

THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER

SPRING 2019 CULTURAL PROGRAMS



THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER

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PHOTO BY HEATHER WALSH

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

With the memory of the late Mr. Charles Wang in our hearts and minds, we begin another new year with new and rich Asian cultural programs for you to enjoy. Through your participation and support, we are not only able to bring Asian art and culture to vivid life, but we can also share Mr. Wang's legacy with the Stony Brook community and much of Long Island.

The Charles B. Wang Center has long hosted exhibitions and cultural programs in the traditional sense, acting as a concrete site to share cultural assets, new perspectives, and diverse histories. These days, social media plays a huge role in how we experience and interact with art. This season, we are offering a new exhibition, ***The Studio: Through a Surrealistic Lens***, designed for viewing and interaction via our ubiquitous smartphones.

We will of course be holding our annual cherry blossom festival to celebrate spring, and we hope you'll join us! You help make the Wang Center an inspiring place of learning and fun, and we are grateful for your enthusiasm and generosity.

With best wishes for a happy and auspicious Year of the Pig in 2019,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jinyoung Jin'.

Jinyoung Jin
Director of Cultural Programs

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):
An Eid greeting card, by A. S. Fayz Art Publishers. c. 1970s.
Courtesy of the Yousuf Saeed Collection.

ABOUT THE FOUNDER CHARLES B. WANG (1944–2018)

Charles B. Wang was the founder and chair emeritus of Computer Associates, the co-owner of the New York Islanders hockey team, and a philanthropist. Coming to the United States from Shanghai as a child of eight, Wang proved a keen athlete, a star student, and an outstanding businessman whose software company, Computer Associates International, became a world leader in the tech field. Wang was an embodiment of the American dream, but he was also steeped in a much older heritage. “As a Chinese American, I cherish the land of my birth,” he said, “and I cherish the land that gave me a home. I am indeed doubly blessed. It’s a long way from Shanghai to Stony Brook, but thanks to technology, the world is shrinking every day, and that’s a very good thing for us. As we all get to know one another, as we get to interact with different cultures and different countries, the walls that divide us begin to crumble.”

Wang earned his bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Queens College and began his career at Columbia University’s Riverside Research Institute as a programming trainee. He was the author of *Techno Vision II: Every Executive’s Guide to Understanding and Mastering Technology and the Internet* (1997), which educates decision-makers about the e-business revolution. Unknown to many, Wang also authored a cookbook, *Wok Like a Man* (1986). He served on several corporate boards and was active in numerous charitable causes, such as Smile Train, the Make-a-Wish Foundation, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He passionately believed in sharing the benefits of his unique



experience and success. As a beneficiary of public education, Wang founded and inaugurated the Charles B. Wang Center at Stony Brook University in 2002 as a world-class center of Asian and Asian American arts and culture, one with a mission to educate and to reach young people who would use his gift as their own gateways to success.

Over the years, Charles Wang visited the Wang Center on multiple occasions. In 2017, he participated in a private tea ceremony as part of the exhibit *The Way of Tea in Asia*. This was his last visit to the University prior to his death on October 21, 2018, in his home in Oyster Bay.

His memory, generosity, and contributions will long be remembered by the members of the University and the large network of people whose lives he had touched and changed. Charles Wang’s legacy will also live on at Stony Brook University in the vibrant Charles B. Wang Center. We look forward to honoring his life through our mission and various cultural programs at the center that bears his name.

Image credit: Charles B. Wang receives an honorary degree at Stony Brook University’s 55th commencement ceremony, May 22, 2015

© John Griffin/Stony Brook University

THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER CALENDAR

SPRING 2019 EXHIBITIONS

OPENING RECEPTION

Wednesday
3/13
5 PM
Theatre Gallery, Skylight Gallery

FROM MECCA TO SUFI SHRINES: ISLAMIC POSTER ART FROM SOUTH ASIA

ON VIEW 3/13 – 5/5
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, FILM, & OTHER PROGRAMS

