

THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER

SPRING 2021 CULTURAL PROGRAMS



THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER

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GALLERY & BUILDING HOURS

Monday through Friday: 10 AM – 8 PM
Saturdays and Sundays: CLOSED
Admission is free and open to the public.

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*Image credit (front & cover):
Guardian Spirits, mid-twentieth century. Color on paper and fabric, 42 (H) x 63 (W) inches.
The Korea Society Collection.*



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As we embark on our spring season, I feel compelled to begin this season with an acknowledgment of our community's support over the past year. Admittedly, it has a challenge to manage the existential threats and instability of these confusing times, but we are delighted and heartened by the huge response from our audiences virtually. I am excited to welcome you this year to a new treasure trove of Asian art and culture.

Putting together exhibitions is one of my deepest passions, and it's always a privilege to showcase beautiful and relevant art in this crazy, frustrating world. Our spring exhibition, ***Power, Protection, and Magic: The Art of Shamanism***, will share both ancient wisdom and hope for a better future. Currently, we offer virtual and in-person options to view the exhibition, as well as a robust schedule of educational public programming. Please periodically check our website for policy updates as we expect to welcome our broader community back to the Wang Center this spring.

The year 2020 was a strange one, but this hasn't stopped us from forging ahead. I look forward to you enjoying our new exhibition either virtually or in the gallery. I also hope you will join us for many virtual programs to celebrate the diversity of Asian art and culture.

