

The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of colors and patterns. It features a mix of deep blues, purples, pinks, and oranges, with intricate, swirling patterns that resemble traditional Asian art or textile designs. The overall effect is dynamic and visually rich.

Asian Arts & Culture Center

**REFLECT**  
*and* **ASPIRE**

**SPRING 2021**

# A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

## Dear AA&CC Friends:

We hope that you and your families are well in these challenging times. The past year has been like no other in the history of the Asian Arts & Culture Center, starting with the coronavirus pandemic and developing into the expression and increased exposure of social divisions and inequities in the United States, especially in relation to Americans of African and Asian descent. For fifty years, AA&CC has built cross-cultural bridges by connecting people in conversations through art and culture. Now, we find ourselves at a unique moment in time: the U.S. and the world are waking up to the systemic prejudice and racism that hinder the achievement of truly co-existing, sharing, and appreciating one another.

As supporters of AA&CC over the years, you represent the forefront of a movement. You have demonstrated your awareness of and commitment to

the need to level the playing field and to create platforms for the expression of diverse experiences. You know the importance of dialogue in bridging and celebrating differences.

As supporters of AA&CC, you recognize the unique role that the arts play in facilitating that dialogue. You know how arts engagement can provide the kind of experiences that go beyond diversity, equity and inclusion policies and communications training to challenge stereotypes.

You are eminently aware that there is no single, monolithic AAPI community and recognize the richness and complexity of multiple AAPI communities. You also know that Asian and AAPI experiences do not exist in a vacuum, but rather, that they are intricately connected to other communities.

We thank you for believing in the power of AA&CC's work to shift dominant cultural narratives, to help people expand their perspectives, and to correct misperceptions. We are deeply grateful to you for joining us in combatting xenophobia by connecting communities through art and culture, and we know you will take advantage of this moment to share your appreciation of AA&CC with everyone in your life.

Our sincere thanks,



Joanna Pecore  
Director



Nerissa Paglinauan  
Program Manager

# 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.

## 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.



## 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, honors the Charles North neighborhood's diverse communities and history as a Koreatown. Our Stories Virtual Festival pays tribute to our common humanity and the unique beauty of diverse experiences with personal and cultural stories shared through narrative, music, art, animation/video/short film, and more.



## Asia in Maryland (AIM)

AIM engages community and showcases the stories of Maryland-based Asian and AAPI artists and creatives. The series increases awareness and understanding of Maryland's diversity through exhibitions, workshops, family programs, performances, courses, and more. Through the unique power of the arts to connect people on personal and emotional levels, participants gain intimate understandings of the integral roles that over 500,000 Asian and AAPI residents play in the fabric of Maryland life.



## Asia@Towson

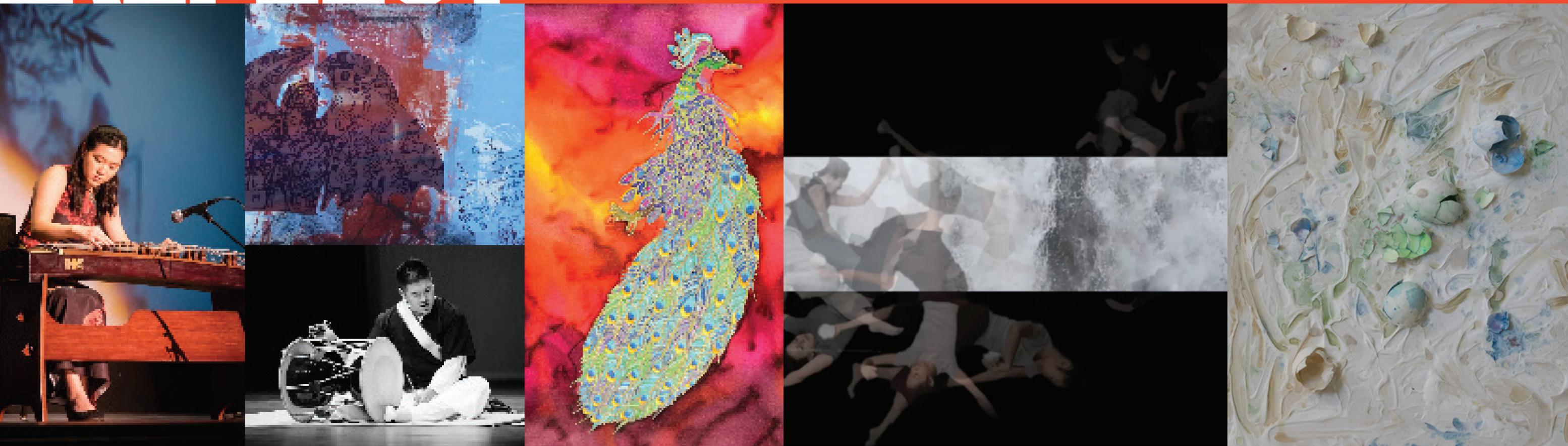
On campus, AA&CC produces student-focused festivals and events that both educate and entertain. We also sponsor TU's Cambodian music ensemble, bring guest artists to classes, provide workshops, and more.