2/28
1-3 PM

FESTIVAL | *NOWRUZ: THE PERSIAN
NEW YEAR CELEBRATION*
Chapel

2/28
6-8 PM

PERFORMANCE | *NEW WAVE KOREAN MUSIC
GROUP: NOREUM MACHI*
Theatre

3/6
4-5 PM

LECTURE | *SPAM, WAR, AND CUISINE*
Lecture Hall I

3/13
4-5 PM

LECTURE | *PLURALISM IN THE DEVOTIONAL
ISLAMIC ART OF SOUTH ASIA*
Theatre

3/27
3 PM

ART CRAWL
Theatre Gallery

4/3
1-3:30 PM

WORKSHOP | *PERSIAN GEOMETRIC ART*
Chapel

4/3
6-8 PM

PERFORMANCE | *TAIKO DRUMMING AND
DANCE TROUPE*
Theatre

4/10
4-5:30 PM

FILM | *KUSAMA-INFINITY: THE LIFE AND
ART OF YAYOI KUSAMA*
Theatre

4/26
1-3 PM

WORKSHOP | *ORIGAMI NAPKINS*
Chapel

5/3
1-3 PM

WORKSHOP | *CALLING ALL DUMPLING LOVERS!*
Chapel

5/5
12-5 PM

FESTIVAL | *SAKURA MATSURI: CHERRY
BLOSSOM FESTIVAL*
Charles B. Wang Center

EXHIBITIONS



FROM MECCA TO SUFI SHRINES

ISLAMIC POSTER ART FROM SOUTH ASIA

Skylight Gallery

Curated by Yousuf Saeed, an independent filmmaker and researcher based in India, *From Mecca to Sufi Shrines* showcases the ephemeral objects and devotional art produced for popular consumption in the Islamic world, in particular in South Asia. Included are mass-printed Islamic posters and calendar art from India and Pakistan, which often depict images of the Hajji pilgrimage; South Asian Sufi shrines and saints; and calligraphy and talismans linked to other religious faiths found in the region.

From Mecca to Sufi Shrines raises the question of why such vibrant visual cultures continue to thrive in the South Asian Islamic world despite the skepticism and suspicion of Islamic authorities on popular art's legitimacy, as well as why images and popular culture are inevitabilities for popular piety despite orthodox Muslims' increasing dissociation from them.

RELATED PROGRAM

LECTURE | **PLURALISM IN THE DEVOTIONAL ISLAMIC ART OF SOUTH ASIA** | MARCH 13, 4 PM | THEATRE (PAGE 24-25)

OPENING RECEPTION MAR 13 at 5 PM

Theatre Gallery, Skylight Gallery
Free and Open to the Public
RSVP at thewangcenter.org

ON VIEW

MARCH 13 — MAY 5, 2019

Image credit: *Ya Ghaus-e Azam Dastgir*, by Sarwar Khan, 2005. Chromolithograph.
Courtesy of the Yousuf Saeed Collection.

OPENING RECEPTION

MAR 13 at 5 PM

Theatre Gallery, Skylight Gallery
Free and Open to the Public
RSVP at thewangcenter.org

THE STUDIO

THROUGH A SURREALISTIC LENS

BY PROJECT GROUP GREEM

Theatre Gallery

White, flat, dreamlike spaces, serving as thresholds between the inner, subjective self and the external, physical world, were a subject that fascinated the South Korea-based project group GREEM (a name that literally translates to “picture” in Korean). GREEM’s goal is to elicit feelings of strangeness, difference, curiosity, and fun in its audiences. Following a long and rich Surrealist tradition, GREEM draws inspiration from dreamlike narratives, absurd juxtapositions, and comic books for new graphic languages.

A huge, flattened, and cartoon-like artist’s studio in white and black is open, inviting viewers to live out their surrealistic fantasies. The realistic detailing of the artist’s studio also adds touches of humor, utility, and everyday-ness. As soon as the viewer enters the studio (which is carefully modeled and gives the illusion of a three-dimensional form), surrealistic dreams are triggered; the white, flat scene and the viewer’s point of view are disrupted.

The current exhibition is designed to be reproduced and seen on social media as much as it is meant to be enjoyed in its actual location. This imaginative exhibition crosses perspective, culture, and media.

RELATED PROGRAM

ART CRAWL | [GUIDED EXHIBITION TOUR](#) |
MARCH 27, 3 PM | SKYLIGHT GALLERY (PAGES 26–27)

ON VIEW

LONG-TERM INSTALLATION

Image credit: Photo by Project Group GREEM, 2018



Curated by Jinyoung Jin, Director of Cultural Programs at the Charles B. Wang Center, this exhibition is designed and presented by Project Group GREEM, based in Seoul, South Korea.





