



Asian Arts & Culture Center

REFLECT and

Spring 2020

ASPIRE

Asian Arts & Culture Center

The Asian Arts & Culture Center at Towson University engages the university and surrounding communities in cross-cultural dialogue through a broad range of artistic and cultural learning experiences related to Asia. Our programs increase understanding of the world's diverse cultures, challenge stereotypes, strengthen cultural competency, and offer unique perspectives on creativity and the human experience. We also offer opportunities for university students to learn practical skills needed for working in non-profit cultural institutions.

Exhibitions

AA&CC presents exhibitions on campus and in the community, featuring diverse arts, culture, and ideas from across the community and around the world, often with interactive elements. Exhibits regularly feature and are co-curated with international, national, and community artists and specialists. Objects from AA&CC's art collection are usually on view on campus.



Asia in Maryland (AIM)

AIM exhibitions and programs feature Maryland-based artists and specialists, highlighting the significance of Asia-related art and culture throughout the state. AIM promotes local artists and connects diverse communities.



Community Programs

AA&CC partners with local artists, communities, and organizations to promote intercultural sharing, support AAPI creatives, and celebrate local Asian American history. Asia North, co-presented annually with Central Baltimore Partnership and multiple local partners, celebrates the Charles North neighborhood's diverse communities and history as a Koreatown.



Asia@Towson

On campus, AA&CC produces student-focused festivals and events that both educate and entertain. We also sponsor TU's Cambodian music ensemble, bring guest artists to classes, provide workshops, and more.

Asia Online

Objects from our art collection, past exhibitions, and other digital resources are available on the AA&CC website.

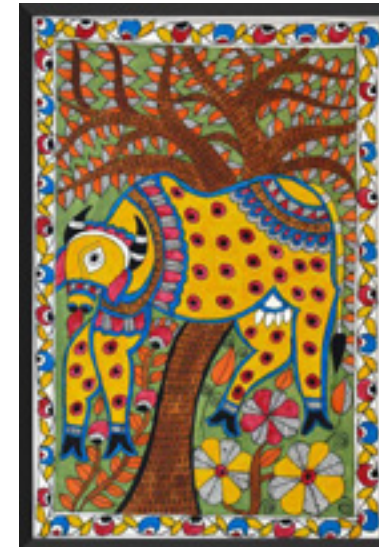
REFLECT

Azumi O E in Baltimore

July 19, 2019
Baltimore City Hall

Co-produced with OTS Productions, Baltimore City Hall & Baltimore Kawasaki Sister Cities Committee

Sixty-five people were captivated by Azumi O E's butoh dance performance accompanied by sound artist, Miki, for a reception at the Flightless Cranes exhibition, showcasing work that explored the themes of identity and relocation.



Asia in Maryland Student Art Exhibition

Featuring Madhubhani-style artwork by students of community artist Rachana Saurabh

July 21-26, 2019
Center for the Arts, Asian Arts Gallery

Forty-five people attended an opening event and visited this one-week exhibit featuring eye-catching Indian folk art created by student artists.



Sayaka Ganz: Reclaimed Creations

Exhibition: September 19-December 8, 2019
Gallery Talk & Opening Reception with the Artist: September 19
Center for the Arts, Asian Arts Gallery



“Mesmerizing, modern, and inspiring.”

“Asian art is a living thing, not stuck in the past.”

1,840 people from the Towson campus and local communities attended our fall exhibition, Sayaka Ganz: Reclaimed Creations, featuring a wonderland of airy horses, birds, and sea creature sculptures.

*“There's so much to unpack in these sculptures.
Brilliant, beautiful, thought-provoking.”*



*“Gives injured,
defective, and
discarded items a
new purpose.”*

Detail of Emergence by Sayaka Ganz. 2013. Reclaimed plastic objects, painted steel and aluminum, hardware, wire, cable ties. 72”x84”x84”

85 people attended Gallery Talk & Opening Reception with artist, Sayaka Kajita Ganz, who discussed her process and philosophy of creating welded sculptures of animal forms.

“Very relevant and imaginative.”

This exhibit was made possible by the generous support of Maryland State Arts Council, Central Baltimore Partnership, AA&CC Members, Ferrari & Associates, P.C., William G. Baker Jr. Memorial Fund, TU College of Fine Arts & Communication, Citizens of Baltimore County, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, TU Department of Music, Stanley Black & Decker, TU Marketing & Communications, TU College of Business & Economics, TU Center for Student Diversity, Robert Mintz & Beth Arman, Anthony & Bonnie Montcalmo, and TU COFAC Diversity & Inclusion Committee.





Upcycled Adornments with Sayaka Ganz: A Hands-on Activity at the Charm City Night Market

Saturday, September 21, 2019
Baltimore's Historic Chinatown



85 people joined artist, Sayaka Ganz, to create earth-friendly personal adornments from plastic flatware and other discarded gems.

Co-sponsored with Stanley Black & Decker and Central Baltimore Partnership.



Earth's Treasures, Threatened Mini Exhibit

October 1, 2019 to present
Center for the Arts, Towson University



Curated by AA&CC graduate assistant, Shannon Bentley, this exhibit presents some objects from AA&CC's art collection within the context of environmental issues such as water pollution, ivory poaching, and deforestation and highlighting the Buddhist philosophy of living mindfully with nature.