## Asia Online

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

# REFLECT

# REFLECT



**Station North Shines: Asia North 2020**  
**June 5 and July 17, 2020**  
**Virtual**  
**Co-produced with**  
**Central Baltimore Partnership**  
**and Station North Arts District**

These virtual art walks celebrated the Baltimore region's art, culture and the Asian heritage and introduced the history of Baltimore's first unofficial Koreatown. They featured performers, community leaders, local chefs, and artists whose work appears in the Asia North 2020 exhibition, *Tradition-Memory-Transformation*. The Asia North 2020 exhibit and Station North Shines videos are available at [www.towson.edu/asianorth](http://www.towson.edu/asianorth)

*Special thank you for support from William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, Central Baltimore Partnership, Maryland State Arts Council, Citizens of Baltimore County, AA&CC Members, TU-BTU Presidential Priority, PNC Bank, WYPR, TD Bank, Johns Hopkins University, Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore Kawasaki Sister Cities Committee, Baltimore Changwon Sister Cities Committee, Mike Shecter, and Leandro Lagera.*

*Special thank you for research support from Ock Kyung Lee, Michelle Lee, Paul Kim, and Dale Dusman.*



Images from left to right: Ellen Zhang, (top) "Goddess Hilla" by Nahid Navab, (bottom) Sebastian Wang, "Merak Kala Senja" by Nico Gozal, Still from "Wi Ing Wi Ing" by Chung-Wei Huang, and "Not Fragile" by Monica Youn.



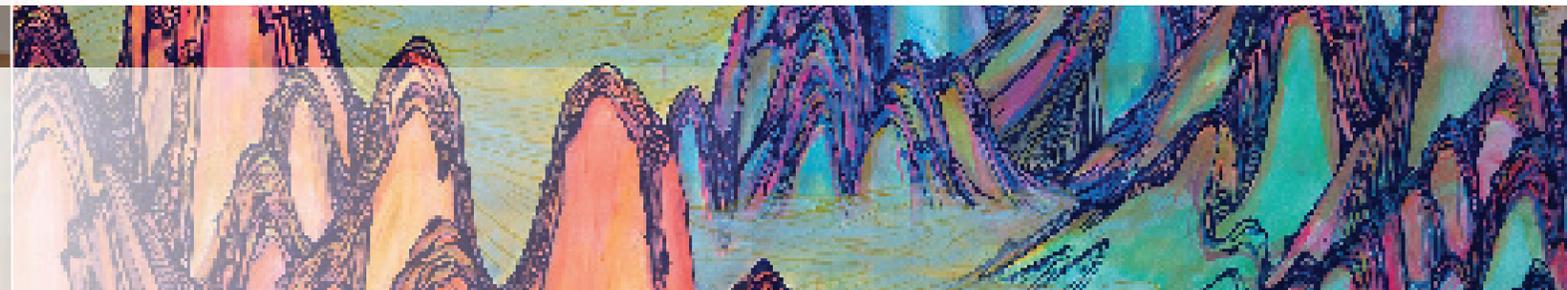
*“Furthered my passion for the environment and its maintenance and opened my eyes to how capitalism and greed has ravaged many lands in Asia and the world over.”*

## Phaan Howng

A Bag Of Rocks  
For  
A Bag Of Rice  
2020



*“Helped me to reconsider general and historic ideas about Asian gardens and aesthetics as well as gardening practices and placed them in dialogue with contemporary concerns.”*



**Phaan Howng: A Bag of Rocks for a Bag of Rice**  
**Online exhibition:**  
**Sept 17, 2020–present.**  
<https://bit.ly/3dWw0FE>  
**Physical exhibition:**  
**Sept 17, 2020–July 31, 2021.**  
**Asian Arts Gallery.**

(Fall 2020 open to TU students, faculty and staff by appointment. Open to all by appointment from May 3-July 31, 2021.)

**Virtual Artist Talk. Thursday,**  
**September 17, 2020.**  
<https://youtu.be/7WHm1vGpk7E>

As of June 5, 732 virtual visitors and forty-six physical visitors have explored Phaan Howng’s site-specific installation that engages East Asian gardens as a case study of the dynamics embedded within the inspired, meditative spaces of Chinese and Japanese gardens. Howng’s imposing, lurid, and disorienting installation incites critical reflections on how these enchanted “natural” spaces camouflage the histories of empire, wealth, privilege, exploitation, ecological extraction, and displacement behind their creation.

Seventy-three people attended Howng’s virtual artist talk and exhibition tour on September 17. Between March 10 and June 5, 2021, seventy-seven people have viewed a video of the talk.

*“It was a great event!  
 One of the best Zoom events I've been to.”*

*These programs were made possible by the generous support of  
 The E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Maryland State Arts Council,  
 William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, Central Baltimore Partnership, AA&CC Members,  
 TU College of Fine Arts & Communication, Citizens of Baltimore County,  
 Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota,  
 Harold J. Kaplan Foundation, TU COFAC Diversity Committee,  
 TU Marketing & Communications, Robert Mintz & Beth Arman, TU-BTU Presidential Priority,  
 Anthony & Bonnie Montcalmo, Alexander Nagel, and Connie Rosemont & Jon Greenberg.*

The E. Rhodes & Leona B.  
 CARPENTER  
 FOUNDATION

**MSAC**  
 MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL



The William G.  
 Baker, Jr.  
 Memorial Fund,  
 Creator of the Baker  
 Artist Awards