SIMPLICITY OVER COMPLEXITY

Outdoor Garden

Brooklyn-based Korean American artist Jongil Ma revives the Charles B. Wang Center's outdoor garden with architecturally woven sculptures, using varying lengths and types of thin wooden strips, both in their raw state and dyed in color. Three large, site-specific installations balance the positive with the negative, tranquility with tension, and stillness with movement. The installations interact with the Wang Center's architecture and spatial dynamics, transforming the garden through a multiplicity of viewing possibilities.

ON VIEW

LONG-TERM INSTALLATION

Image credit: Installation view at the Charles B. Wang Center. Photo by Jongil Ma



ZEN ROCK GARDEN

Outdoor Garden

Located on the first floor, in between the meeting rooms 101 and 102 at the Charles B. Wang Center, this Japanese rock garden (*karesansui* 枯山水) was created by Gerard Senese and his wife Hiroko Uruga-Senese as a tribute to the appreciation of Japanese culture. Japanese gardens are rich with symbolism, and they are usually created with certain meanings and wishes in mind. The Wang Center's new Zen garden features symbols of Buddhist paradises with a tortoise islet (*kame-jima*) and a crane islet (*tsuru-jima*). Made with rocks, the tortoise symbolizes prosperity and the crane symbolizes health and good luck.

Visit the garden as a place for quiet contemplation.

ON VIEW

LONG-TERM INSTALLATION

Image credit: Zen Rock Garden, Charles B. Wang Center, 2017

PERFORMANCES



Image credit: Photo by Han Yong Hoon

NEW WAVE KOREAN MUSIC GROUP NOREUM MACHI

FEB 28 at 6 PM

Theatre

Admission: \$20 (General)
\$15 (SBU Students/Seniors)
Free for Children under 5

Tickets at thewangcenter.org



Noreum Machi's US tour is made possible by the Korea Foundation.

Noreum Machi traces its roots to Korean farmers' ensembles, groups that gathered together to celebrate the harvest with music, song, and dance. The ensemble generally consists of four main instruments, each one of which represents an element of nature: an hourglass-shaped drum (*janggu*) for rain; a barrel drum (*buk*) for clouds; a large gong (*jing*) for wind; and a small gong (*kkwaenggwari*) for thunder.

Noreum Machi features vocalist Juhong Kim and percussionists Hyunju Oh, Howon Lee, Taeho Kim, and Youngjun Kim.



TAIKO DRUMMING AND DANCE TROUPE

Performed by Tamagawa University Dance and Taiko Group

APR 3 at 6 PM

Theatre

Admission: \$20 (General) | \$15 (Students/Seniors)

Free for Children under 5

Tickets at thewangcenter.org

One of the top-ranking taiko groups in Japan will perform thundering taiko drum rhythms accompanied by traditional Japanese dance, with nearly 30 drummers and dancers taking the stage. Tamagawa University Dance and Taiko Group has gone on tours around the world since 1961, visiting Mexico, England, Greece, Canada, Malaysia, Russia, Indonesia, Africa, and the United States. This is their third visit to the Charles B. Wang Center as part of their Annual East Coast Tour. The Tamagawa University Dance and Taiko Group recently won third place in a competition against 450 other groups at the Tokyo International Taiko Contest.



*Presented with the support
of the Japan Center at SBU.*



LECTURES

SPAM, WAR, AND CUISINE

by Jaime Sunwoo

MAR 6 at 4 PM

Lecture Hall I

Free Admission

RSVP at thewangcenter.org

Artist and playwright Jaime Sunwoo will discuss the history of the canned meat product SPAM and its significance in the history and cuisine of the Asia-Pacific. She will examine SPAM's popularity in Korea, the Philippines, Okinawa, Guam, and Hawaii from its introduction during World War II and the Korean War. She will discuss her working process creating *Specially Processed American Me*, a performance and workshop series that uses SPAM to reflect on her Korean American upbringing, as well as share her family's accounts of the Korean War and inspire conversations about war, colonization, immigration, and class. Sunwoo will also read a selection of stories collected from her community workshops. Attendees are welcome to submit their own SPAM-related stories and recipes.