Catching Fish with Nets by Hokusai. Japan. c. 1925. Woodblock print. Gift of Dr. and Mrs. W. D. Tigertt. (P-042)



Carp. Japan. Meiji Period (1868-1912). Ivory. From the Collection of Monroe Uris Sarezky. (I-054)

Discover & Dine/Taste of Asia Food Tour: East Asia in Towson

Saturday, October 26, 2019

Thirteen people joined a tasting tour of Towson Best Chinese & Sushi Restaurant, The Orient Restaurant, and Red Pepper Sichuan Bistro in Towson. Participants learned about the history and culture of diverse cuisines and the stories behind eateries that are integral to Towson.



Special thanks to AA&CC Advisory Board member, Mr. David Riley, for organizing this event!



Family Arts Day

November 9, 2019



Two hundred and four people created jewelry and animal sculptures from reclaimed materials while learning about environmental protection, the harms of plastic, and the benefits of recycling.



Co-presented with the TU Community Art Center and the TU Department of Art + Design, Art History, and Art Education Galleries.

Photos by Nerissa Paglinauan



Japanese Woodblock Printing Presentation @TU Print Making class

October 29, 2019

AA&CC shared its collection of woodblock prints with eight students in Professor Yulia Hanansen's printmaking class, introduced the history of the prints, and discussed the process of making them.



Lunar New Year Pop-Up Cards with Colette Fu

January 26, 2020

Co-presented with the Walters Art Museum

152 people joined artist, Colette Fu, to make Lunar New Year pop-up cards at the Walters Art Museum Lunar New Year Festival.



Photos by Nerissa Paglinauan



(Top) Black-naped Oriole Perched on a Stem of Rose Mallow by Hiroshige. c. 1834. (P-078a)
(Bottom) Summer Moon at Miyajima by Koitsu. c. 1936. (P-060)

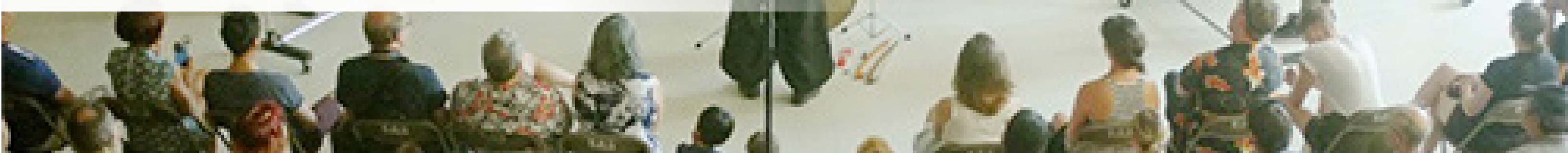


“Expanded my ideas of music.”



“This is the stuff that makes life worth living.”

“An exceptional, mesmerizing, and spell-binding experience.”



Nakatani Gong Orchestra

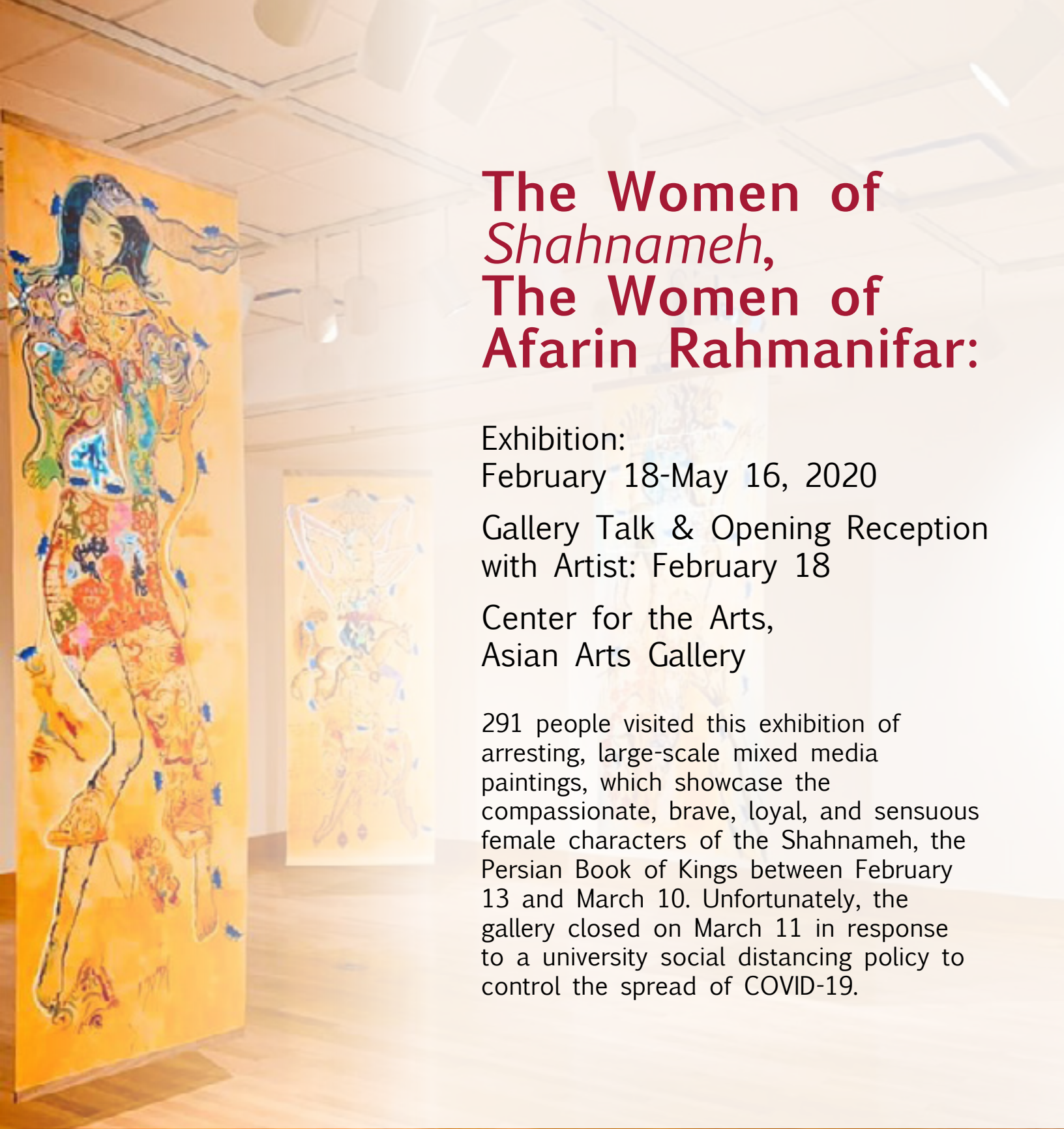
Saturday, November 16, 2019
Co-presented with the Creative Alliance