THE CITIZENS OF  
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

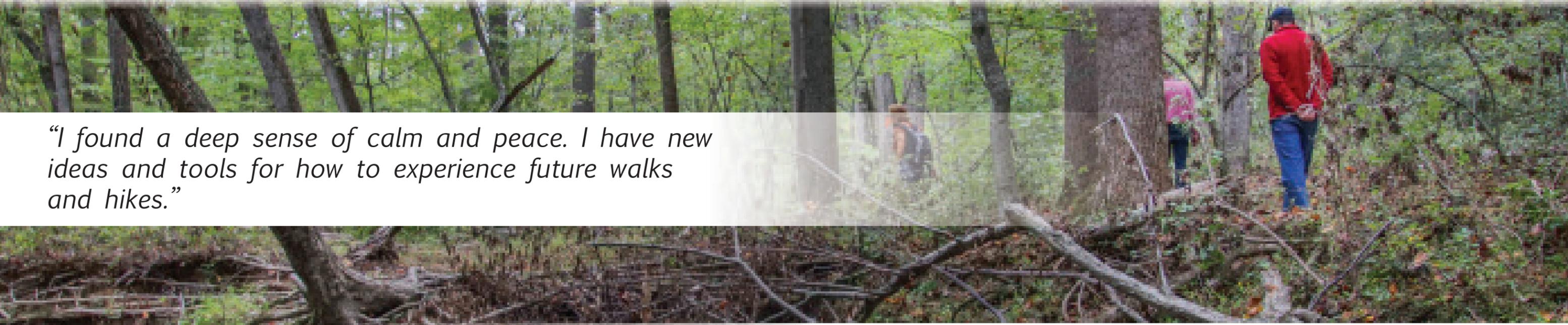


## Virtual Workshop Forest Bathing: Nature's Therapy Saturday, September 26, 2020

Eight people joined Naturalist and Forest Therapy Guide, Ana Ka'ahanui, for shinrin-yoku ("forest bathing"), a Japanese practice invented in the 1980s and based on Shinto and Buddhist reverence for nature.

*"I am much more at peace and calm. I felt much more connected to my neighborhood and my Towson community members. This is exactly what I needed during the pandemic. The cooler weather and light rain was lovely and refreshing."*

*"Slowing down and noticing is important."*



*"I found a deep sense of calm and peace. I have new ideas and tools for how to experience future walks and hikes."*

*"This event has given me more tools to use on my walks and connect with nature."*



## Panel Discussion Gardening for the Future Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Fifty-six people joined artist, Phaen Howng; scholar, Natasha Myers; botanical garden planner, Nicole DeFeo; and Herring Run Nursery assistant manager, Mary Lewis; as they deconstructed how ideal aestheticized gardens reflect power relations between humans and nature and shared ideas about how gardening practices can be mobilized to create more environmentally sustainable futures.

The video of this program will become available on AA&CC's website for future viewing.

*"Terrific roundtable talk--really interesting people."*

*"Excellent panel discussion - one of the best I have attended."*

*"Thank you for this, I was left with a great deal to consider and wrestle with!"*



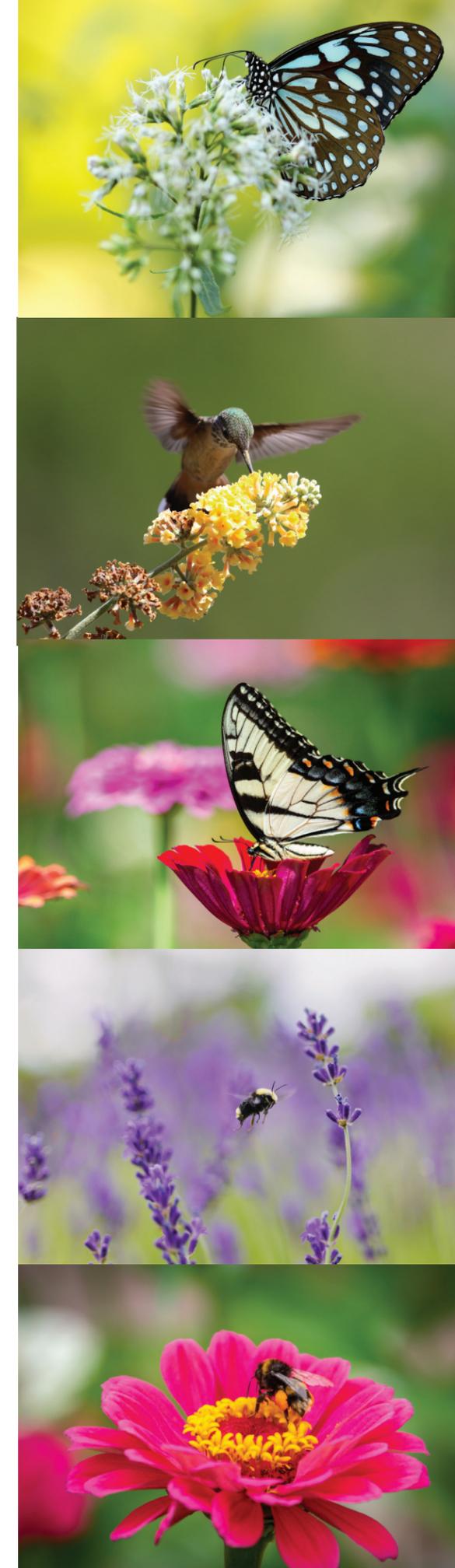
## Virtual Workshop Pollinator Gardening: Designing Sustainable Habitats Saturday, November 14, 2020

Fifty-three people joined Blue Water Baltimore and artist, Phaen Howng, to learn about pollinator gardens, their connection to watershed health, how to design them, and how to help restore habitats for struggling pollinators.

