

ASIAN ART MUSEUM
Chong-Moon Lee Center
for Asian Art & Culture
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Asian

News



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PUBLIC PROGRAMS

28 Chinese

June 5–Aug. 16, 2015

SAN FRANCISCO, May 22, 2015— Brighten up the summer with the Asian Art Museum's *28 Chinese* public programs, filled with enlightening talks and activities tied to contemporary art and present-day China. The exhibition kicks off with *Lessons on the Far East* with artist Yan Xing on Thursday, June 4. In the hopes of opening up a new mode of debate, Yan Xing has staged a compelling academic lecture that blurs the lines between reality and performance. On June 18, the museum in collaboration with the Chinese Cultural Center will screen *No World* (2014), followed by a conversation with the artist Fang Lu and Herb Tam, curator and director of exhibitions at the Museum of Chinese in America. On July 2, An Xiao Mina will lead a panel of artists and researchers, offering perspectives on Chinese digital culture. In addition, the museum will host lectures, performances, art activities, Family Fun Days and docent-led tours over the course of the exhibition.

28 Chinese offers glimpses of contemporary Chinese art through a group of 28 artists, ranging from the up-and-coming Liu Wei, He Xiangyu and Xu Zhen to the internationally acclaimed Zhang Huan and Ai Weiwei. These artists have made a significant impact on the art world and expanded definitions of contemporary art in China. Featuring various forms—painting, installation, photography and new media—the exhibition reveals powerful responses to China today, as well as perspectives and attitudes towards tradition.

TALKS

Chinese Art Now

Thursday, June 11

6–8:30 PM

Samsung Hall

Members \$10; Students \$15; non-members \$20 (includes museum admission, register at www.asiasociety.org)

MORE

Allison Harding, guest curator of *28 Chinese*, will moderate a panel discussion featuring scholars, writers and artists in conversation about the exhibition and the contemporary art scene in China. Panelists include curator and art historian Abby Chen, artist Yan Xing and curator Barbara Pollack. Also, enjoy a gallery walkthrough with a docent before the panel discussion (space is limited, RSVP required).

Co-presented with Asia Society, Northern California.

No World

Thursday, June 18, 7–8:30 PM

Samsung Hall, free with museum admission (\$5 after 5 PM)

Join us for a screening of Fang Lu's *No World* (2014, single-channel video, sound, 17'52"), followed by a conversation with the artist and Herb Tam, curator and director of exhibitions at the Museum of Chinese in America. This program is presented as part of *28 Chinese*.

Fang Lu's practice raises questions about the process of image making, blurring the line between performance and reality. In her latest work, *No World*, six young protagonists reside in an empty house. Their daily activity is to rehearse the act of protest and to perform violent behavior without actual conflict. The image of struggle seamlessly transforms into an image of youth: free, rebellious and beautiful. The question remains—what is an image? How is it produced, mediated and consumed?

This event is organized in collaboration with the Chinese Cultural Center. On June 20, in conjunction with their exhibition *Present Tense 2015*, the Chinese Cultural Center will host a conversation between artist Fang Lu and current MFA students of Asian descent to discuss her experience after art school.

Panel Discussion: Urbanization and Globalization in China

Saturday, July 18, 1–3 PM

Samsung Hall

Members \$10; students \$15; non-members \$30 (includes museum admission, register at www.societyforasianart.org)

Join leading scholars for a discussion of the compatibility of Chinese traditions and global trends, as well as two of the major forces agitating change in present-day China: urbanization and globalization.

This program is co-presented Asia Society of Northern California.

A Conversation with the Rubells

Thursday, August 13, 7–8:30 PM

Samsung Hall, free with museum admission (\$5 after 5 PM)

Come meet Mera and Donald Rubell, founders of the extraordinary Rubell Family Collection and the organizers of *28 Chinese*. Visit www.asianart.org for more info.

PERFORMANCES, DEMONSTRATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Lessons on the Far East

Thursday, June 4, 7–8:30 PM

Samsung Hall, free with museum admission (\$5 after 5 PM)

Lessons on the Far East is a new project by artist Yan Xing presented in conjunction with the exhibition *28 Chinese*. In the hopes of opening up a new mode of debate, Yan Xing has staged a compelling academic lecture that blurs the lines of reality and performance.

Lessons on the Far East will take place under the auspices of the Honourable East India Institute (HEII). This institution is a new organization created by the artist, designed to explore ways of researching and reexamining various subjects in the field of East Asian Studies. In this unique and site-specific performance the artist will collaborate with two participating academics from leading institutions. He hopes that *Lessons on the Far East* will provide new avenues for deciphering and framing an emerging regionalism, and for presenting the insights thus gained to a global audience.

Memes, Puns and Selfies: A Look at Chinese Digital Culture

Thursday, July 2, 6–9 PM

Samsung Hall and Loggia, free with museum admission (\$5 after 5 PM)

Writer, critic, artist and technologist An Xiao Mina has designed an interactive program that will explore the visual culture of the Chinese Internet. First, she will lead a panel of artists and researchers in the exploration of Chinese digital culture with a focus on creative forms of expression through words and images. Then attendees will participate in a calligraphy workshop meant to offer a hands-on exploration of Chinese-language Internet puns, sourced by Beijing-based artist Ma Yongfeng.

