



ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH FESTIVAL 2015

For more information and updates, please go to
Please visit <http://asian-heritage-month.org> or <http://www.vmacch.ca> for details

May 17 to June 12, 2015

1. Asian Heritage Month Art and Photo Exhibitions at Metro Hall Rotunda

FEATURED EXHIBITION:

An Eclectic Display of Photographic Images by Dr Neville Poy

Photographs by Mr. Stephen Siu, Chairman of Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto

Photographs by Award-Winning Photographer Mr. Tam Kam Chiu

FREE ADMISSION

Date: Sunday May 17, 2015 to Friday May 22, 2015

Venue: Metro Hall Rotunda, 55 John Street



Opening Ceremony

Henry Ho performing Tai Chi Calligraphy at the Opening Ceremony. Photo taken by Tam Kam Chiu.



Mr. Justin Poy, Honourary Patron of Asian Heritage Month-CFACI, giving the opening speech



Mr. Stephen Siu, President of Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto, giving the opening speech



Dr. Neville Poy and his Eclectic Display of Photographic Images

Description:

The Featured Exhibitions are -

An Eclectic Display of Photographic Images by Dr Neville Poy

Photographs by Mr. Stephen Siu, President of Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto

Photographs by Award-Winning Photographer Mr. Tam Kam Chiu

This event will explore the fusion of two types of visual art: painting as an imaginative reproduction of reality, and photography as a realistic representation of life. In juxtaposing these two visual art forms, the innovative ways Asian artists manipulate the multicultural setting of Canada can be seen, such as applying oil painting techniques on Chinese themes, or using Chinese brush painting to show Canadian themes. How photography aspires to be a verisimilitude of life and an imaginative interpretation informed by Asian philosophy will also be shown. Dr. Lien Chao will work with the Artists Association, and the Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto will feature their members' works. During the festival weekend, the artists and photographers will be present to talk about Asian art media and demonstrate their techniques; these educational activities aim at helping the public to develop necessary knowledge and critical skills to appreciate Asian art.

Co-Organizers: Asian Heritage Month—Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.; Chinese Canadian Photography Society of Toronto; WE Artists' Group; ORBIS; Social Services Network

Asian Heritage Month Festival is partially funded by the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

2. China Homeland Festival at Toronto Public Library

FREE ADMISSION

Date: May 9, 2015 with art exhibitions from May 17 -- June 14

Time: 1-2 pm: Taichi; 2:00-3:30 pm: Chinese brush painting workshop.

Venue: Riverdale Library, 370 Broadview Avenue, Toronto

Map: <http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?R=LIB080>

Event website:

Mind and Body Harmony: Tai Chi

Did you know that Tai Chi is the most popular and rapidly spreading form of exercise in the world? It helps millions of people of all ages to live a healthier and more active life.

Tai Chi accumulates energy and leaves you refreshed and relaxed. The slow speed of graceful body movements, with an emphasis on deep breathing and mental focus, relieves stress and creates balance, flexibility and mental calmness.

Join us this May in the green outdoor space of the Don Valley at Broadview to explore the ancient Chinese wisdom of Taoism and to practice Tai Chi Quan with a master.

Limit: 20

Hands-on Chinese Calligraphy and Painting

Artists: Kam Ping Hui and Lien Chao

This special art workshop introduces traditional Chinese art mediums and calligraphy to library patrons with or without previous experience.

Participants will get their hands on: learning how to hold a Chinese brush properly, how to put down a dot, a straight line, a circle, or a figurative image on *Xuan* Paper (rice paper).

Kam is a professional artist; Lien is an art critic and writer; both have been teachers.

Limit: 15

Co-organizers:

Asian Heritage Month—Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc., Toronto Public Library
Asian Heritage Month Festival is partially funded by the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

3. Asian Heritage Month Gala Performance of Asian Canadian Artists

TITLE: “SILK ROADS II - MONGOLIA: PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES, MUSIC AND DANCE FROM MONGOLIA ALONG THE SILK ROAD”

FREE ADMISSION Please register by e-mail: asianheritagecanadian@yahoo.ca

Dr. Neville Poy and The Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy on “PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES OF MAGNIFICENT MONGOLIA”

Keynote Address and Performance:

Professor Chan Ka Nin, composer of IRON ROAD, on “A Rare Instrument from China: KongHou 箜篌”