Presented with partial support from
the SBU Center for Korean Studies.



SUPPORTER OF CULTURAL PROGRAMS AT THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER
THE CENTER FOR KOREAN STUDIES

SUPPORTER OF CULTURAL PROGRAMS AT THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER
THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

THE CENTER FOR KOREAN STUDIES

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Image credit: *A praying Muslim woman*, by Syed Arts, c. 1970.
Original gouache on cardboard. Courtesy of the Yousuf Saeed Collection.



PLURALISM IN THE DEVOTIONAL ISLAMIC ART OF SOUTH ASIA

by Yousuf Saeed

Among the vibrant examples of public art found in the towns and villages of India and Pakistan, the most popular are religious posters and calendars depicting deities, saints, and places of worship. Along with iconography of Hindu deities, a large number of Islamic posters that portray the shrines at Mecca and Medina or Quranic verses in calligraphy are also available, displayed beside portraits of local Sufi saints and their tombs, miracles, and other folklore.

Unhindered depiction of Sufi portraits in this popular culture often disrupts the stereotype of Islam's iconoclasm and reveals nuanced sentiments of popular Muslim piety. These popular portraits and media also attract devotees to Hindu or Sufi shrines, despite such cultural hybridization being increasingly frowned upon by many Muslims influenced by puritanical Wahhabi ideology. Interestingly, Muslim artists or publishers do not necessarily produce all popular Islamic images. The publishing industry in South Asia doesn't distinguish between the identities of the producers and consumers of these images, and by and large continues to remain largely syncretic.

This lecture by Yousuf Saeed features examples of popular visuality and rituals associated with Sufis and their shrines through images and videos. Two short documentary films, *Basant* (12 minutes) and *Jannat ki Rail* (7 minutes), will also be shown.

RELATED PROGRAM

MAR 13 at 4 PM

Theatre
Free Admission
RSVP at thewangcenter.org

EXHIBITION | **FROM MECCA TO SUFI SHRINES: ISLAMIC POSTER ART FROM SOUTH ASIA** | MARCH 13–MAY 5 | SKYLIGHT GALLERY (PAGES 8–9)

فَإِنِّي تَرِيْبٌ اِجِيْبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ اِذَا دَعَا

ART CRAWL

A GUIDED TOUR OF CAMPUS GALLERIES

MAR 27 at 3 PM

Tour of the Simons Center Art Gallery, University Libraries Special Collections, the Charles B. Wang Center, and the Zuccaire Gallery.
Reception will follow at the Zuccaire Gallery.

2:00 PM	Simons Center Art Gallery
2:30 PM	University Libraries Special Collections
3:00 PM	Charles B. Wang Center
3:30 PM	Zuccaire Gallery (reception)

Stony Brook University hosts a variety of renowned art galleries that provide unique spaces and opportunities for cultural and artistic exchanges and collaborations. Our art crawls unite our university's galleries through a series of free, guided tours led by expert curators. This initiative directly supports the university's commitment to celebrating diversity and promotes the university's place in the global community. Each art crawl will offer tours of three to four galleries, visiting each for about 30 minutes, before ending with a reception.

The Charles B. Wang Center will offer a tour of the current exhibit, *The Studio: Through a Surrealistic Lens*, at 3 PM.

Free Admission | Reservation Required
RSVP at thewangcenter.org



WORKSHOPS

PERSIAN GEOMETRIC ART

by Ghazaleh Khayat

Geometric art is a traditional art motif found in much of the iconic architecture, ancient manuscripts, apparel, and stoneware of the Islamic lands in 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 and geometry to create astonishing artworks. The Islamic world, with its restrictions on the representational depiction, is no exception, and masterpieces that have dazzled for centuries—designed and created using very simple tools, such as the ruler and the compass—are a testament to the skills of Muslim artists. In this workshop, we will be following in the footsteps of these artists, producing geometric patterns of our own with the same simple tools.

APR 3 at 1 PM

Chapel

Admission: \$20 (General)

\$15 (Students/Seniors)

Limited to 30 people.

Advance reservation is required.