95 people attended an interactive Community Performance with the Nakatani Gong Orchestra (NGO) at The Creative Alliance in Baltimore’s Highlandtown neighborhood. Avant-garde sound artist, Tatsuya Nakatani, led fourteen local players in playing compositions on Chinese wind gongs using his original bowing technique.

This program was made possible with the generous support of Maryland State Arts Council, AA&CC Members, Citizens of Baltimore County, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, and the Creative Alliance.





The Women of Shahnameh, The Women of Afarin Rahmanifar:

Exhibition:
February 18-May 16, 2020

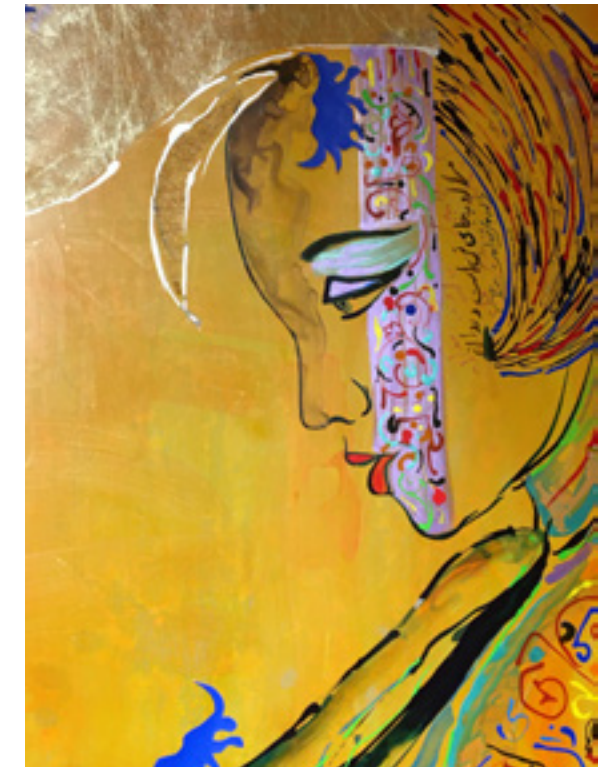
Gallery Talk & Opening Reception
with Artist: February 18

Center for the Arts,
Asian Arts Gallery

291 people visited this exhibition of arresting, large-scale mixed media paintings, which showcase the compassionate, brave, loyal, and sensuous female characters of the Shahnameh, the Persian Book of Kings between February 13 and March 10. Unfortunately, the gallery closed on March 11 in response to a university social distancing policy to control the spread of COVID-19.

AA&CC continued to share highlights from the exhibition with audiences via social media and emails through the exhibition closing date of May 16.

60 people attended a Gallery Talk & Opening Reception with artist, Afarin Rahmanifar, who discussed how she captures the dreamscape and surreal world of Shahnameh by fusing her skills as a classical miniature painter with contemporary approaches to using bold colors, spontaneous strokes, and natural poses.



This exhibit was made possible by the generous support of Maryland State Arts Council, Central Baltimore Partnership, AA&CC Members, Ferrari & Associates, P.C., William G. Baker Jr. Memorial Fund, TU College of Fine Arts & Communication, Citizens of Baltimore County, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, TU Department of Music, Harold J. Kaplan Foundation, Stanley Black & Decker, TU Marketing & Communications, TU College of Business & Economics, TU Center for Student Diversity, Robert Mintz & Beth Arman, Anthony & Bonnie Montcalmo, TU COFAC Diversity & Inclusion Committee, TU Professional Leadership for Women Program, Mojdeh Dana, Manzar & Homayoun Moghbeli, and Orchard Market & Café.