Wishing you much health, as ever,

Jinyoung A. Jin
Director of Cultural Programs

SPRING 2021 EXHIBITIONS

POWER, PROTECTION, AND MAGIC: THE ART OF SHAMANISM

ON VIEW THROUGH 5/31
Skylight Gallery

THE STUDIO: THROUGH A SURREALISTIC LENS

BY PROJECT GROUP GREEM

Long-term Installation
Theatre Gallery

SIMPLICITY OVER COMPLEXITY

BY JONGIL MA

Long-term Installation
Wang Center Outdoor Garden

ZEN ROCK GARDEN

Long-term Installation
Wang Center Outdoor Garden

EXPLORE HISTORY OBJECTS FROM ASIA

MITSUKO'S GARDEN: A BIT OF KYOTO IN STONY BROOK

Long-term Installation
Garden View Gallery

LECTURES, FILMS, & OTHER PROGRAMS

LECTURE | PENSANDO XĪBĀNYÁ: VOICES FROM THE CHINESE DIASPORA IN SPAIN

LIVE WEBCAST

LECTURE #1: 2/17 @ 1 PM - CULTURAL PRODUCTION

LECTURE #2: 3/24 @ 1 PM - WRITING AND DIASPORA

LECTURE #3: 4/14 @ 1 PM - ACTIVISM AND EDUCATION

LECTURE | SHAMANS, GODS, AND PAINTED IMAGES

LECTURE | SPICING IT UP! HOW THE CHILE PEPPER WENT FROM OBSCURITY TO UBIQUITY IN CHINA

LECTURE | MOTTAINAI: REUSE, REMAKE, AND REVIVE

LECTURE #1: PATCHWORK FROM INDIA

LECTURE #2: PATCHWORK FROM THE HMONG HILL TRIBES OF CHINA
AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

WORKSHOP | PERSIAN TEA CEREMONY: HOW TO BREW & SERVE

WORKSHOP | PERSIAN GEOMETRIC ART

SESSION 1: DRAWING WITHOUT A COMPASS

SESSION 2: DRAWING & DESIGNING WITH SHAPES

SESSION 3: INTEGRATED PATTERNS FROM NATANZ-ISFAHAN

WORKSHOP | ORIGAMI HEAVEN

SESSION 1: WANG WALLET

SESSION 2: HAPPY YEAR OF OX

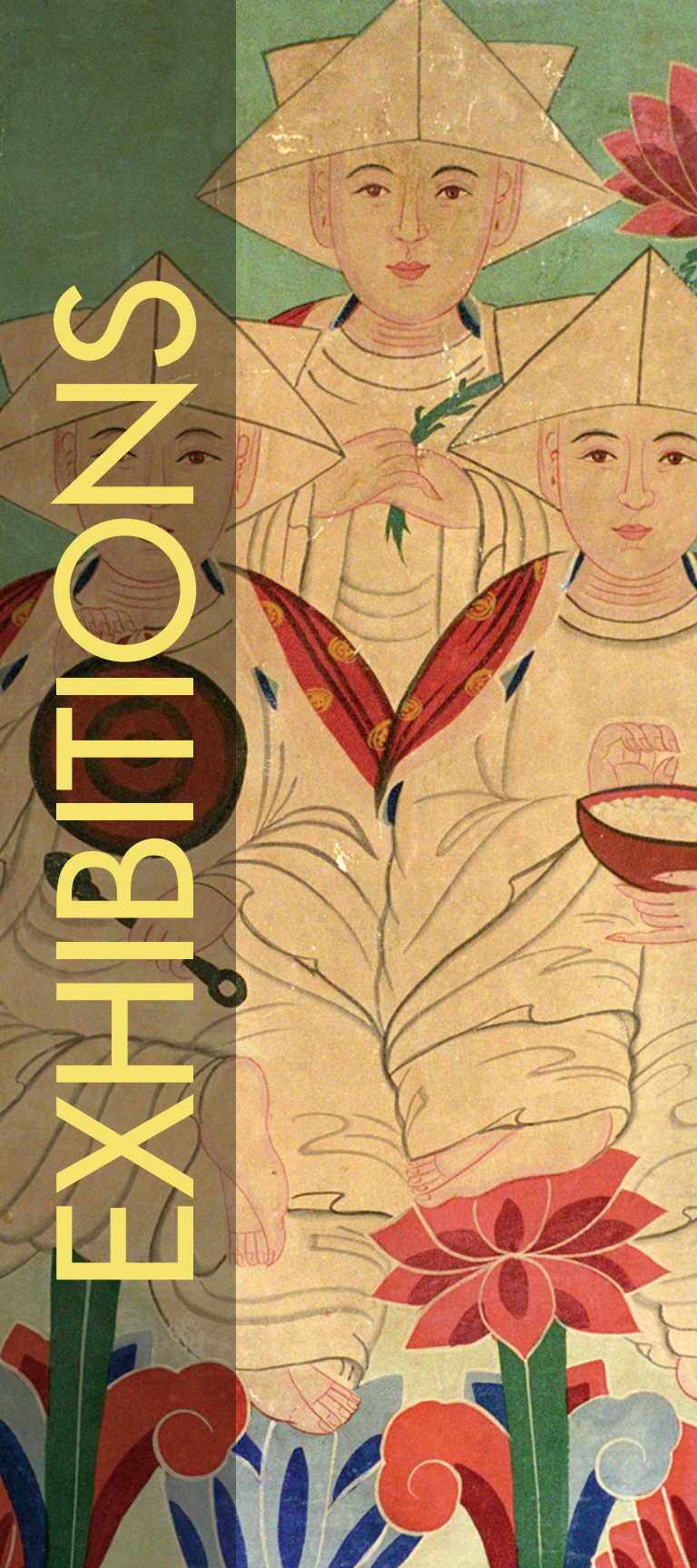
FILM | KRABI, 2562

FILM | A THOUSAND CUTS

FESTIVAL | HAPPY NEW YEAR: GOOD LUCK AND FORTUNE

FESTIVAL WORKSHOP: LEARN TO CROCHET DARUMA DOLLS

FESTIVAL | HAPPY NOWRUZ: THE PERSIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION WITH OLIVE, WALNUT, & POMEGRANATE VEGAN PERSIAN APPETIZER



EXHIBITIONS

POWER, PROTECTION, AND MAGIC

THE ART OF SHAMANISM

Skylight Gallery

Shamanism is an ancient and ubiquitous phenomenon in both the East and the West, and it has often co-existed with other forms of magic, superstition, and religion. Curated by Jinyoung A. Jin, this exhibition presents a selection of rare iconographic paintings to explore shamanism as a religion, a culture, and a belief system in Korea. The vibrantly colored, elaborately depicted deities are made for use by shamans, who serve as intermediaries between the physical and spiritual worlds, and between the community and various deities, in order to make the universe right.

All of the works on view are on loan from the Korea Society in New York.



ON VIEW

THROUGH MAY 31, 2021

SHAMANS, GODS, AND PAINTED IMAGES

By Laurel Kendall

Drawing on nearly forty years of learning from and writing about Korean shamans (*mansin*), anthropologist Laurel Kendall gives a brief introduction to the shamans' work, drawing particular attention to the relationship between the *mansin* and their guardian gods. She describes the shaman's performance of ritual (*kut*) as something distinct from an act of "spirit possession" or a "trance." Rather, the *mansin* is empowered to transmit the gods' intentions through a mingling of inspiration (*myönggi*) and performance art. Painted images work in this configuration as vehicles of the gods' presence. That these paintings are more than just paintings affects how they are chosen, fabricated, cared for, and disposed of.

