a variety of artistic styles, Korean webtoon creators and artists are the new tastemakers and pop culture heroes, and their fan base now spanning readers and consumers of all ages from around the world. The lecture will introduce webtoons, their growth and how they formed over the last decade from the interaction of Korea’s comic book market, the global publishing industry and neighboring Asian influences.

APR 14 at 1 PM
Theatre
Free Admission
RSVP at thewangcenter.org

IT’S FUNNY BECAUSE IT’S TRUE
BUDDHIST REALISM AND THE DARK COMEDY OF LOUIS C.K.

by Dr. Christopher Kelley

Dr. Christopher Kelley explores comedy as a vehicle for truth, and in particular, the essential meaning of the Buddha’s teaching on the four noble truths about suffering, the cause of suffering, the cessation of suffering and the path that leads to the end of suffering. Dr. Kelley combines traditional Buddhist scholarship with a novel analysis of comedy sets from the likes of Louis C.K.

APR 15 at 1 PM
Theatre
Free Admission
RSVP at thewangcenter.org
Laughing to Death
Overcoming Existential Anxiety
With Buddhism and Comedy

by Dr. Christopher Kelley

Existential anxiety is often precipitated by a direct encounter
with the ephemeral nature of life.

Dr. Christopher Kelley explores both Buddhism and comedy
as a palliative for existential anxiety. Dr. Kelley argues that
certain forms of “dark” comedy actually function in much
the same way Buddhist discourse is intended to provide
the individual with a more realistic view of life and death.

APR 16 at 1 PM
Theatre
Free Admission
RSVP at thewangcenter.org

Confucius
His Thoughts About Food

by Dr. Jacqueline M. Newman

Though he taught over 2,000 years ago, Confucius (551
- 479 BCE) remains a major force in Chinese thinking:
And his thoughts on cuisine are just as potent. China’s most
famous teacher, philosopher, and educator liked his own
rice polished and his meat cut properly and fine. He spoke
about diet, food presentation, hygiene, integrity, heaven’s
will, and the way things ought to be.

This lecture discusses his life, his thoughts about food, and
the memorable meals served at the Kong Mansion. After the
lecture related dishes will be tasted.

MAY 4 at 1 PM
Theatre
Free Admission
RSVP at thewangcenter.org

Co-sponsored by Special Collections of the
University Libraries, The Confucius Institute
and the Charles B. Wang Center.
WORKSHOPS

INK PAINTING
PLUM BLOSSOM FOR BEGINNERS

by Sungsook Setton

Throughout East Asia, plum blossoms, as depicted in water-ink painting and poetry, have been well loved. The main reason why the plum is regarded as a symbol of the uprightness of the Confucian gentleman is because it puts down its roots in the frozen ground in spite of the snow and spreads its fragrance, transcending the difficulties and obstacles of a harsh secular world.

Through the three weeks workshop students will learn the proper use of the brush and watercolors, suitable paper, a wide range of brushstrokes, principles of composition, and the positive use of space, all of which are part of the dynamic nature and spirit of the medium. Emphasis will also be placed on technique, skill and discipline. Through practice, students will develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of traditional East Asian water-ink art.

MAY 6, 13, 27 at 1 PM-3 PM

Chapel
Admission: $90 (General) | $45 (Students/Seniors)
Fee is for all three sessions and includes all materials
Attendance is limited to 30 participants
Tickets at thewangcenter.org
BUDDHA MOUNTAIN
(2010 | 105 minutes | Drama | Directed by Li Yu)

Buddha Mountain begins with the story of three young people from Sichuan who share a house: Nanfeng who runs away from her broken family, Ding Bo who does not get along with his father, and Feizao who comes from a wealthy but uncaring family. The trio spend most of their time together, sharing lives with no clear direction. With the renovation of the house they are renting, they are forced to move to a new place. Their new landlady, Yueqin is a Peking Opera performer with a bitter outlook on life. Living under the same roof, conflicts repeatedly arise between Yueqin and the three young tenants. However, as time goes by, these four lonely and lost souls begin to find comfort and warmth among each other, despite their unhappy past.

