

<http://rochesterasianhistory.org/index.php?page=apah>

### **Identity through Art: APA Heritage Month 2005**

Throughout May, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, see, hear, and participate in a celebration filled with movies, lectures, tours, demonstrations, and art installations. Learn more about our featured artists. Catch our spellbinding film series of documentary shorts, including the one we produced ourselves on a crazy budget and impossible deadlines.

On May 1 for the Memorial Art Gallery's Arts of Asia Family Day, in a giant festival with hundreds of artists and performers, when admission is only \$1:

- This day only, see an installation of 200 teacups and giant teapots by Chea Peng, Artist in Residence at the Genesee Center for the Arts; then watch him demonstrate the art of throwing pottery
- See scenes from *A [Korean] Comedy of Errors*, all the word of the Bard, but in traditional Korean costume and mask, performed by Hara Kang and the members of GENseng, a rare ensemble dedicated to Asian theatre
- Watch the talented Parvatha Chidambaram dance classical Bharata Nrithyam and sing religious Carnatic songs of southern India.
- Learn about traditional Japanese calligraphy and flower arranging from Master Teacher Yasuko Spence, certified ichi dan, the top degree of ten, in both arts
- See and learn about collage making, both traditional and digital, from award-winning artist Mara Ahmed.
- And of course, catch the premiere of our documentary *Identity through Art: Six Rochester Asian American Artists*. It surveys the oral history and art of our emerging to prominent area artists above and more. We produced it with the help of volunteers and paid professionals right here in Rochester.

On consecutive Tuesdays, May 10 and 17, cozy up to evening of insightful documentary shorts in Bausch Auditorium at the Rochester Museum & Science Center. Indulge your springtime fascination with kite-flying and kite-making through an award-winning documentary short. Did you know, Kites originated from Asia?

- Discover the historical significance of Angel Island, the entry-point and detention center for many Asians who arrived from 1910 to 1940 during an era of government exclusion and discrimination. Located in San

San Francisco's north bay, not far from Alcatraz, the historic buildings were nearly forgotten and their history almost lost, until one day a California State Park Ranger re-discovered them in 1970.

- Get into the beat of Bhangra with *Bhangra Wrap* and the youth subculture in New York and Toronto who fuse it with hip hop and rap.
- If you missed our documentary, May 10 brings another chance to see it. Then join everyone for a small reception after the movies.

The second Tuesday brings a deeper and more serious look into lives of artists.

- Raymond Hu is a talented young Chinese brush painter who was born with Down syndrome. *Raymond's Portrait* traces the personal and artistic growth of a prodigy whose circumstances have nurtured within him an emotional intensity and resiliency of spirit that finds dramatic expression in his works. It has won multiple awards and achievements, including a CINE Golden Eagle; First Place, Peninsula Press Club; national premiere, PBS; and many more.
- A collaborative project between filmmakers, painters and sculptors, *Art to Art: Expressions of Asian American Women* features artists Pacita Abad, Hung Liu, Yong Soon Min and Barbara Takanaga, and film and videomakers Christine Chang, Christine Choy, Karen Kavery and Chuleenan Svetvilas.
- Learn about the '60s political roots of Asian American music in *Cruisin' J-Town*, a film touching on the popular jazz fusion band Hiroshima and its birth in pre-redevelopment Little Tokyo in Los Angeles.

On Thursday, May 12 visit the Memorial Art Gallery again to see and hear our Featured Artist, the articulate and thoughtful Nancy Gong, give an illustrated lecture about glassmaking. Later in May, a commission Nancy made debuts in the new ferry terminal.

Wrapping our events for this year on Sunday, May 22 our Featured Artist Pepsy Kettavong shares his ideas about art's place in a democracy. You may disagree with him, but he won't bore you. Right after his presentation, we depart to see his sculptures in Susan B. Anthony Park, just houses away from where Anthony once lived, and his new proposals for more sculpture in this quaint city park opposite his studio.

See what we did in 2004.

Daily Lives” and “Identity through Art” at Cultural Harmony Week 2005, SUNY Geneseo

10/24/2005 @ 4:30 PM

Nancy Gong: 15 @ the 1570 Gallery! Opening Reception September 16, 2005  
6 PM - 8 PM

10/28/2005 @ 09:00 AM

"Daily Lives" Photo Exhibit April thru December 2005

12/31/2005 @ 08:00 AM

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