*"Provided a very clear model for the creation or improvement of a native garden."*

*"Eye opening and inspirational"*

*"I very much appreciate the blend of the cultural and ecological aspects of gardening--represented by TU Asian Arts and Culture and BWB."*



# ASIA NORTH 2020

## Art & Music Exchange

**Virtual Art & Music Exchange**  
**Asia North 2020**  
**Friday, October 16, 2021**  
**Co-presented with Central Baltimore Partnership**

This livestream event featured art talks and performances by multidisciplinary artist Marlo De Lara (a.k.a. marlo eggplant), hip-hop duo S.N.R.G. (Some Never Really Get), and visual artists Andersen Woof and Vidya Vijayasekharan. It was part of Asia North 2020, which was adapted as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Asia North is a collaborative community celebration that recognizes, showcases, and honors the art, culture and the Asian heritage of Greater Baltimore, especially the Korean history of Baltimore's Charles North community. Asia North 2020 features an online art exhibition, *Tradition - Memory - Transformation*, which showcases the works of 25 regional Asian and Asian American artists, and a brief history of Koreatown. Explore Asia North at [www.towson.edu/asianorth](http://www.towson.edu/asianorth)

The video of this program will become available on AA&CC's website for future viewing.



Special thanks to Central Baltimore Partnership, Maryland State Arts Council, William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, Citizens of Baltimore County, AA&CC Members, TU Creative Services, TU Digital Strategy, TU Marketing & Communications, Heather Sorensen, PNC Bank, WYPR, North Ave. Market-Mike Shecter, Stillpointe Theatre, Gong-yu Yesul Gallery, TU-BTU Presidential Priority, TD Bank, Asian Pasifika Arts Collective, Charm City Night Market, Ock Kyung Lee, Michelle Lee, Paul Kim, Dale Dusman, Matthew Park, Station North Arts District, Midtown Baltimore and Charles North Community Association.



Images: P.14-Marlo De Lara. P.15-Upper left: S.N.R.G. Bottom left: Marlo De Lara, *Dangerous Days* by Andersen Woof. Right: *Girl in Blue* by Vidya Vijayasekharan

# Virtual Community Festival Our Stories Thursdays, October 1 – November 5, 2021

212 people tuned into a virtual celebration of our common humanity and the unique beauty of diverse experiences during this six-week international community festival. Twenty-seven individuals from Baltimore to Bengaluru share their personal and cultural stories about life in quarantine, racism, relationships, social justice, empowerment, persistence, mortality, immigration, identity, courage, loneliness, and sustainable living through narrative, music, art, animation/video/short film, and more.

AA&CC initially conceived Our Stories in 2014 as an in-person multi-cultural family festival exploring local and global stories, including performances, workshops, hands-on activities, and more. However, due to AA&CC's limited capacity and inability to find an appropriate partner, the project, as originally conceived, never got off the ground.

Then, spring 2020 presented us with a new challenge: pandemic lockdown—and a new opportunity: bringing people together virtually through stories. The response to an open-ended, inclusive call for storytellers with no constraints about who can tell stories, how they can tell them, or what they should be about was overwhelming. AA&CC received 30+ applications. We even had an enthusiastic response from storytellers in India, so three sessions were dedicated to their stories, while the other three sessions consisted of a diverse presenter lineup in terms of storyteller backgrounds.

The program videos will become available on AA&CC's website for future viewing.



*"I appreciate the international perspective and the work that AA&CC has done to broaden our understanding."*

*"It really opened my mind to some of the struggles that other people had as well as helped me connect with others from around the world that I probably would not have connected with had it not been for this experience."*



*"I loved hearing about the different cultures."*



Special thanks to AA&CC Advisory Board Member, Kanwal Rehman, for her assistance in coordinating, publicizing, and hosting this event.

The Our Stories virtual festival was made possible by the generous support of The E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Maryland State Arts Council, William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, Central Baltimore Partnership, AA&CC Members, TU College of Fine Arts & Communication, Citizens of Baltimore County, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, Harold J. Kaplan Foundation, TU COFAC Diversity Committee, TU Marketing & Communications, Robert Mintz & Beth Arman, TU-BTU Presidential Priority, Anthony & Bonnie Montcalmo, Alexander Nagel, and Connie Rosemont & Jon Greenberg.



Images: Top from left to right- *The Day of February 2018* by Sookkyung Park. Still from *Relationships* by Yuqi Wang. The Chen Family ca. 1946. *Kolam Collaboration* by Shanthi Chandrasekar. Lopamudra Mohanty. Middle from left to right- Charley Jo Raine. Detail of *The Towers* by Ikennah Umeh. Geethanjali Javed. *Albela Sajjan, My Charming* by Sushmita Mazumdar. Left: Detail of *Dual Citizenship* by Adrianna Morgan..