Introduction and Q&A by Prof. E.K. Tan, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, Department of Cultural Analysis & Theory

MAR 23 at 5:30 PM
Theatre
Free Admission
RSVP at thewangcenter.org

APR 27 at 5:30 PM
A SIMPLE LIFE
(2011 | 119 minutes | Drama | Directed by Ann Hui)

From the acclaimed Hong Kong director Ann Hui, A Simple Life is based on producer Roger Lee’s relationship with the family maid who raised him as a child. Sixty years after working for the Liang household, Ah Tao is left serving the young master, Roger, as other family members pass away or migrate to other countries. Though Ah Tao and Roger live amicably and interdependently for a decade, their daily interaction is minimal. When Ah Tao suffers from a stroke and requests to be moved to a retirement home, Roger begins to realize the importance of Ah Tao to him. This film leads us on a journey as the young master establishes a touching kinship with Ah Tao more than six decades after knowing one another.

Introduction and Q&A by Prof. E.K. Tan, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, Department of Cultural Analysis & Theory

Presented in partnership with the Confucius Institute at Stony Brook University

Theatre
Free Admission
RSVP at thewangcenter.org
2016 begins the “Year of the Monkey” on the traditional lunar calendar. In China, it is traditionally celebrated from New Year’s Eve until the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the first month, making the festival one of the longest holidays on the calendar.

This year the Confucius Institute at Stony Brook University will be holding their much anticipated New Year Performance and Celebration on Saturday, February 6 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Some highlights of the 2016 celebration will include professional Lion Dancers, acrobats, traditional Peking Opera performers, magic and much more. The performance will be followed by refreshments.

FEB 6 at 3-5 PM
Theatre
Free Admission
RSVP at thewangcenter.org
SAKURA MATSURI
CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Welcome spring to Long Island with blooming sakura (cherry blossom), sounds of taiko drums, and a wondrous array of Japanese cultural exhibits at the Charles B. Wang Center. The Charles B. Wang Center will be filled with exciting activities including a short animation film screening, Ikebana flower arrangement, tea workshops, drawing manga comics, origami paper folding, kimono dress-ups, and cosplay (costumed role-play of a Japanese manga character) for all ages.

Please join us with your favorite manga character dress. It’s free for children under 12. Space is limited for the workshops, so make your reservation fast! For tickets and additional information, visit our website at thewangcenter.org.

MAY 1 at 12-5 PM

Charles B. Wang Center
Rain or Shine
Tickets at thewangcenter.org

This festival is co-produced by the Japan Center at Stony Brook University and the Ryu Shu Kan Japanese Arts Center.

TICKET INFO

$20 (GENERAL)
$15 (STUDENTS/SENIORS)
For all programs including Theatre arts, Bamboo Flute and Poetry Readings, Tea ceremonies, and Flower Arrangement workshops.

FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12

$10 (GENERAL)
$5 (STUDENTS/SENIORS)
For an individual program.

JAPANESE THEATRE ARTS 1
1 PM-2:30 PM
$10 (GENERAL)
$5 (STUDENTS/SENIORS)

JAPANESE THEATRE ARTS 2
3:30 PM-5:00 PM
$10 (GENERAL)
$5 (STUDENTS/SENIORS)

SHAKUHACHI & HAiku
(BAMBOO FLUTE AND POETRY READING)
12:30 PM, 2PM, 3:30 PM
30-45 MINUTE SESSIONS
$10 (GENERAL)
$5 (STUDENTS/SENIORS)

TEA CEREMONY
1 PM & 2:30 PM | 45 MINUTE SESSIONS
$10 (GENERAL)
$5 (STUDENTS/SENIORS)

IKEBANA FLOWER ARRANGEMENT
12 PM & 2:30 PM | 45 MINUTE SESSIONS
$10 (GENERAL)
$5 (STUDENTS/SENIORS)

ORIGAMI WORKSHOP
1 PM-4 PM
FREE

KIMONO DRESS-UPS
12 PM-5 PM
FREE

ANIMATION FILM SCREENING
12 PM-5 PM
FREE

COSPLAY (Welcome to Dress-up!)
12 PM-5 PM
FREE
ASIAN-AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

Join us for the Asian-American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration at The Charles B. Wang Center. This celebration promotes cultural awareness of Asian-Pacific American communities and celebrates the diversity of Long Island’s population. The Festival will feature multicultural dance and musical performances, open theater and awards ceremonies.

The Annual Asian-Pacific American Heritage Celebration is organized by the Suffolk County Asian-American Advisory Board; the Suffolk County Office of Minority Affairs; and The Charles B. Wang Center at Stony Brook University.

MAY 14 at 1 PM-6 PM

Charles B. Wang Center
Rain or Shine
RSVP at thewangcenter.org