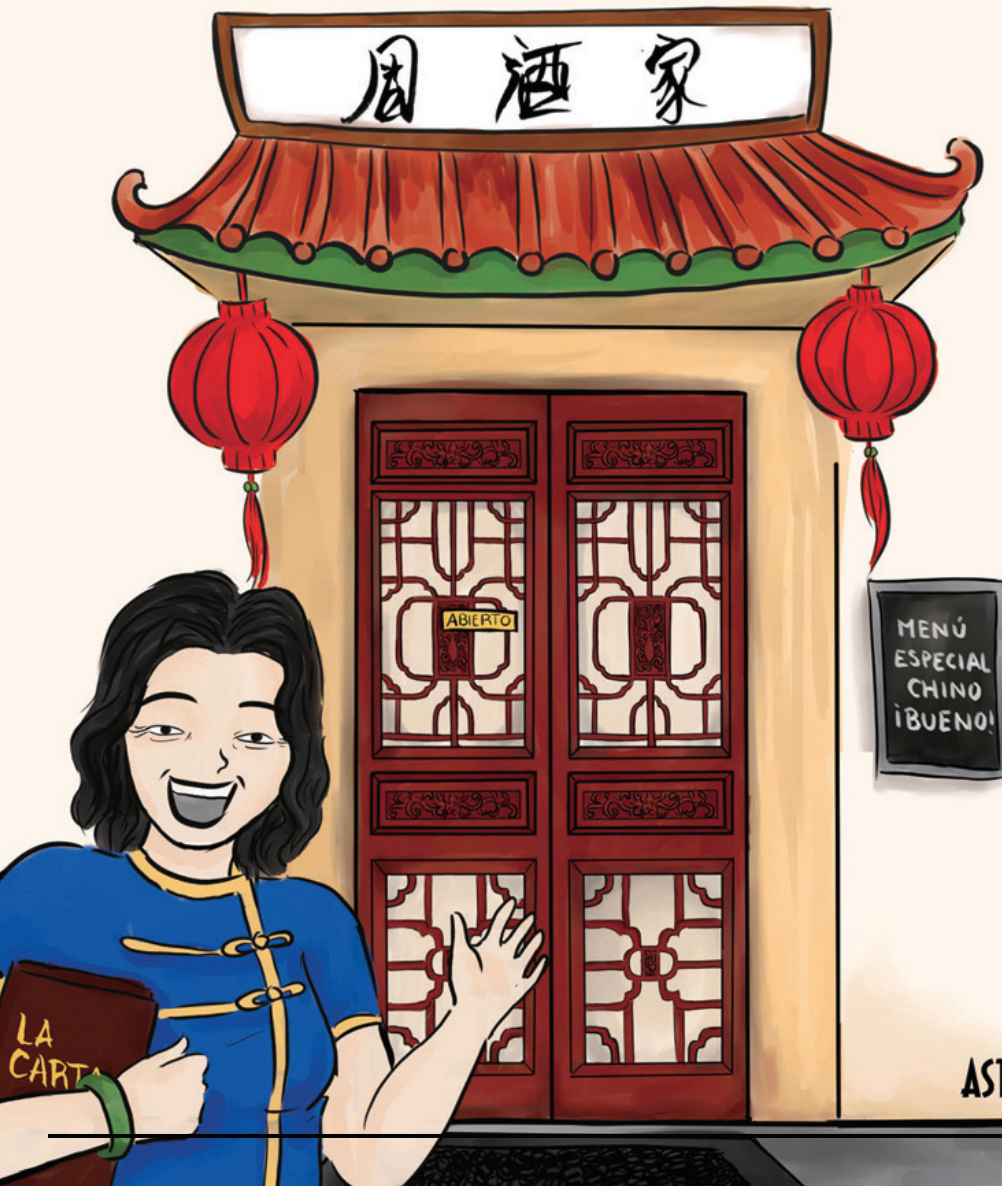
FREE ADMISSION

Video link will be posted on our website



PENSANDO XĪBĀNYÁ

VOICES FROM THE CHINESE DIASPORA IN SPAIN



"I Am Not a Virus" (*No Soy un Virus*)—this is the slogan for a campaign that aims to raise the visibility of Asian American and other Chinese diaspora communities around the world. In an effort to dispel racism resulting from COVID-19 and to inspire compassion and kindness, artists, authors, and activists will host virtual lectures discussing Chinese identity in Spain.