“Helped me to realize that Filipinos are overlooked members of the Asian diaspora and that we should consider them more, especially seeing as they were colonized by the United States.”

**Online Exhibition  
Anak (My Child)  
Launched Thursday,  
February 11, 2021  
Online exhibition:  
<https://www.towson.edu/anak>  
Virtual Artist Talk.  
Thursday, February 11,  
2021.**

As of June 5, 402 virtual visitors have explored Lek Vercauteren Borja’s online exhibition, *Anak (My Child)*, featuring her dynamic and ethereal mixed media works which weave history with personal experience to draw out broader contemporary Filipino American stories of identity, displacement, trauma, survival, resilience, and belonging. Borja emigrated from the Philippines to the U.S. with her family at age 10 and has since moved through the world many times feeling displaced. She uses art to return to those moments in order to better understand them and their effect on shaping her as a person.

Fifty-one people attended Borja’s virtual artist talk on February 11. The artist talk video will become available on AA&CC’s website for future viewing.



*These programs were made possible by the generous support of The E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Maryland State Arts Council, William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, Central Baltimore Partnership, AA&CC Members, TU College of Fine Arts & Communication, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, Citizens of Baltimore County, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, Harold J. Kaplan Foundation, Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Towson University, TU COFAC Diversity Committee, TU Marketing & Communications, Robert Mintz & Beth Arman, TU-BTU Presidential Priority, Anthony & Bonnie Montcalmo, Alexander Nagel, Connie Rosemont & Jon Greenberg, and TU Center for Student Diversity.*



Images: p.18- *Personalia 7 (Last Near Year '88 at Our Jeep)* by Lek Borja. P.19- *Detail of Fractured Family* by Lek Borja.



**Virtual 50th Anniversary  
Fundraiser  
Salu-Salo: A Filipino  
American Cultural Feast  
Friday, February 26, 2021  
Co-produced with The  
Hustling Creative**

“Salu-Salo” is a Filipino word for gathering and eating together. Sixty-four people joined AA&CC for a virtual salu-salo featuring a cooking demonstrations with Sony Florendo, Chef Mike Ledesma (Perch RVA), Chef Rey Eugenio (Heritage Kitchen), and Pastry Chef Audrey Valerio with their takes on favorite Filipino recipes; music by Kulintronica and Diwa de Leon who have creatively electrified traditional Filipino instruments; a virtual tour with ANTHILL Fabric Gallery in the Philippines; and an AA&CC 50th Anniversary cocktail. The event was hosted by Sophia Florendo-Stevens.

The event video will become available on AA&CC’s website for future viewing.

Images: Top left- Chef Rey Eugenio. Right top- Kulintronica. Right bottom- Sony Florendo.



*“I realized how little I know about the history and lasting trauma caused by the colonization, persecution, and cultural suppression of Filipino peoples. I am eager to read more by the authors we met at this event.”*

*“Deepened my appreciation for my heritage.”*

*“Deepened my understanding of how others are using the arts as a way of self-expression, decolonizing practice and healing.”*

*“Hearing the common threads and themes in their work was really powerful. Great event.”*

**Virtual Panel Discussion  
Filipino American  
Diaspora:  
Self-Representations  
Emerging from  
the Shadows  
Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

Seventy-five people joined poet, Luisa A. Igloria; artist, Lek Vercauteren Borja; authors E.J.R. David and Dwight Ong; and scholar and artist, Marlo De Lara for a lively discussion about the complicated histories of Filipino Americans.

The program video will become available on AA&CC’s website for future viewing.

Images from left to right: Lek Borja, Luisa A. Igloria, Dwight Ong, (top) E.J.R. David, (bottom) Marlo De Lara

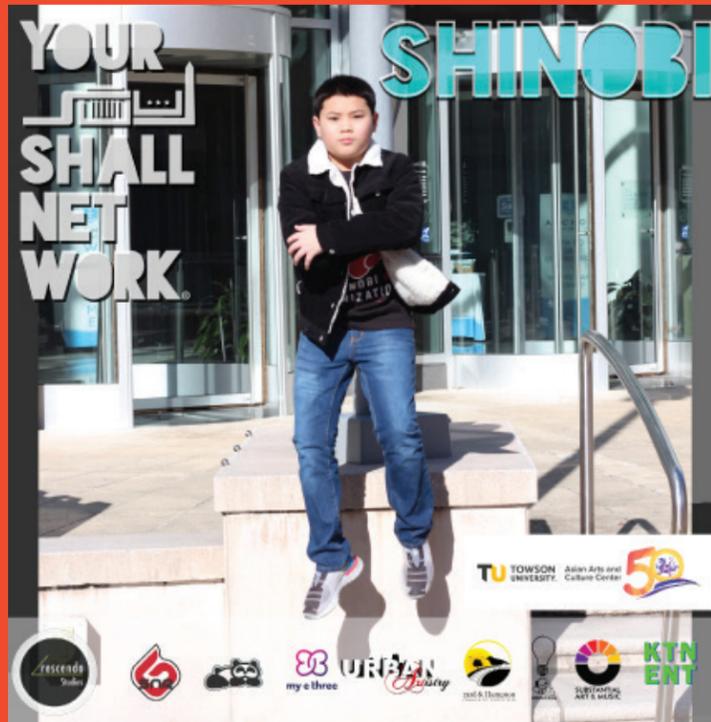


## Video Workshop Year of the Ox Chinese Paper-cut Art with Cheng Cao Premiered Friday, February 12, 2021

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=MISzLjhRiBw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MISzLjhRiBw)

## Created for the Walters Art Museum's Virtual Lunar New Year Celebration

As of June 5, 1,207 people have virtual visitors have learned to craft a paper-cut ox with artist Cheng Cao who introduces Chinese paper-cutting, or jianzhi (剪纸), a folk art that originated in China around the 6th century CE.