Tickets at thewangcenter.org





ORIGAMI NAPKINS

by Thomas R. Crain

Origami is a one-of-a-kind art form: it can be as simple as a fold and as complex as sculpture. In this workshop, Thomas R. Crain will show how to add a stylish touch of contemporary origami to our homes by teaching attendees how to make origami napkins. He will teach several folding techniques with fabric, including modern pattern techniques that use tessellations.

APR 26 at 1 PM

Chapel

Admission: \$20 (General) | \$15 (Students/Seniors)

Limited to 30 people. Advance reservation is required.

Tickets at thewangcenter.org



SUPPORTER OF CULTURAL PROGRAMS AT THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER

THE JAPAN CENTER

THE JAPAN CENTER

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CALLING ALL DUMPLING LOVERS!

by Kenny Lao, Owner of Rickshaw Dumpling Bar

"Dumpling" is a broad classification for dishes that consist of pieces of dough wrapped around a filling. Dumplings may be prepared using a variety of methods, including baking, boiling, frying, simmering, or steaming, and are found in many world cuisines. Kenny Lao, founder of the Rickshaw Dumpling Bar, will share his culinary journey from food trucks to restaurant and a dumpling line for Fairway Market. He will bring a variety of dumplings from different regions of China for tasting and provide a tutorial on how to make some unique dumpling folds, including the halfmoon fold, crescent fold, curvy S fold, buddha belly fold, tortellini fold, V fold, and the overachiever fold. Lao's first cookbook, *Hey There, Dumpling!*, will also be available for sale.

Supported by the Jacqueline M. Newman Endowed Fund, the program is co-organized by the Confucius

MAY 3 at 1 PM Institute, China Center, and the

University Libraries.



Chapel

Admission: \$30 (General) | \$20 (Students/Seniors)

Limited to 30 people. Advance reservation is required.

Tickets at thewangcenter.org

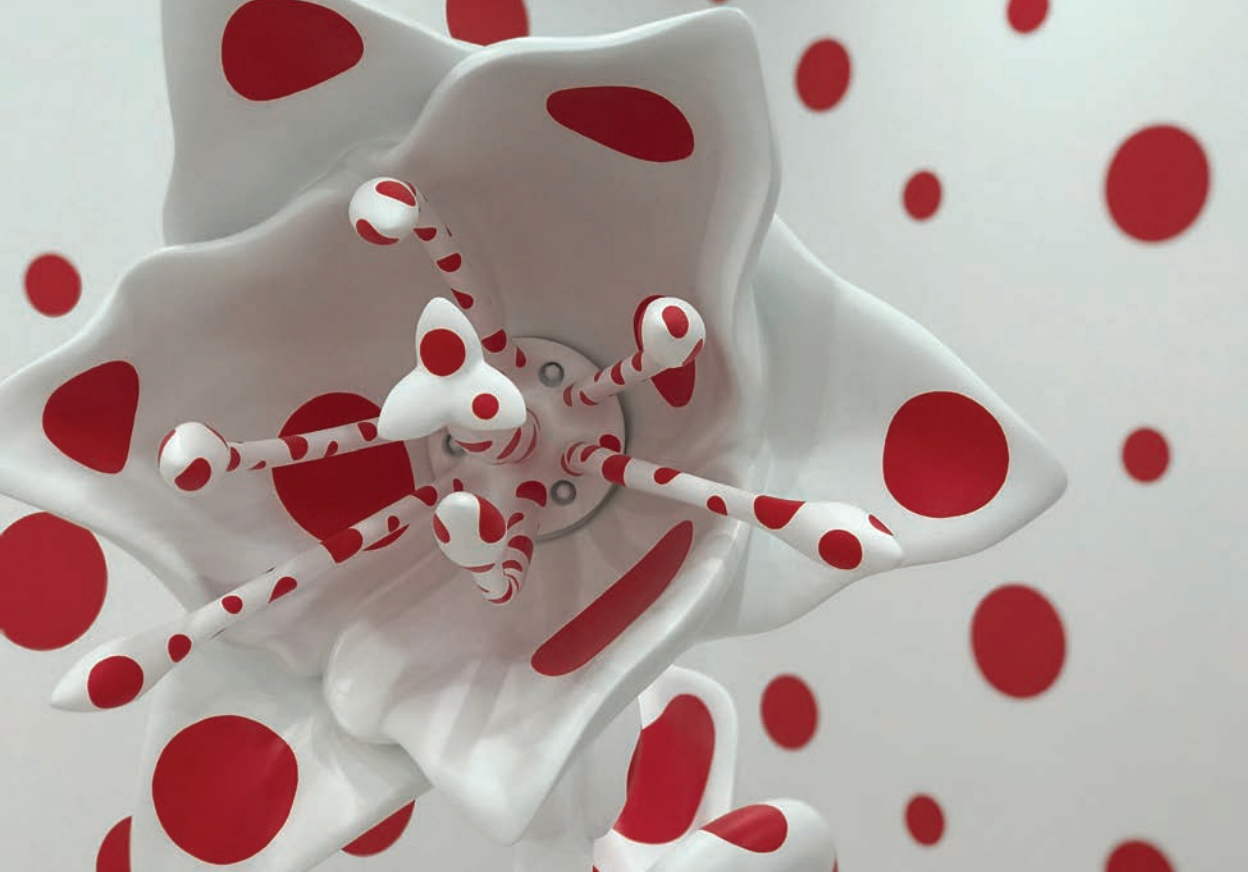
Special Collections and University Archives at Stony Brook University houses the Dr. Jacqueline M. Newman Chinese Cookbook Collection, the largest cookbook collection of its kind. The collection includes over 5,000 Chinese cookbooks; books on Chinese food culture, medicine, and history; haute cuisine magazines; archival materials; and audiovisual materials. These materials provide a valuable record of the Chinese Diaspora that has carried its rich cuisine to every corner of the globe.