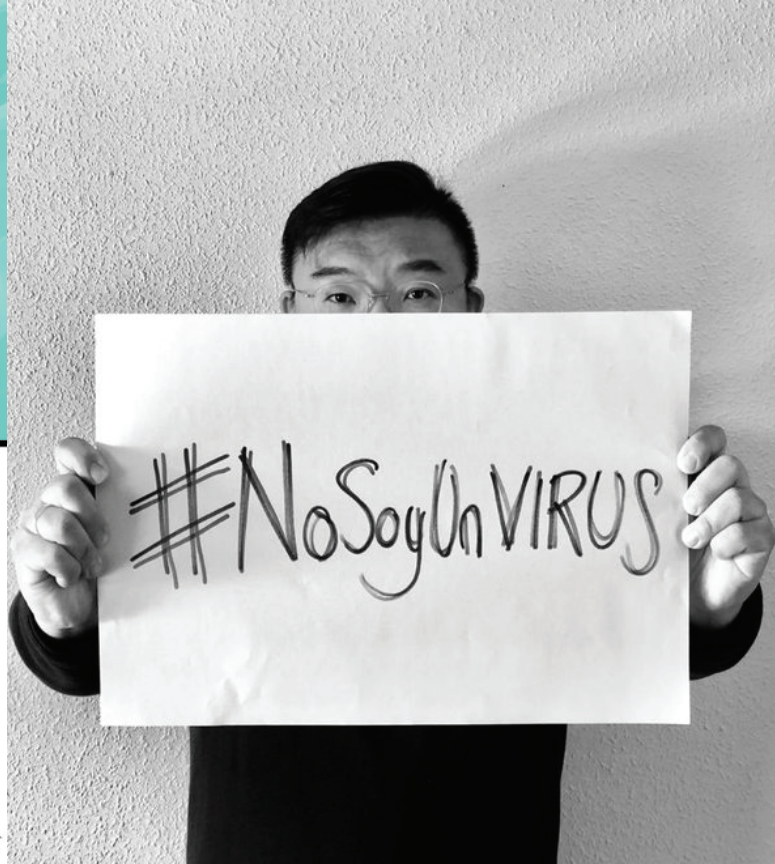
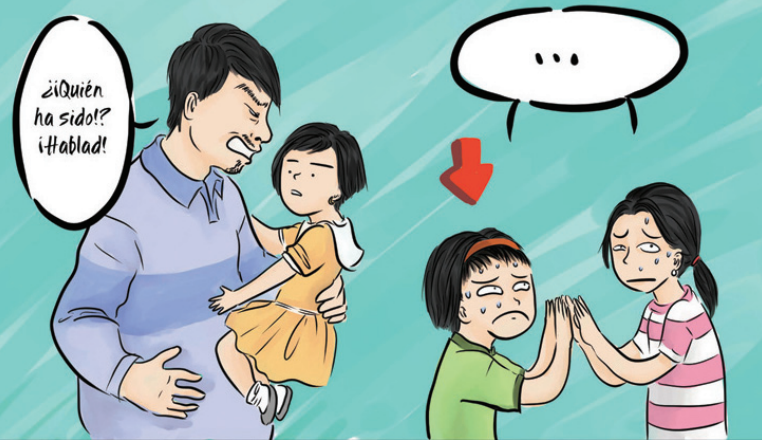
Co-sponsored by Stony Brook University and Skidmore College, this lecture series is presented by the Graduate Student Organization, the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature, the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, and the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department, as well as the Charles B. Wang Center at SBU.