Organized in conjunction with the museum's current exhibition, *28 Chinese*, the program aims to provide insight into Chinese digital culture, which influences and inspires many creative professionals today, as well as the broader public.

About the organizer:

An "An Xiao" Mina is co-founder of The Civic Beat, a creative collective and online magazine looking at issues of global justice, creativity and technology. In the tech sector, Mina works at Meedan, where they are building a platform for social translation of social media.

Mina has spoken at venues like the Personal Democracy Forum, Creative Mornings and the Aspen Institute, and she has contributed writing to publications like the *Atlantic*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and the *Journal of Visual Culture*. She was a 2013 fellow at the USC Annenberg / Getty Arts Journalism Program and serves as contributing editor to *Hyperallergic* and the *Civicist*. Having recently served as a section editor for *Ai Weiwei: Spatial Matters* (published by MIT Press and Tate Publishing), she is currently working on a book about Internet memes and global social movements.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Family Fun Day

First and third Sundays, June 7 and 21, 10:30 AM–2:30 PM (stART Tour for kids ages 3–6 10:30–11 AM; art making and self-guided activities 11 AM–2 PM)
Education Studios, free with museum admission courtesy of Target

Discover and play as a family at the Asian Art Museum. On Family Fun Days, our fun gallery activities, immersive storytelling and creative art making opportunities, encourage you and your family to look more closely at the art and have some fun while doing so. Themes and projects change regularly.

What can you do with a box full of stuff? This summer, make a found object sculpture using materials headed for the trash and explore themes of reusing, repurposing and recycling in the special exhibition *28 Chinese*.

Stories! The Wicked, the Wily, the Wise

Sundays, 1–1:45 PM
Suggested for ages 7 and up
Meet at the information desk, free with museum admission (kids 12 and younger always get in free)

Want to hear great stories about heroic girls and boys, animal legends, and dynamic deities? Join a storytelling tour and listen to epic myths and tales from Asia. These lively stories aren't just for kids, so be sure to bring the whole family.

Explorer Packs

Daily
Pick one up at the information desk, free with museum admission

Learn more about the elements of art by touring the museum's collection with an Elements of Art Explorer Pack. Designed for kids 5 and older, these nifty packs use props and playthings to introduce line, shape, color and texture to young visitors.

Art Cards

Daily

Pick one up at the information desk, free with museum admission

Discover artworks and animals in the museum's collection with Art Cards, designed for kids ages 3–6. Art Cards help families and kids engage with the art by encouraging closer looking in a fun and playful way.

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Teacher Workshop: China and the Forbidden City

Saturday, July 11, 9:30–2 PM

Free workshop with pre-registration at education.asianart.org, sponsored by the China Institute

The Forbidden City was considered the embodiment of Chinese culture and power from the 1400s to the early 1900s, attracting scholars, officials and dignitaries. Learn about the architecture, philosophy, politics and history of the Forbidden City. Then, view how contemporary artists explore China's cultural identity in the special exhibition *28 Chinese*. Includes refreshments, a light lunch and curriculum resources.

TOURS

Docent Tours: 28 Chinese

Daily, June 5–Aug. 16, 10:30 AM and 2 PM (45 minutes each)

Meet at the information desk, free with museum admission

Kids' Tours

Saturdays, June 6–Aug. 15, 1–1:30 PM

Suggested for families with children ages 7–10

Meet at the information desk, free with museum admission (kids 12 and younger always get in free)

Kids' Tours help children and parents view and discuss art, using engaging prompts to encourage closer viewing of the objects. Learn about Chinese art and culture while searching for hidden treasures on a docent-led tour of artwork from the Asian Art Museum and the special exhibition *28 Chinese*.

ABOUT THE ASIAN ART MUSEUM

The Asian Art Museum–Chong-Moon Lee Center for Asian Art and Culture is one of San Francisco's premier arts institutions and home to a world-renowned collection of more than 18,000 Asian art treasures spanning 6,000 years of history. Through rich art experiences, centered on historic and contemporary artworks, the Asian Art Museum unlocks the past for visitors, bringing it to life while serving as a catalyst for new art, new creativity and new thinking.

Information: 415.581.3500 or www.asianart.org

Location: 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

Hours: The museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 AM to 5 PM. Hours are extended on Thursdays until 9 PM starting Feb. 26 through Oct. 8. Closed Mondays, as well as New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

General Admission: FREE for museum members, \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (65+), college students with ID, and youths (13–17). FREE for children under 12 and SFUSD students with ID. General admission on Thursdays after 5 PM is \$5 for all visitors (except those under 12, SFUSD students, and museum members, who are always admitted FREE). General admission is FREE to all on Target First Free Sundays (the first Sunday of every month). A surcharge may apply for admission to special exhibitions.

Access: The Asian Art Museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information regarding access: 415.581.3598; TDD: 415.861.2035.

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