(Top right) Detail of Rudebeh va Zaal. 3' x 10'
(Bottom left) Detail of Katayun. 3' x 9'
(Both) 2017. Mixed media on vellum paper

“Colorful, intricate and poetic.”

Special thanks to Alexander Nagel and Nahid Tootoonchi for their advice and contributions to this exhibition and related programs.



THE CITIZENS OF
BALTIMORE COUNTY



Discover & Dine/Taste of Asia Food Tour: Vietnam in Downtown Towson

Saturday, February 22, 2020

Thirteen people joined a tasting tour of The Bun Shop and Den Da Coffee in Towson. Participants explored traditional and contemporary Vietnamese flavors, learn how chefs blend traditional Vietnamese cooking with international street food, enjoyed menu favorites, and were treated to off-menu classics served during Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. Chef, Lam Bui, of the Bun Shop prepared fresh moon cakes for the group.

This program was part of the Towson Creative Partnership's Year of the Rat – Towson 2020 celebration.



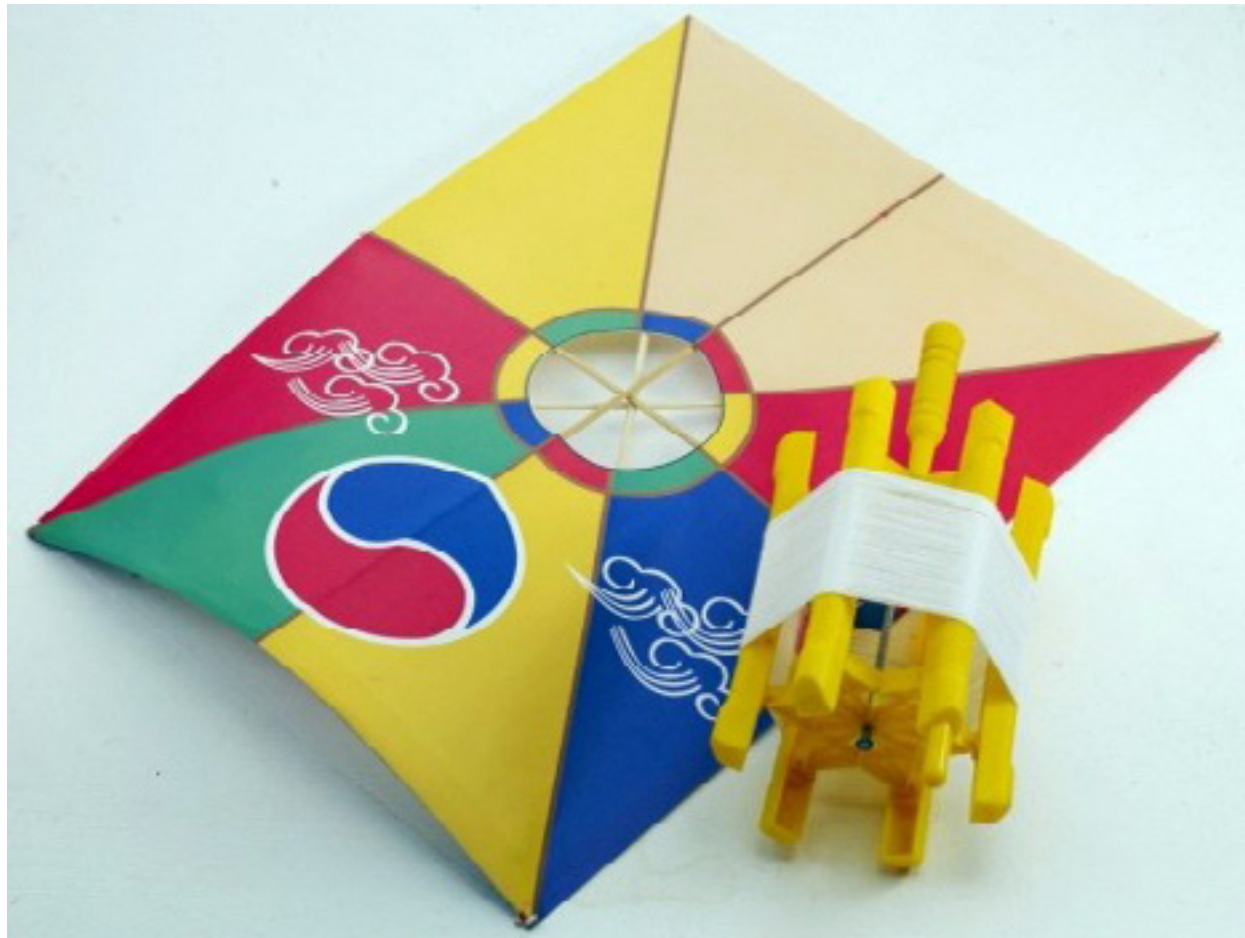
Discover & Dine: Persian Treasures in Washington, DC

Friday, March 6, 2020

Twelve people explored Persian treasures at the Smithsonian and the Library of Congress and a break with a Persian lunch.