CULTURAL PRODUCTION

Wednesday, February 17, at 1 PM
By Chenta Tsai, Jiajie Yu Yan, and Quan Zhou

FREE ADMISSION
Live Webcast link will be
posted on our website

ASTIBERRI



PENSANDO VOICES FROM DIASPORA IN

WRITING AND DIASPORA

Wednesday, March 24, at 1 PM

By Berna Wang, Paloma Chen, and Susana Ye

FREE ADMISSION

Live Webcast link will be posted on our website

XĪBĀNYÁ THE CHINESE SPAIN

ACTIVISM AND EDUCATION

Wednesday, April 14, at 1 PM

By Antonio Liu Yang, Inés Herrero Gómez, and Yue Fu

FREE ADMISSION

Live Webcast link will be posted on our website



SPICING IT UP! HOW THE CHILE PEPPER WENT FROM OBSCURITY TO UBIQUITY IN CHINA

By Dr. Brian Dott

It's hard to imagine Chinese cuisine without the chile pepper. Yet there weren't any chiles at all in China before the 1570s. Introduced from the Americas, chile peppers initially struggled to gain a foothold in China. Now they are so common that many Chinese assume that they are native. Brian Dott will discuss how the chile pepper arrived in China and how this drastic transition—from obscurity to ubiquity—took place. Part of the chile's success in China is due to its versatility, and it eventually was integrated into traditional Chinese medicine, garden aesthetics, and literature, as well as cuisine. This incredible versatility also allowed for different regions to emphasize or deemphasize its different aspects, leading to an impressive diversity of cuisines and combinations. The humble chile has come to influence many aspects of Chinese culture, even changing the meaning of the Chinese word for "spicy" (*la*).

FREE ADMISSION

Video link will be posted on our website



MOTTAINAI: REUSE, REMAKE, AND REVIVE

By Leonie Castelino

Originating in the Japanese, the term *mottainai* (勿体無い, “What a waste!”) is a slogan that promotes environmental consideration: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Textile artist Leonie Castelino will showcase traditional patchwork from the Indian states of Rajasthan and Gujarat, as well as clothing of the Hmong hill tribes of China, Vietnam, and Thailand, in the spirit of *mottainai*. She will demonstrate how old clothing or linens can be revived with a bit of inspiration, pattern, and technique. Please join us to learn about the *mottainai* spirit and to see beauty and patterns reborn in patchwork.

FREE ADMISSION

Video links will be posted on our website



LECTURE #1: PATCHWORK FROM INDIA

Video Available Monday, March 1

Learn about the traditions and aesthetics of patchwork made from clothing in Rajasthan and kantha cloth in Gujarat, India. We will examine how these cultures, in their traditional crafts, utilize this concept of *mottainai*. You will also discover how to analyze these patterns, designs, and techniques and find what makes them unique. You will learn new ways of reusing your own your remnant materials and new designs to revive old coats, vests, pillows, handbags, and more.

LECTURE #2: PATCHWORK FROM THE HMONG HILL TRIBES OF CHINA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Video Available Thursday, April 1

Discover the beauty in the distinctive clothing, embroidery, and designs of the Hmong hill tribes—the Miao people of China, the Flower Hmong and Black Hmong in Sapa, Vietnam, and the Hmong of Chiang Mai in Thailand. The history of each tribe is visually recorded in their unique attire, designs, patterns, embroidery, stitches, and colors. Join us to learn how to analyze patterns and construction with an artist’s eye, as well as how to transform your own home or clothes using remnants of braids, ribbons, borders, fabric, and old clothes.