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2015

Time: 7pm PLEASE BE SEATED BY 6:45 PM

Venue: Innis Town Hall, University of Toronto, 2 Sussex Avenue, Toronto

Map at <http://www.utoronto.ca/townhall/contact.html>

RECEPTION FOLLOWS



Description: Focusing on the theme “SILK ROADS II - MONGOLIA”, the evening will begin with the featured address “Photographic Images of Magnificent Mongolia” by Dr. Neville Poy and The Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy. Then the performance section will commence with Professor Chan Ka Nin’s keynote talk and performance on “A Rare Instrument from China: KongHou 箜篌.” This includes an introduction of this instrument and a performance by Liu Xuanyi. Yvonne Ng, Dora Award winning choreographer and dancer, and her tiger princess dance projects will present the contemporary dance “Magnetic Fields.” There will be presentations of exotic music along the Silk Road, such as that by award-winning flutist and composer Ron Korb (龍笛), Middle Eastern Music by Yiannis on three different Instruments: Bouzouki, Oud and Saz, and Mongolian Dances for the Grand Feast Event by Chi-Ping Dance Group & dancers of Chinese Collective Arts Association.

Reception follows.

Programme

Opening Address: Mr. Justin Poy, Honorary Patron, Asian Heritage Month--CFACI

“PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES OF MAGNIFICENT MONGOLIA”

by Dr. Neville Poy and The Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy



Photo taken by Tam Kam Chiu

Performances: An Exotic Journey Along The Silk Road

Keynote and Performance:

"A RARE INSTRUMENT FROM CHINA: KONGHOU 箏篎"

Arranged by Professor Chan Ka Nin and Alice Ho

KONGHOU PERFORMANCE by Liu Xuanyi

Kimberly Chin, choreographer & dancer

JiaLiang Zhu, piano



Photo taken by Tam Kam Chiu

MUSIC ON FLUTES

By Ron Korb (龍笛)

JiaLiang Zhu, piano



Photo taken by Tam Kam Chiu

“MAGNETIC FIELDS” (AN EXCERPT) – CONTEMPORARY DANCE

by Yvonne Ng and tiger princess dance projects



Photo taken by Tam Kam Chiu

MIDDLE EASTERN MUSIC ON 3 DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS: BOUZOUKI, OUD AND SAZ

by Yiannis Kapoulas
with keyboardist, percussionist and vocalist



Photo taken by Tam Kam Chiu

TRADITIONAL DANCE: MONGOLIAN GRAND FEAST
by Chi-Ping Dance Group & dancers of Chinese Collective Arts Association



Photo taken by Tam Kam Chiu

**LAUNCH | REVAMPED VIRTUAL MUSEUM OF ASIAN CANADIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE
(VMACCH)**



RECEPTION FOLLOWS

Co-organizers:

Asian Heritage Month—Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc., ORBIS, Bata Shoe Museum; Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University; York Centre for Asian Research, York University, Canadian Studies Program, University College, University of Toronto; Asian Institute, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto; Richard Charles Lee Canada Hong Kong Library, University of Toronto; Social Services Network; Justin Poy Agency; Acqua Technologies Inc.

Asian Heritage Month Festival is partially funded by the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

4. The Thirteenth Annual Asian Heritage Month Lecture and the Eleventh Annual Asian Heritage Month Education Roundtable

TITLE: “THE HEART OF ASIA, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW: A CELEBRATION OF ASIAN WISDOM TRADITIONS IN CANADA”

FREE ADMISSION Please register by e-mail: asianheritagecanadian@yahoo.ca

Opening Event: Pathways to Wellbeing in Our Times: The Contributions of Asian Wisdom Traditions

Date: Friday, May 22, 2015

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with Reception

Venue: Sandra Faire and Ivan Fecan Theatre, York University, 4700 Keele Street **Map:** Building 92 on the Map at <http://maps.info.yorku.ca/files/2013/02/Colour-Map-pdf.pdf> (**Downsview Subway Station to the 196 Express: York University**)

Description:

Presentations

Moderator: Prof. Thabit Abdullah, Associate Dean, External Affairs, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University

-Welcome by Dean Martin Singer, Founding Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University

-Welcome by Justin Poy, Patron, Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture

-Asian Heritage Month Lecture by Ashley Poy on “Universal Spirituality: How do I Feel, in Heart, Body & Mind, Right Here, Right Now?”