## Virtual Performance and Interview Shinobi feat. DJ AAROCK March 7, 2021 Co-sponsored with Crescendo Studios, KTN ENT and S.N.R.G.

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=OqalwuuWmro](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqalwuuWmro)

On March 7, sixty-six attendees supported a livestream performance and interview by Shinobi, a 12 year-old, self-taught rapper from Virginia Beach. The program part of Crescendo Studio's new series, "Your Soul Shall Network," a project that supports artists with promotional video production during the pandemic. As of June 5, 222 people have viewed this program on YouTube.



## Virtual Youth Workshops with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Baltimore

## Wishes in the Wind: Korean Kites Thursday, March 25, 2021

Towson University Art Education Professor and AA&CC Advisory Board member, Jinyoung Koh, introduced five children to Korean culture and guided them in creating colorful, aerodynamic kites with positive messages.



## The Spirit of Bamboo Brush Painting Workshop Summer 2021

Artist, Grace Sunsook Park introduces Korean brush painting and calligraphy, the Korean phonetic system, the symbolism of bamboo, and how concentration and energy contribute to making beautiful brush strokes.

*Special thanks to  
AA&CC Advisory Board Members,  
Kenneth Tsui and Jinyoung Koh, for their  
assistance in coordinating this partnership  
and leading this event.*



**Virtual Forum  
Our Home Too  
Thursday, May 27,  
2021  
Co-presented with  
Baltimore Sister  
Cities and Baltimore  
City Mayor's Office of  
Immigrant Affairs**



Seventy-six people joined community leaders Linda Yuriko Kato, Christina Wong Poy, Mark Chang, Dana Petersen Moore, AA&CC's own Nerissa Paglinauan, and Teresa Leslie to explore the diverse meanings of AAPI heritage, to discuss their ambitions for the future of AAPI communities in the region, and to honor the invaluable contributions of AAPI communities to culture, the arts, activism, and public service in Baltimore and Maryland.



**STEAM@Home Kits  
Wishes in the Wind: Korean Kites**

**Kite kit order form:  
[bit.ly/aacc-koreankitekit-orderform](https://bit.ly/aacc-koreankitekit-orderform)**

This hands-on community art activity was originally planned in spring 2020 as part of 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. However due to the coronavirus pandemic, it was cancelled.

As an alternative, AA&CC created kits for families and teachers to order 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. As of June 5, forty-three kits have been distributed.

*This project 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 project with us!*



**Virtual Guest Artist  
Dana Tai Soon Burgess  
Friday, April 30  
Co-presented with  
Towson University  
Department of Dance**

Choreographer and dancer Dana Tai Soon Burgess led two classes with a total of sixty-two participants introducing how his work in "cultural confluence" and as a "hyphenated person" led to his career as a "Diplomat of Dance."

# EXHIBITION *and* FESTIVAL

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

April 10–May 15, 2021

Virtual & socially distanced in Baltimore's  
Station North Arts District

Co-presented with the Central Baltimore Partnership  
[www.towson.edu/asianorth](http://www.towson.edu/asianorth)



*“Very eye opening  
and wonderful!”*



**Online exhibition launched  
Saturday, April 10, 2021:  
[bit.ly/AsiaNorth2021-Exhibit](http://bit.ly/AsiaNorth2021-Exhibit)  
Socially distanced in  
locations in Station North:  
Motor House, Joe Squared,  
SNF Parkway Theatre,  
North Avenue Market/  
Secret Sauce, Impact Hub,  
and Nancy by SNAC.  
(April 10–May 15, 2021)**

The Asia North 2021 exhibition features the work of twenty-four regional Asian and AAPI artists including Reed Bmore, Cheng Cao, Molli Chang, Anu Das, Marlo DeLara, Gloria Tseng Fischer, Farhad Heidarian, Margaret Huey, Linda Kato, Jinyoung Koh, Sunjin Lee, Jing Ma, Hadrian Mendoza, Miki + Dolor + Van Ngo + Hsiao-Chu Hsia, Sookkyung Park, Grace Ren, Slothpotato, Nahid Tootoonchi, Anjali Wells, and Andersen Woof, and Nikita Yogaraj. Panels highlighting landmarks and milestones in the history of Baltimore's unofficial Koreatown were also on view. This information is also available online in the Asia North section of AA&CC's website at <http://bit.ly/AsiaNorth-CommunityHistory>

As of June 5, 564 people have visited the online exhibit.