PERSIAN TEA CEREMONY

HOW TO BREW & SERVE

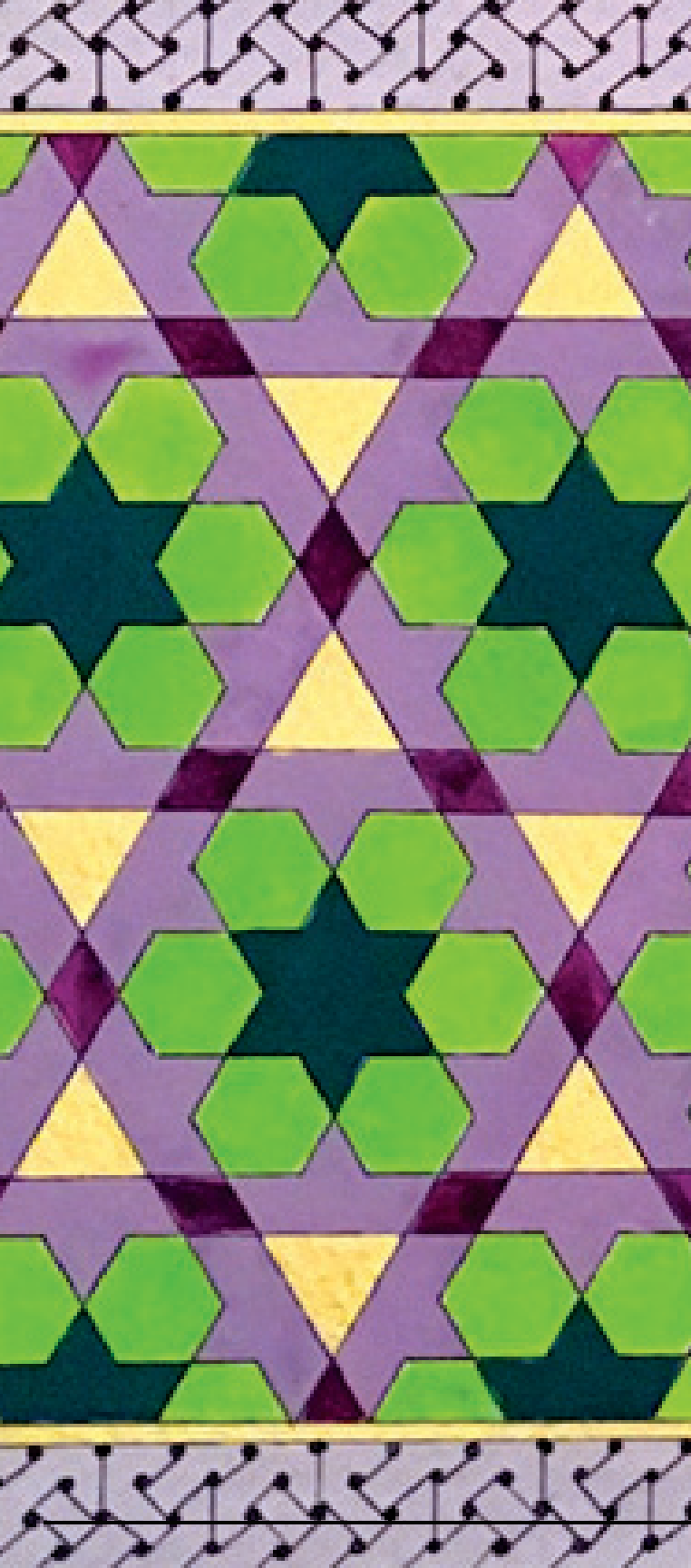
By Azita Houshiar

Tea is a ubiquitous drink in Iran. Whether in a stall in the bazaar, an office kitchen, a pit stop on the road, or in the sanctity of one's home, there's always a kettle or samovar gently boiling and bubbling and dreamily humming—there's always a pot of tea either being made or a cup of tea being sipped. That's just the way it is. Straight up or with sugar cubes! Saffron rock candy, dates, dried mulberries, and dainty cookies are common sidekicks of this beloved drink.

In this video, Azita Houshiar will fire up the samovar and brew tea with all the niceties of an authentic Persian tea ceremony while spilling the tea about the roots, history, and stories of this drink in Iran.

Brew a cup, grab some snacks, and savor the soothing and sensual rituals of tea, Persian style!

FREE ADMISSION
Video link will be posted on our website



PERSIAN GEOMETRIC ART

By Ghazaleh Khayat

Geometric art can be found in many examples of iconic architecture, ancient manuscripts, traditional apparel, and antique stoneware in the Islamic lands of the Middle East, North Africa, and Southern Europe. Artists of all stripes and nationalities have been inspired by nature and combined their artistic sensibilities with mathematics to create astonishing art. The Islamic world, with its restrictions on representational depiction, is no exception, and masterpieces that have dazzled for centuries—designed and created using simple tools such as the ruler and the compass—are a testament to the skills of Muslim artists. In this workshop, we will follow in the footsteps of these artists, producing geometric patterns of our own with the same simple tools.