**JACQUELINE M. NEWMAN
CHINESE COOKBOOK COLLECTION**

A Special Collection of the University Libraries
at Stony Brook University
<https://guides.library.stonybrook.edu/newman>

FILM



**KUSAMA-
INFINITY**
*THE LIFE AND ART
OF YAYOI KUSAMA*

(2018 | 80 minutes | Documentary |
Directed by Heather Lenz)

APR 10 at 4 PM

Theatre
Free Admission
RSVP at thewangcenter.org

Now the top-selling female artist in the world, Yayoi Kusama overcame impossible odds to bring her radical artistic vision to the world. For decades, her work pushed boundaries that often alienated her from both her peers and those in power in the art world. Kusama was an underdog with everything stacked against her: trauma growing up in Japan during World War II, life in a dysfunctional family that discouraged her creative ambitions, sexism and racism in the art establishment, mental illness in a culture of stigma, and ageism as she continues to pursue and be devoted to her art on the cusp of her 90s. In spite of it all, Kusama has endured and has created a legacy of artwork that spans the disciplines of painting, sculpture, installation art, performance art, poetry, and literary fiction. Working as an artist for more than six decades, Kusama continues to create new work every day, as people around the globe are viewing her installation *Infinity Mirrored Rooms* in record numbers.

FEB 28 at 1 PM

Chapel

Admission: \$20 (General)

\$15 (Students/Seniors)

Free for Children under 12

Tickets at thewangcenter.org

Limited to 50 people. Advance reservation is required.

NOWRUZ **PERSIAN NEW YEAR** **CELEBRATION**

Norwuz (literally meaning “New Day”) is the Iranian New Year, which commences at the exact moment of the spring equinox and is celebrated for a full two weeks. The iconic heart of *Norwuz* is the custom of creating a beautiful still-life table setting called *Haft Seen* (a Persian translation of “Seven S”) that includes at least seven items that begin with the letter “S” in Persian.

Azita Houshiar, an Iranian American writer, illustrator, and cooking instructor, will invite our audience to gather around the *Haft Seen* to explore the history and traditions of this charming ancient fête while partaking of Persian teas and sweets to celebrate the transition from the slumber of winter to the splendor of spring and the coming of the Persian New Year.

Image credit: Photo by Philip Ficks





SAKURA MATSURI CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Welcome spring to Long Island with the blooming of *sakura* (cherry blossoms), the sounds of taiko drums, and a wondrous array of Japanese cultural exhibits at the Wang Center! The Wang Center will provide many exciting activities, including *ikebana* flower arrangement, tea workshops, *manga* drawing, origami paper folding, kimono dress-ups, and *cosplay* (costumed role-play of a Japanese *manga* character) for all ages. Please join us in your favorite *manga* character costume.