Images: pg.26 Dong Xi. P.27 Top- Asia North 2021 graphic by Aameena Fareeda. Middle left- Still from *Wake Up* by Molli Chang. Middle right- *A Market Place* by Jing Ma.

## Virtual Kick-off Event Saturday, April 10

Fifty people celebrated the kick-off of Asia North 2021 by attending this virtual program which included a video tour of the exhibit in Station North and performances and presentations by Korean Performing Arts Academy of America, Sae Young Jeong, Derek Quevedo, Sughra Hussainy, Ambika Ramsundar, Jorgelina Lopez and EN'B. The program video will become available on AA&CC's website for future viewing.

## Night Market Online with Brown Rice Saturday, April 10

Presented by Charm City Night Market.



## Virtual Workshop Exploring Identity through Culture Saturday, April 17 Co-presented with Asian Pasifika Arts Collective (APAC)

Eighteen people joined artist, Lek Vercauteren Borja, to explore the interconnections of culture, identity and memory and create a collages

*"The exhibit was very nicely curated. And it was great to learn about the rich Asian history in our community."*



## Virtual Performance The Way by Dong Xi Wednesday, April 21

Fifty-seven people attended a virtual performance by Dong Xi (Chao Tian and Tom Teasley) which brought together Chinese dulcimer and world percussion in conversation in their new musical project, "The Way." Dong Xi's musical dialogues are based on the Taoist philosophy of Wu Wei, meaning "action through inaction." By creating beautiful music through respecting, listening, and reacting, the duo offers a model for resolving conflict and organizing chaos mindfully and organically. The musicians interspersed their performance with demonstrations of and commentary on their music and creative processes. The program video will become available on AA&CC's website for future viewing.

## Virtual Workshop Zinemaking 101 Friday, April 30

Eleven people join artist, Margaret Huey, to learn about the creativity, community, and action that can be enacted with zines.

*"Gave me a better understanding and greater appreciation of the wide scope of Asian art and culture."*



## Virtual Workshop Making Stories with Where We're From Friday, May 7

Thirteen people joined artist, Margaret Huey, to learn how to build visual and written storytelling skills and craft compelling narratives!

## Station North Shines Art Walk-Asia North 2021 Exhibition Tour Friday, May 14

Sixteen people participated in a guided tour of the Asia North 2021 exhibition in Station North.

*"I'm grateful for events like this during the challenges of the pandemic. Thank you."*



*Asia North 2021 partners, sponsors, and supporters include Asian Arts & Culture Center, Central Baltimore Partnership, Station North Arts District, Motor House, Joe Squared, SNF Parkway Theatre, North Avenue Market, Impact Hub, Nancy by SNAC, Charm City Night Market, Asian Pasifika Arts Collective, E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Maryland State Arts Council, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, Citizens of Baltimore County, AA&CC Members, TD Bank, BB&T/Truist, PNC Bank, Towson University, WYPR, Guppy Management Services, Community Housing Partners, Mike Shecter, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore Kawasaki Sister City Committee, Baltimore Changwon Sister City Committee, Brown Rice, and Baltimore Jewelry Center.*



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

To learn how you can help, visit [www.towson.edu/campus/arts/culture/centers/asianarts/support/](http://www.towson.edu/campus/arts/culture/centers/asianarts/support/)  
Or contact Joanna Pecore, AA&CC Director:  
**410-704-2718**  
[jpecore@towson.edu](mailto:jpecore@towson.edu)

# ASPIRE

AA&CC continues a 50-year tradition of producing accessible, engaging and inclusive educational programs that foreground Asian stories, foster dialogue across diverse communities, and illuminate the fact that Asian lives are a part of everyone's lives in our interconnected world.

Disturbingly, since the coronavirus outbreak, 58% of Asian adults say that anti-Asian racism has gotten worse, and 31% of Asian Americans say that they themselves have been on the receiving end of verbal racist attacks. The situation has only escalated since a deadly shooting at an Atlanta spa in March 2021. Our current cultural climate of amplified prejudice, racism and xenophobia underscores the need to expand and strengthen programs like AA&CC that bring people closer together.

The world is beginning to recognize Asian struggles. People want to learn and show their solidarity. This is a unique moment for AA&CC to strengthen our service to a broad range of audiences and communities.