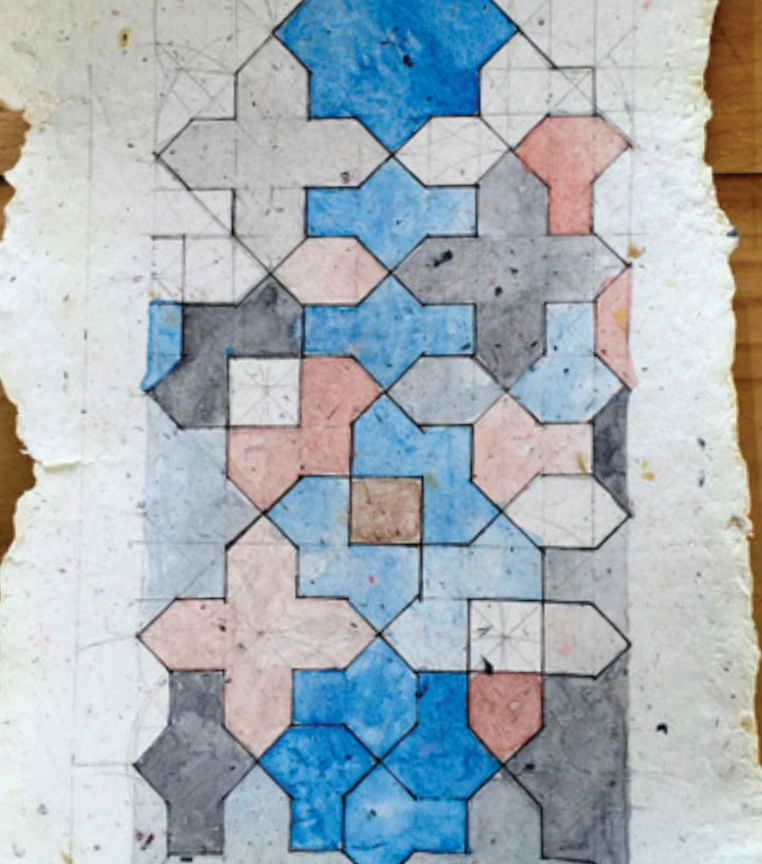
WORKSHOP #1: DRAWING WITHOUT A COMPASS

Level: Beginner | Video Available Monday, March 1

In this workshop, you will learn how to draw a six-fold geometric pattern without a compass. Geometric patterns are usually drawn with compasses and rulers, but here we replace the compass using grids. You will learn how to identify different shapes and expand your design, and you will have the opportunity to scale your design up or down by adjusting your grid. You will also learn how to transfer your designs to a final desired surface and color it with your own choice of medium.

FREE ADMISSION

Video link will be posted on our website



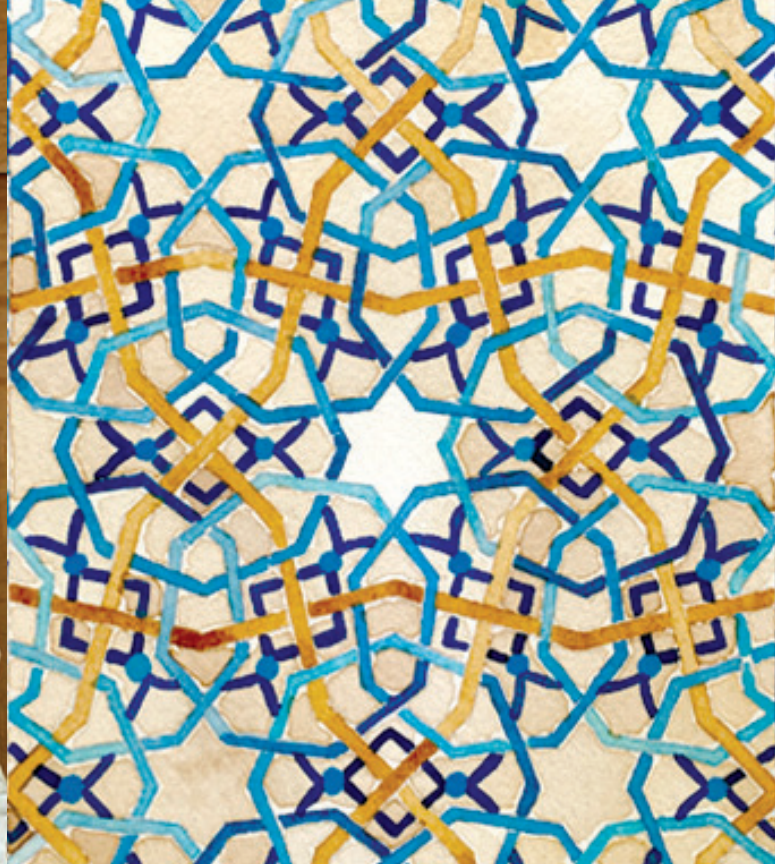
WORKSHOP #2: DRAW AND DESIGN WITH SHAPES

Level: Intermediate | Video Available Thursday, April 1

In this workshop, you will learn how to draw a simple yet famous eight-fold pattern. Once the mother pattern is drawn, you will learn how to convert it into completely different patterns just by changing some lines and constructing new shapes. Using the skills you'll gain at this workshop, you will be able to design new patterns and create your own variations of the eight-fold pattern. A template of the mother pattern will be provided on our website.

FREE ADMISSION

Video link will be posted on our website



WORKSHOP #3: INTEGRATED PATTERNS FROM NATANZ-ISFAHAN

Level: Advanced | Video Available Saturday, May 1

In this workshop, you will learn how to draw an integrated geometric pattern from the designs that decorate the beautiful Jāme' Mosque in Natanz, Isfahan, in Iran. Integrated patterns are complex designs that consist of two different patterns (usually from different families) in one frame. They can usually be identified by different colors on buildings and monuments. The patterns you will learn in this workshop belong to the family of six- and eight-fold patterns. A step-by-step handout for drawing the patterns will be provided on our website.