- Professor Renita Wong, Social Work, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University

“The Interbeing of Wellness Among Students in Higher Education”

Introductory Talks

- Bhante Kovida (Buddhist monk from Theravada (Sri Lanka) tradition, Jamaican Canadian of Chinese descent) on “Buddhism and Mindfulness”

- Melanie Viglas (University of Toronto and Sheridan College) on “Mindfulness in Education”



Workshops

Workshops on sitting meditation and dynamic mindfulness (simultaneously) conducted by Melanie Viglas and Bhante Kovida.

Red Sofa Discussions

Moderator: Prof. Thabit Abdullah, Associate Dean, External Affairs, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University

-Opening words by Professor Nelson Wiseman, Director, Canadian Studies Program, University of Toronto

-Opening words by TDSB & TCDSB representatives

Leila Girdhar-Hill (System Superintendent, Toronto District School Board)

Craig Tsuji (Principal, Toronto District School Board)

Kirk Mark (Senior Coordinator of Community Relations, Toronto Catholic District School Board) Jody Huang (Community Relations Officer, Toronto Catholic District School Board)

Representatives from public school boards and private schools

With All Speakers also sitting on the panel



Photo taken by Sara Mossa

Q/A period with entire audience, followed by an open discussion guided by the following points:

- What Asian wisdom practices can teach us about managing stress and pressure in daily life.
- Insight into the potential negative impact posed by our high-tech age of instant gratification on our mental health and wellbeing.
- Transforming negative emotions that arise in our daily lives into opportunities towards greater understanding, wellness & meaning.

Reception follows

Workshops on Japanese Tea Ceremony, Taoist Tai Chi and Sufi Dhikr

Date: Sunday June 7, 2015

Time: Whole day

Venues:

Morning: Japanese Tea Ceremony at Tea Room of Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court

Map at <http://www.jccc.on.ca/en/contact/>

Directions by TTC: Take the 100 Flemingdon bus from Eglinton or Broadview subway station

1 pm - 4:15 pm: Tai Chi and Sufi Dhikr at Aga Khan Museum, 77 Wynford Drive, Toronto

Map at <https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/visit/location-parking>

Directions by TTC: The 100 Flemington Park bus, available at Broadview and Eglinton subway stations, stops on Wynford Drive right at the Aga Khan Museum (stop: Garamond Court; travel time approx. 25–30 minutes). The 25 Don Mills bus, available at Pape subway station, stops at Don Mills Road and Wynford Drive (stop: Wynford Drive; travel time approx. 20 minutes). The Museum is a short walk along Wynford Drive (approx. 5 minutes).

Japanese Tea Ceremony at Tea Room of Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court

Date: Sunday June 7th, 2015

Time: Morning

Presenters:

"The Historical Context of Zen and the Tea Ceremony" by Professor David Waterhouse, East Asian Studies, University of Toronto

Practice session of tea ceremony

Presenter on Japanese Tea Ceremony: Ms. Helen Kong

Date: Sunday June 7th, 2015

Time: 9am-11:30am

**SECTION I: JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY AT JAPANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
9AM-11:30AM**

Welcome:

James Heron, Executive Director, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre

Prof. Thabit Abdullah, Associate Dean, External Affairs, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University

Ashley Poy, Chair, Organizing Committee, Asian Heritage Month Education Roundtable 2015

MUSIC

Japanese music

PRESENTATION

"The Historical Context of Zen and the Tea Ceremony" by Professor David Waterhouse, East Asian Studies, University of Toronto



MEDITATION

Zen in stillness and motion exercises

TEA CEREMONY

Tea ceremony demonstration at Tea room

Members of the Urasenke Tankokai Toronto Association



SECTION II: TAOIST TAI CHI AND SUFI DHIKR AT AGA KHAN MUSEUM

1PM-4:15PM

Tai Chi and Sufi Dhikr at Aga Khan Museum, 77 Wynford Drive, Toronto

Date: Sunday June 7th, 2015

Time: 1 pm - 4:15 pm

Welcome:

Amirali Alibhai, Head of Performing Arts, Aga Khan Museum

Prof. Thabit Abdullah, Associate Dean, External Affairs, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University

Ashley Poy, Chair, Organizing Committee, Asian Heritage Month Education Roundtable 2015



Tai Chi: Aga Khan Museum (auditorium and courtyard)