Special thanks to Advisory Board member, Dr. Alexander Nagel, for organizing and presenting at this event!





Wishes in the Wind: Korean Kites

Originally scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2020
At The BIG Baltimore Kite Festival in
Baltimore's Patterson Park

In collaboration with the Creative Alliance, Friends of Patterson Park,
and TU Department of Art Education

Due to social distancing policies, this hands-on community art activity as originally planned was cancelled. However, we will make the kites at future community events and create kits that will be available for families and teachers to make at home. Participants learn about art, culture, and engineering while designing and making a colorful Korean-inspired aerodynamic kite to fly and make their wishes come true.



This activity was made possible through the generosity of the Harold J. Kaplan Foundation.

Special thanks to Advisory Board members, Dr. Jinyoung Koh, Dr. Kay Broadwater, and Mrs. Susan Behm for their working on this activity with us!



Kites on this page created by students in Professor Jinyoung Koh's Art Education class.



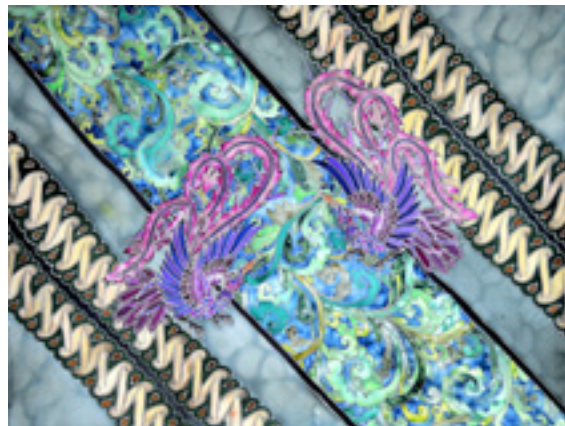
Asia North 2020: A Celebration of Art, Culture & Community Exhibition and Festival

Originally scheduled for April 4-May 9, 2020

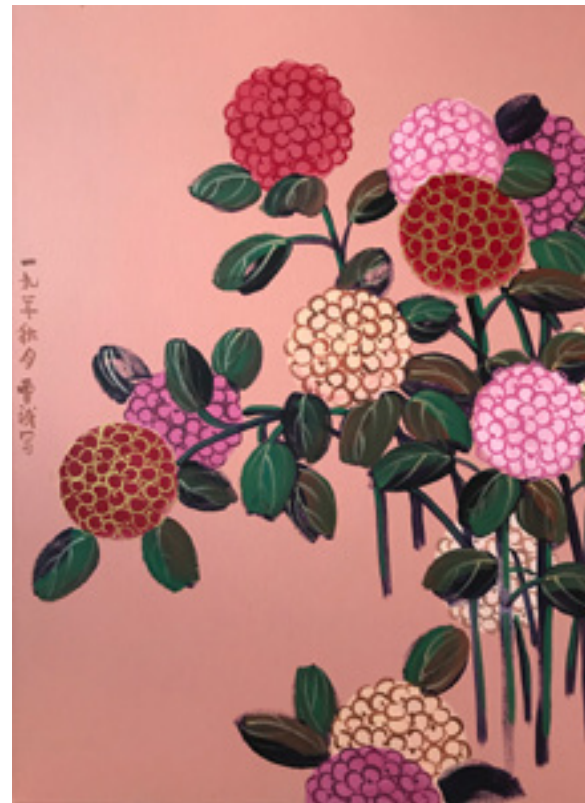
In Station North, Baltimore

Co-presented with the Central Baltimore Partnership, Charm City Night Market, and multiple community partners

The second annual Asia North celebration recognizes, showcases, and honors the art, culture, and the Korean history and heritage of Baltimore's Charles North community. Area artists and organizations present an exhibit, performances, films, a night market, neighborhood food tour, and more.



The Rooster Dance by Nico Gozal. 2018. Painting on silk. 18 x 24 inches



Hydrangea_Pink by Cheng Cao. 2019. Acrylic on canvas. 40 x 30 inches

Asia North 2020 is made possible by North Ave. Market-Mike Shecter, Stillpointe Theatre, Gong-yu Yesul Gallery, Motor House, William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, Maryland State Arts Council, Citizens of Baltimore County, AA&CC Members, PNC Bank, WYPR, TU-BTU Presidential Priority, TD Bank, TU Creative Services, TU Digital Strategy, TU Marketing & Communications, Heather Sorensen, The Crown, SNF Parkway, Johns Hopkins University, Lord Baltimore Hotel, Brown Rice, Community Housing Partners, Motzi Bread, Baltimore Kawasaki Sister Cities Committee, Neighborhood Housing Services, Dennis Richter, Jubilee Baltimore, MICA, Baltimore Improv Group/A++ Improv Group, Baltimore Asian Pasifika Arts Collective, Baltimore Changwon Sister Cities Committee, MD Strategic Consulting, Milk & Honey, Orto, Four Twelve Roofing, Baltimore Jewelry Center, CityScape, Telesis Corporation Baltimore, Neighborhood Design Center, Ock Kyung Lee, Michelle Lee, Paul Kim, Dale Dusman, Matthew Park, Station North Arts District, Midtown Baltimore, and Charles North Community Association.