FREE ADMISSION

Video link will be posted on our website



ORIGAMI HEAVEN

By Shrikant Iyer

Paper is powerful, and origami is a dexterous technique that fully displays paper's versatile qualities. Transform a simple sheet of paper into a functional wallet and an auspicious paper animal with origami master Shrikant Iyer.

A list of materials will be provided on our website.

FREE ADMISSION

Video links will be posted on our website

WORKSHOP #1: WANG WALLET

Level: Beginner | Video Available Thursday, April 1

This workshop will show you how to make the very useful "Wang Wallet," designed by Shrikant Iyer in honor of the Charles B. Wang Center. This simple model can be scaled to any size, and you can use a variety of paper types and colors to create attractive origami that can be used to present gifts or in your everyday life.

WORKSHOP #2: HAPPY YEAR OF OX

Level: Advanced | Video Available Saturday, May 1

Devised by an unknown creator, this delightful template is a bit more challenging and is for more advanced origami folders. You will learn how to create a paper ox, and this model uses the design on a dollar bill to create the eyes and white horns for the animal. It is 3-D and can stand on its own.

FILMS



KRABI, 2562

(2019 | 94 minutes | Documentary | Directed by Ben Rivers & Anocha Suwichakornpong)

In this surrealist amalgam of documentary and fiction, Krabi is a stunning city on the coast of southwestern Thailand. The beaches glisten in the sun, and there is plenty of shade under luxuriant greenery. Street vendors sell authentic local food and the fertility temple is extremely Instagram-able. But in just a few years, it will all be gone forever, crushed by mass tourism. Not quite yet, however, but soon in the year 2562 in the Buddhist calendar (the year 2020). We see Krabi through the eyes of a woman who introduces herself in different ways and absorbs the local history and the stories of the city's inhabitants with detachment.

On view online from March 1 through March 30, 2021
Video link will be posted on our website



The film is provided by public television stations, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and presented by *Frontline*.

FRONTLINE

A THOUSAND CUTS

(2020 | 110 minutes | Documentary | Directed by Ramona S. Diaz)

Currently on air as a PBS *Frontline* documentary, ***A Thousand Cuts*** follows the journalist Maria Ressa (CEO of Rappler, the Philippines's top online news site) as she placed the tools of the free press on the line in defense of truth and democracy against political suppression.

In 2016, outsider candidate Rodrigo Duterte upset the political establishment in the Philippines by winning the presidency on the promise of vengeance and violence. Within hours of taking office, bodies began to pile up in the streets. Rappler investigated the murders and revealed a government-sanctioned drug war that targeted poor addicts instead of wealthy dealers.

Video link will be posted on our website

FESTIVALS



HAPPY NEW YEAR GOOD LUCK AND FORTUNE LEARN TO CROCHET *DARUMA* DOLLS

With Thien Nguyen August

Join us in saying goodbye to the Year of the Rat and welcoming the Year of the Ox at the Wang Center's signature New Year Festival! This year, we will share in the humorous and whimsical spirit of the lunar new year in this workshop with Thien Nguyen August by making adorable 3-inch *daruma*. A *daruma* is a traditional Japanese wishing doll that helps keep us positive and motivated. Let's usher in the Year of the Ox with love and spread good luck around your home or workplace.

A crochet pattern and a list of materials will be provided on our website.

FREE ADMISSION

Video link will be posted on our website



HAPPY NOWRUZ


THE PERSIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION WITH OLIVE, WALNUT, & POMEGRANATE VEGAN APPETIZER

By Azita Houshian

Nowruz, the Persian New Year holiday, is full of symbols of spring and fertility. The number seven has been regarded as magical by Persians for centuries. So seven items, called *haft-sinn*, are placed on a special cloth Persians spread out on their tables for the holiday. Apples represent beauty; garlic for health and fertility; wild olives for fertility and love, and so on.

Azita Houshian will demonstrate how to make a wonderful vegan Persian appetizer with a bewitching combo of green olives, walnuts, garlic, dried mint, and pomegranate syrup. Full of texture and flavor, this popular specialty of the Caspian Sea region of Iran requires only a few ingredients; is very easy to prepare; and can serve as a side dish, a dip, or an amazing amuse-bouche. Give this delicious treat a try as we celebrate the transition from the slumber of winter to the splendor of spring and new beginnings.

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