1 pm-2:30 pm

“Taoism and Tai Chi Calligraphy”

Presenters: Dr. Lien Chao and famous Tai Chi Artist Henry Ho

Written by Lien Chao

Digital production and original videos by Henry Ho

Stage manager: Tom Ng

Narrator: Lien Chao

Tai Chi Calligraphy Performer: Henry Ho

Live music: Brian Lau

Co-Performer: Ashley Bruce Poy



Sufi Dhikr -Aga Khan Museum (auditorium and courtyard)

2:45 pm-4:15 pm

Presenter: Dr. Reza Tabandeh, University of Toronto on “Sufism: Path of Universal Love”



Synopsis of the talk on “Sufism: Path of Universal Love” provided by Dr. Reza Tabandeh, University of Toronto

Description: One of the major schools within all religions is the school of mysticism who have tried to find a solution for the crisis that religious fanaticism and materialism have created for humanity in the 21st century. Mystical experiences has always been the most important phenomenon for the creation of Art, poetry and literature, which would motivate human emotions toward spirituality for the recognition of universal divinity in all creatures or in all being. Sufis are the mystics of Islam. In this talk, there will be a short introduction of Sufism and its philosophy. It will be explained how this school, which the prominent scholar of Islamic Studies, Dr. Sayyid Hossein Nasr, called “Heart of Islam”, evolved to a school, with the fundamental philosophy of Universal Love.

Sufi Ceremonies:

The ultimate goal of a Sufi is to be annihilated in the Beloved (God), which means being in union with the Beloved in reality. There are number of Sufi practices and sessions, which Sufis believe that these sessions help them to reach the state of union.

Remembrance of God (Dhikr) is a fundamental practice of meditation by Sufis, which must be constant and there are number of different ways of practicing remembrance. The two most important divisions of remembrance are Silent Dhikr (which is more base on meditation in mind and breathing) and the second type is loud Dhikr, which is more practiced in Sufi lodges.

Sema is another spiritual practiced by Sufis and in the west, it is known as whirling which is not the only practice of Sema. The literal meaning of Sema, is listening, which refers to listening to a rhyme of music, dhikr or poems.

A Dhikr with the Canadian Sufi Cultural Centre, with Practice Session

Special performance of Turkish Sufi Music, chanting, Sema & Dhikr Allah by Tevfik Baba & Jerrahi ensemble.

See more at: <https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/performing-arts/event/asian-wisdom-traditions#sthash.Nwr1dNtc.nXkhPBEs.dpuf>





Interfaith Dialogue and workshop on Hindu Yoga

Date: Friday June 12

Time: 7 pm-9:30 pm

Location: Multi-Faith Centre, University of Toronto, 569 Spadina Avenue

Map at <http://www.multifaith.utoronto.ca/Contact-Us-Book-Space.htm#Directions>



Featured talk and workshop on Hindu Yoga by Gauri Guha



Gauri Guha performing Indian Classical Singing at the event



Multi-Faith Dialogue

Location: Multi-Faith Centre, University of Toronto

Date: Friday June 12

Time: 7 pm-9:30 pm

HINDU YOGA

Presentation Gauri Guha: "Hindu Yoga & The Path of Indian Classical Music"

Performance & Workshop Gauri Guha: "Experiencing Yoga Practice Through BREATH & SOUND"

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Topic: "What is happening RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW? An Investigation into the Heart of Personal Transformation"

Panel (from various wisdom traditions)

Sufism and Dhikr: Dr. Reza Tabandeh, University of Toronto

Taoism and Tai chi: Dr. Lien Chao and famous Tai Chi Artist Henry Ho

Hinduism and Hindu Yoga: Gauri Guha

Zen Buddhism and Japanese Tea Ceremony: Ashley Poy, Helen Kong, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre

Mindfulness Practice & Public Education: Melanie Viglas

Presented by Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University and Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.