ASPIRE

As a self-supporting department of Towson University, the Asian Arts & Culture Center relies on generous donations to accomplish its mission.

AA&CC is working to ensure a solid foundation for the Center and programs that are strong, consistent, and responsive to the diverse communities of our region by sustaining and expanding upon our 1) presentation of exhibits and gallery experiences on and off campus and online, 2) community outreach and partnerships, 3) Asia in Maryland (AIM) programming, 4) extracurricular and academic programming for TU students, and 5) online resources. With this in mind, we aspire to implement the following projects in the upcoming year. Of course, if social distancing extends into the upcoming academic year, we will postpone and adapt in-person programs to online formats and prioritize the expansion of digital and virtual programming.

Towson University Pin Peat Ensemble

The AA&CC and TU Department of Music teamed up to offer the TU Pin Peat (Khmer classical music) Ensemble led by master Cambodian musician, Chum Ngek in both the fall and spring semesters. Through this course, which was established in spring 2017, TU students expand their artistic and cultural horizons while contributing to the preservation and longevity of a tradition that was nearly decimated during the Khmer Rouge era in Cambodia.

Special thanks to the Maryland State Arts Council, Citizens of Baltimore County, and AA&CC members for making this initiative possible!



To learn how you can help, contact Joanna Pecore, AA&CC Director at 410-704-2718 or jpecore@towson.edu or visit <https://www.towson.edu/asianarts/support/>

Proposed for Fall 2020

Exhibition



Phaan Howng:
A Bag of Rocks for a Bag of Rice

Exquisitely disposed rocks, trees and vegetation. The promise of an inspired space of meditation and detachment. Such has been one Western image of the Chinese and Japanese garden. Yet such enchanted spaces may encompass hidden histories of empire, exploitation, and violent extraction.

Deconstructing idealized Chinese and Japanese gardens that depict harmonious natural worlds, **Phaan Howng's post-apocalyptic installation investigates the resonances of such practices to our current global environment of economic inequities and the Anthropocene epoch.**

Discover and Dine



Forest Bathing: Nature's Therapy

Reconnect with nature and your mind, body, and spirit while immersing yourself in the outdoors. Experience the benefits of shinrin-yoku (“forest bathing”), a recent Japanese practice invented in the 1980s and based on Shinto and Buddhist reverence for nature. Enjoy nature-inspired refreshments and a visit to Phaen Howng’s post-apocalyptic installation in the Asian Arts Gallery. Naturalist and ANFT Certified Forest Therapy Guide, Ana Ka’ahanui, leads the walk.

Exhibition and Festival

Asia North 2020: A Celebration of Art, Culture & Community

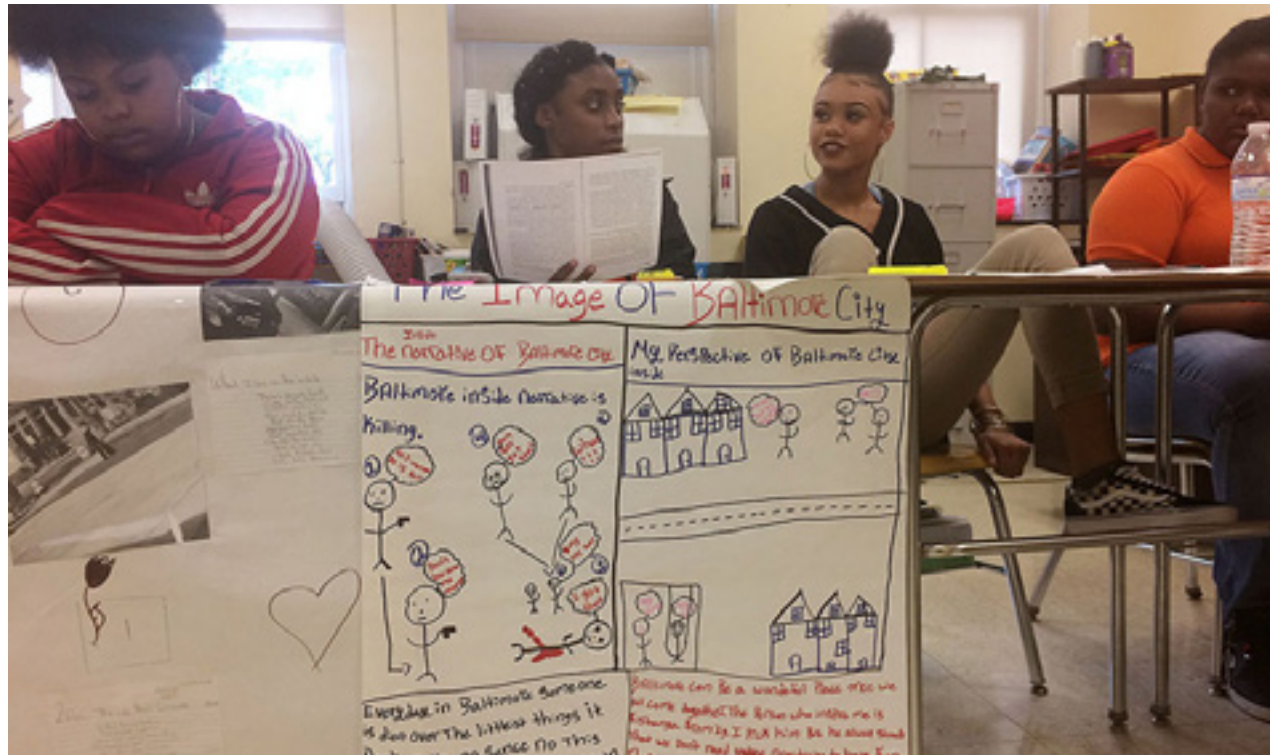
We hope to have our second annual Asia North celebration originally scheduled for spring 2020. The events recognize, showcase, and honor the art, culture, and the Korean history and heritage of Baltimore’s Charles North community. Area artists and organizations present an exhibit, performances, films, a night market, neighborhood food tour, and more. Co-presented with the Central Baltimore Partnership, Charm City Night Market, and multiple community partners.