Space is limited for the workshops, so make your reservation fast! For tickets and additional information, visit our website.

MAY 5 at 12 PM

Image credit: Photos by Frank L. Fumelli

Charles B. Wang Center
(Rain or Shine)

Admission: \$25 (General) | \$15 (Students/Seniors)

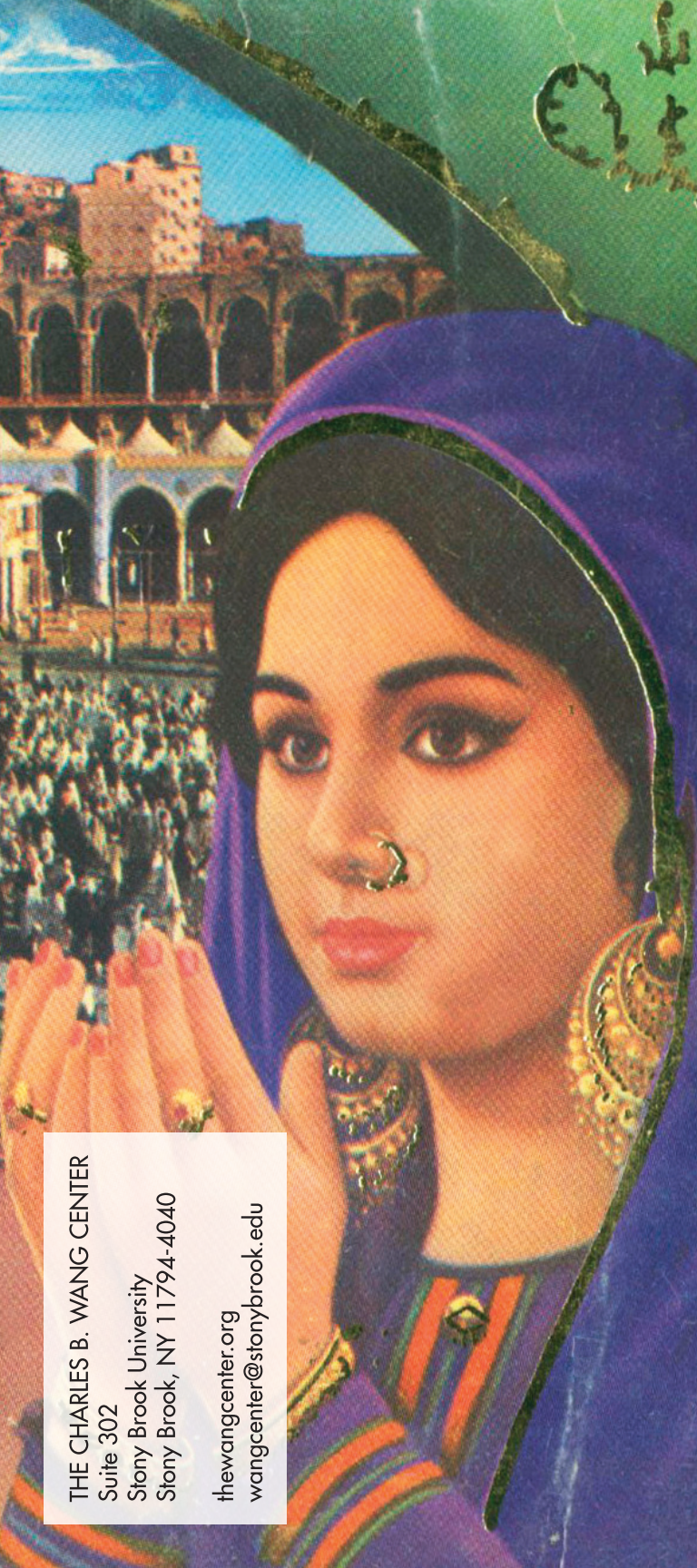
\$10 (Children ages 6–12)

FREE for Children ages 5 and under

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.



A woman wearing a purple headscarf and a purple top with orange and green stripes is shown in a close-up, with her hands clasped in a prayer gesture. She has a nose ring and large, ornate gold earrings. In the background, the Colosseum in Rome is visible under a blue sky, with a large crowd of people in the foreground.

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