Co-presented with

York Centre for Asian Research; York Centre for Education and Community; Canadian Studies Program, University

College, University of Toronto; Department of Social Justice Education, OISE, University of Toronto; Asian Heritage Month Festival 2015; Social Services Network; Buddhist Education Foundation for Canada; Aga Khan Museum; Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre; Japan Foundation

Asian Heritage Month Festival 2015 is partially funded by the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University, Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Social Sciences Humanities Research Council

5. Asian Heritage Month Film Festival

Date: Saturday, May 23, 2015

Time: 2pm to 8pm

Venue: Innis Town Hall, University of Toronto, 2 Sussex Avenue, Toronto

Map at <http://www.utoronto.ca/townhall/contact.html>

FREE ADMISSION Please register at asianheritagecanadian@yahoo.ca

Programmed by ReelWorld Film Festival

Canadian Features Programmer Bobby Del Rio

3 pm Feature Documentary: “Everything Will Be” by Julia Kwan + Q and A

This feature documentary by Sundance award-winning director Julia Kwan captures the subtle nuances of a culturally diverse neighbourhood—Vancouver’s once-thriving Chinatown—in the midst of a transformation that plays out across many ethnic enclaves in North America. The community’s oldest and newest members offer their intimate perspectives on the shifting landscape as they reflect on change, memory and legacy. Night and day, a neon sign that reads “EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT” looms over Chinatown. Everything is going to be alright. The big question is—for whom?

4:30 pm Panel Discussion on “Insight and Inclusion”

Asian Canadian Second and Third Generation Filmmakers talk about how they brought their stories to the screen, sharing their challenges and successes.

Moderator: Bobby Del Rio

Panelists: Keith Lock, Jag Parmer, Faisal Lutchmedial, Amanda Joy



6 pm Feature Film: “Dowry” by Jag Parmer + Q and A with the Director

Synopsis: Mausam, from an underprivileged family, is finally getting married. Hers is the only anticipated wedding as her sister, Gia, is wheelchair-bound. They only need to arrange for one dowry. But Gia also falls in love and demands a dowry for her own marriage. A family feud erupts between the sisters. Gia’s only teetering support is her mother. The wedding must go on and Mausam pays the price for a dowry that’s simply not enough.

Location:

Innis College Town Hall, University of Toronto, 2 Sussex Avenue



Presented by:

Asian Heritage Month--Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc., Social Services Network in partnership with ReelWorld Film Festival

Location:

Innis Town Hall, Innis College, University of Toronto,
2 Sussex Avenue

Presented by:

Asian Heritage Month--Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc., Social Services Network in partnership with ReelWorld Film Festival

Co-Organizers: Asian Heritage Month—Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.; ReelWorld Film Festival; Canadian Studies, University College, University of Toronto; Richard Charles Lee Canada Hong Kong Library, University of Toronto; Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University; Social Services Network; Bata Shoe Museum

Asian Heritage Month Festival is partially funded by the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

6. Artists Workshop at Toronto District School Board

Monday June 8th, Woodbine Junior High School

7. Artists Workshop at Toronto Catholic District School Board

Tuesday June 9th, St Margaret Catholic School

8. Asian Heritage Month Art and Photo Exhibitions at City Hall Rotunda

FEATURED EXHIBITION:

An Eclectic Display of Photographic Images by Dr Neville Poy

Photographs by Mr. Stephen Siu, President of Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto

Photographs by Award-Winning Photographer Mr. Tam Kam Chiu

FREE ADMISSION

Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 to Wednesday, June 12, 2015

Venue: City Hall Rotunda, 100 Queen St. W.



Featured photographs by Dr. Neville Poy and Mr. Stephen Siu



Art Exhibition

Description:

The Featured Exhibitions are-

An Eclectic Display of Photographic Images by Dr Neville Poy

Photographs by Mr. Stephen Siu, Chairman of Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto

Photographs by Award-Winning Photographer Mr. Tam Kam Chiu

This event will explore the fusion of two types of visual art: painting as an imaginative reproduction of reality, and photography as a realistic representation of life. In juxtaposing these two visual art forms, the innovative ways Asian artists manipulate the multicultural setting of Canada can be seen, such as applying oil painting techniques on Chinese themes, or using Chinese brush painting to show Canadian themes. How photography aspires to be a verisimilitude of life and an imaginative interpretation informed by Asian philosophy will also be shown. Dr. Lien Chao will work with the Artists Association, and the Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto will feature their members' works. During the festival weekend, the artists and photographers will be present to talk about Asian art media and demonstrate their techniques; these educational activities aim at helping the public to develop necessary knowledge and critical skills to appreciate Asian art.

Co-Organizers: Asian Heritage Month—Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.; Chinese Canadian Photography Society of Toronto; WE Artists' Group; ORBIS; Social Services Network

Asian Heritage Month Festival is partially funded by the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council