Washington Samulnori performs at Asia North 2019. Photo by Nerissa Paglinauan

Community/School Workshops

Reimagining Baltimore



Artist, Phaen Howng leads participants through creative brainstorming, mapping, and sketching of ideas to address some of Baltimore's most pressing issues. Students make and share predictions about what may happen in challenging scenarios. They develop critical thinking, problem solving, and creative skills in ways that build on personal strengths and interests, helping them envision a better future for Baltimore and become empowered to make a difference.

Photo credit: Stacy Teicher Khadaroo. The Christian Science Monitor.



Wildflower Seedpod Workshop

Growing and helping native wildflowers proliferate is an important part of being a climate steward. Native plants provide food and shelter to pollinators and birds. Participants create native wildflower seedpods (aka seed bombs) while learning about the role native plants play in ecosystem restoration. Presented with Blue Water Baltimore.

Proposed for Spring 2021

Exhibition

To My Homeland



Artist, Lek Vercauteren Borja, explores the personal and social impact of Spanish colonization and American imperialism on the Filipino experience.

Ten mixed media sculptural works created by weaving history with personal experience draw out broader contemporary Filipino American stories of identity, displacement, trauma, survival, resilience, and belonging.

Image: False, Idols by Lek Vercauteren Borja. 2019. Mixed media, collage. Approx. 30" H x 40" W.

Exhibition and Festival



Asia North 2021: A Celebration of Art, Culture & Community

We hope to have our third annual Asia North event, a celebration of Baltimore's Charles North neighborhood's constantly evolving identities as a Koreatown, arts district, and creative center. Asia North serves to strengthen the community's sense of cohesion and identity and recognize its rich history as a Koreatown.

Area artists and organizations present an exhibit, performances, films, a night market, neighborhood food tour, and more. AA&CC co-presents Asia North with the Central Baltimore Partnership, Charm City Night Market, and multiple community partners.

Image: Meditation of 5670 Million Years by Kisook Lee-Suss. Mixed Media. (10"x13.25")

Other Proposed and In-Progress Projects

Online Resources



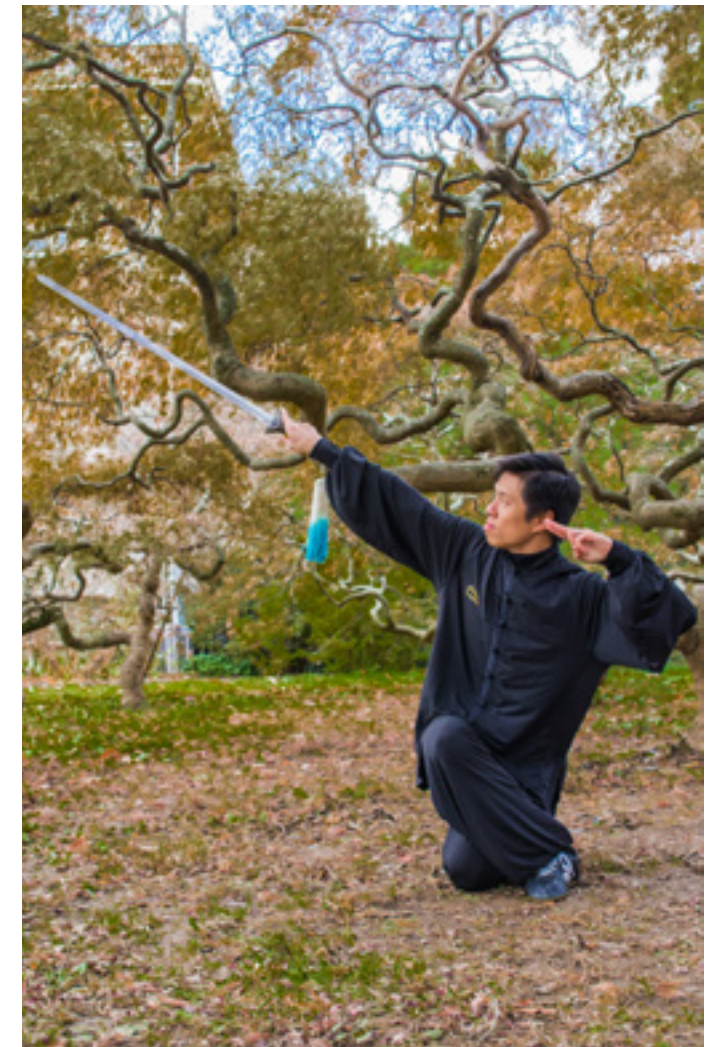
AA&CC is working to make these **exhibitions** available online: Sounding the Spirit of Cambodia, Asia@Towson, Asian Symbolism, The Korean Wave, Korean Highlights from AA&CC's Collection, Asia's Healing Arts, Asia in Maryland: Expressing Cross-cultural Experience, Asia's Martial Arts, Asian Ceramics, Bronzes across Asia, Earth's Treasures-Threatened, and Intricate Layers.

Avalokitesvara. 18th century. Tibet. Bronze. Gift of Mr. & Mrs. R. Austin Tydings. 6 3/4" x 5" x 3 3/4" (M-016)

We are also preparing versions of these **past events** for online access: Inspired by Tradition teacher workshop, Baltimore Collects panel discussion, and Karaoke: Global Technology, Local Practice panel discussion.



Espresso Cup Set by Yoshi Fujii. 2014. Porcelain, Wheel-thrown and hand carved. 2.5 x 5 x 5 each. (From Asia in Maryland exhibit)



The Celestial Points a Way Out. 2017. Photo by Brian Ho. (From Asia's Healing Arts exhibit).

In collaboration with TU's Special Collections & Archives, Albert S. Cook Library, AA&CC is digitizing, cataloguing, and posting our **art collection** online.

Asian Artist Residencies



We envision creation of Asian Artist Residencies in all arts disciplines in TU's College of Fine Arts and Communication with the objective of transforming TU into a place where anyone can learn Asian art forms and exchange ideas cross-culturally.

The residencies will have the added benefit of supporting the work of resident artists, including many who are the bearers of traditions that are struggling to survive. Part of the sustainability plan will include opportunities for resident artists to teach in public schools with the assistance of TU students trained to co-teach with them.

We have initiated this work by establishing the TU Pin Peat Ensemble in collaboration with the Department of Music.

Our Stories: Family Storytelling Festival



We hope to create an annual multi-cultural family event exploring local and global stories through performances, workshops, and hands-on activities.

Thank You!

AY 2019-20 Partners

Baltimore Asian Pasifika Arts Collective
Baltimore Changwon Sister Cities Committee
Baltimore Improv Group/A++ Improv Team
Baltimore Kawasaki Sister Cities Committee
Baltimore Xiamen Sister Cities Committee
Brown Rice
The Bun Shop
Charm City Night Market
The Crown
Den Da Coffee
The Creative Alliance
Friends of Patterson Park
Gong-yu Yesul Gallery
Johns Hopkins University
Lord Baltimore Hotel
Maryland Institute College of Art
Motor House
North Avenue Market
Orchard Market & Café
The Orient Restaurant
OTS Productions
Red Pepper Sichuan Bistro
SNF Parkway Theatre
Stillpointe Theatre
Towson Best Restaurant
Towson Creative Partnership
TU Department of Art + Design,
Art History and Art Education

TU Center for Student Diversity
TU College of Fine Arts and Communication
TU Community Art Center
TU Creative Services
TU Digital Strategy
TU Department of Music
TU Office of Advancement
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TU Special Collections & Archives, Albert S. Cook Library
TU Strategic Partnerships & Applied Research
TU Marketing & Communications
Walters Arts Museum
WYPR

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Central Baltimore Partnership
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TU Department of Music

Porcelain (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Anthony & Bonnie Montcalmo
COFAC Diversity & Inclusion Committee
Stanley Black & Decker
TU-BTU Presidential Priority
TU Center for Student Diversity
TU College of Business & Economics
TU Marketing & Communications

Bronze (\$500-\$999)

Laura Latis
TU Professional Leadership for Women Program

Under \$500

Baltimore Kawasaki Sister Cities Committee
Baltimore Changwon Sister Cities Committee
Denise & E.J. Benskin
Elizabeth Benskin
Mojdeh Dana
Theresa Esterlund
Manzar & Homayoun Moghbeli
Victor Pecore

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Planned Gift

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Manzar & Homayoun Moghbeli

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Whitni Pickens
Pratisha Pradhan
Dorian Smith
Olavi Takala
Anh "Andy" Tranh

Program Volunteers

Jessica Anderson
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Tayla Mann
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Farewell and Thank you!

Shannon Bentley
Maklene Dzadey
Catriona Gunn
Whitni Pickens
Pratisha Pradhan
Olavi Takala
Anh "Andy" Tranh



Cover image: Reincarnation of Peony by Sunjin Lee. 2016. Korean water color on Hanji (Korean paper). 14 x 18 inches. (Part of Asia North 2020 exhibition: Tradition-Memory-Transformation.)
Graphic Design: Mika J. Nakano