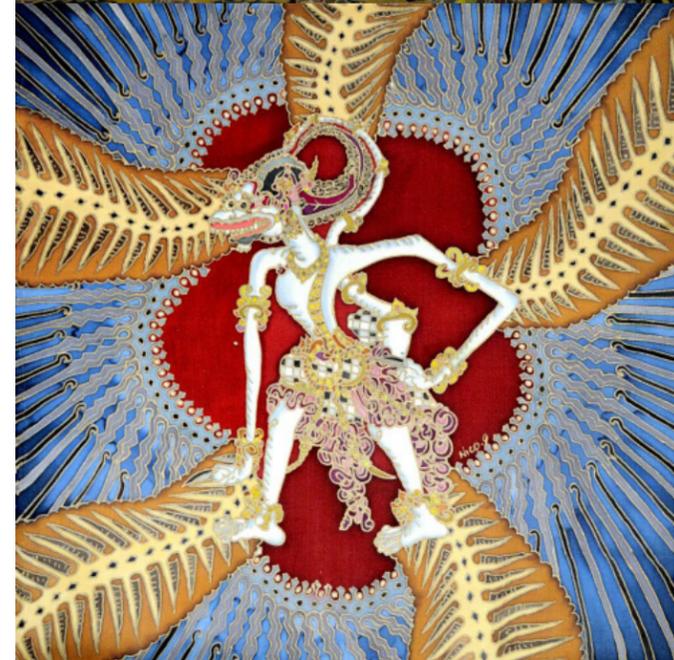
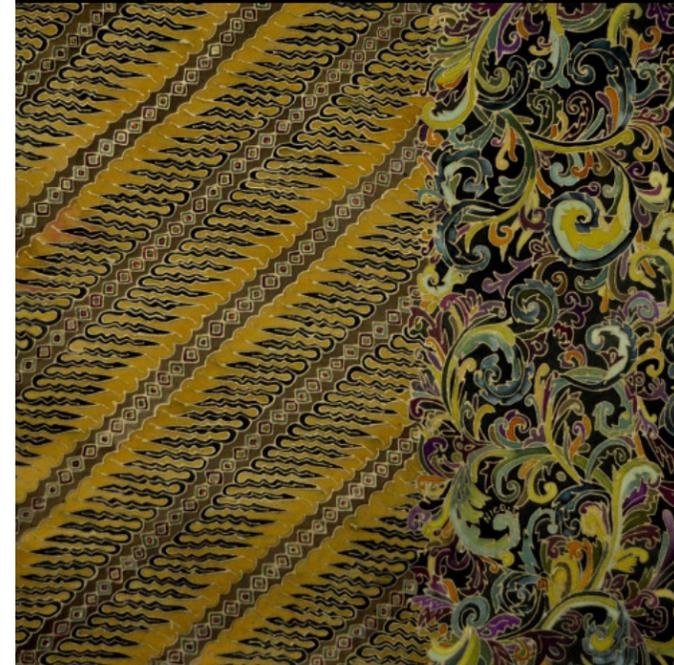
AA&CC is working to ensure a solid foundation for the Center and programs that are strong, consistent, and responsive to the diverse communities of our region by sustaining and expanding upon our 1) presentation of exhibits on and off campus, 2) community programs, 3) Asia in Maryland (AIM) programming, 4) Asia@Towson extracurricular and academic programming, 5) family, youth, school, and teacher programs, and 6) online resources. With this in mind, we aspire to implement the following projects.

# Exhibits & Gallery Experiences

## ASPIRATIONS:

AA&CC presents exhibitions on campus and in the community, featuring diverse arts, culture, and ideas from across the community and around the world. Exhibits regularly feature and are co-curated with international, national, and community artists and specialists.

- Offer at least one exhibit/experience in Asian Arts Gallery each semester
- Expand AA&CC's ability to offer offsite exhibits/gallery experiences
- Strengthen AA&CC's ability to digitally document exhibitions and re-package them for online use



# Proposed Exhibit for Spring 2022

## EXHIBIT Assimilation/ Acculturation: An Asian American Artist's Journey

Nico Gozal is an Indonesian of Chinese descent who is also an American citizen. In sharing his unique style of silk painting that blends elements of Indonesian traditions with contemporary techniques, he shares the culture of his homeland, his childhood, his experiences as an immigrant in the United States, and his experiences balancing multiple cultures.

Images: Top to bottom- *Night Birds*. *Parang Piligree*. *Hanuman*.  
Art by Nico Gozal.

# 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, honors the Charles North neighborhood's diverse communities and history as a Koreatown. Our Stories Virtual Festival pays tribute to our common humanity and the unique beauty of diverse experiences with personal and cultural stories shared through narrative, music, art, animation/video/short film, and more.

## ASPIRATIONS:

- Make Asia North an annual signature event
- Expand Asia North beyond one weekend/month-have a regular presence in Charles North
- Add monthly pop-up programs and a winter Fair Trade Holiday Market in Station North
- Establish a satellite space in Station North that welcomes the community and features community artists throughout the year
- Make Our Stories festival an annual event
- Expand Our Stories to include an annual multi-cultural family event exploring local and global stories through performances, workshops, and hands-on activities
- Strengthen AA&CC's ability to document, share, and digitize cultural, artistic, and historical community stories
- Create an "Illuminating Asian Baltimore" digital community documentary project to spotlight the roles that Asians and Asian Americans play culturally, artistically, and economically throughout Greater Baltimore

## Proposed for Fall 2021

### Our Stories Virtual Festival

Our Stories virtual festival offers a safe space for everyone to share, listen, and connect with one another and celebrate our common humanity. The festival connects diverse communities and generations together through the theme of stories. Anyone can participate in this open-ended event, with no constraints about who can tell stories, how they can tell them, or what they should be about. It welcomes stories and the art of storytelling from various cultures, near and far, and encompasses stories on various topics and in a wide range of formats (such as narrative, music, art, animation/video/short film) offering multiple points of access and participation for people with diverse learning styles.

When Our Stories virtual festival launched in 2020, twenty-seven individuals from Baltimore to Bengaluru presented their stories over the span of six weeks for an audience of 212. The 2020 program videos will become available on AA&CC's website for future viewing.



*“There is so much love, diversity, and beauty behind the stories.”*

*“Bringing the world together, by AA&CC.”*

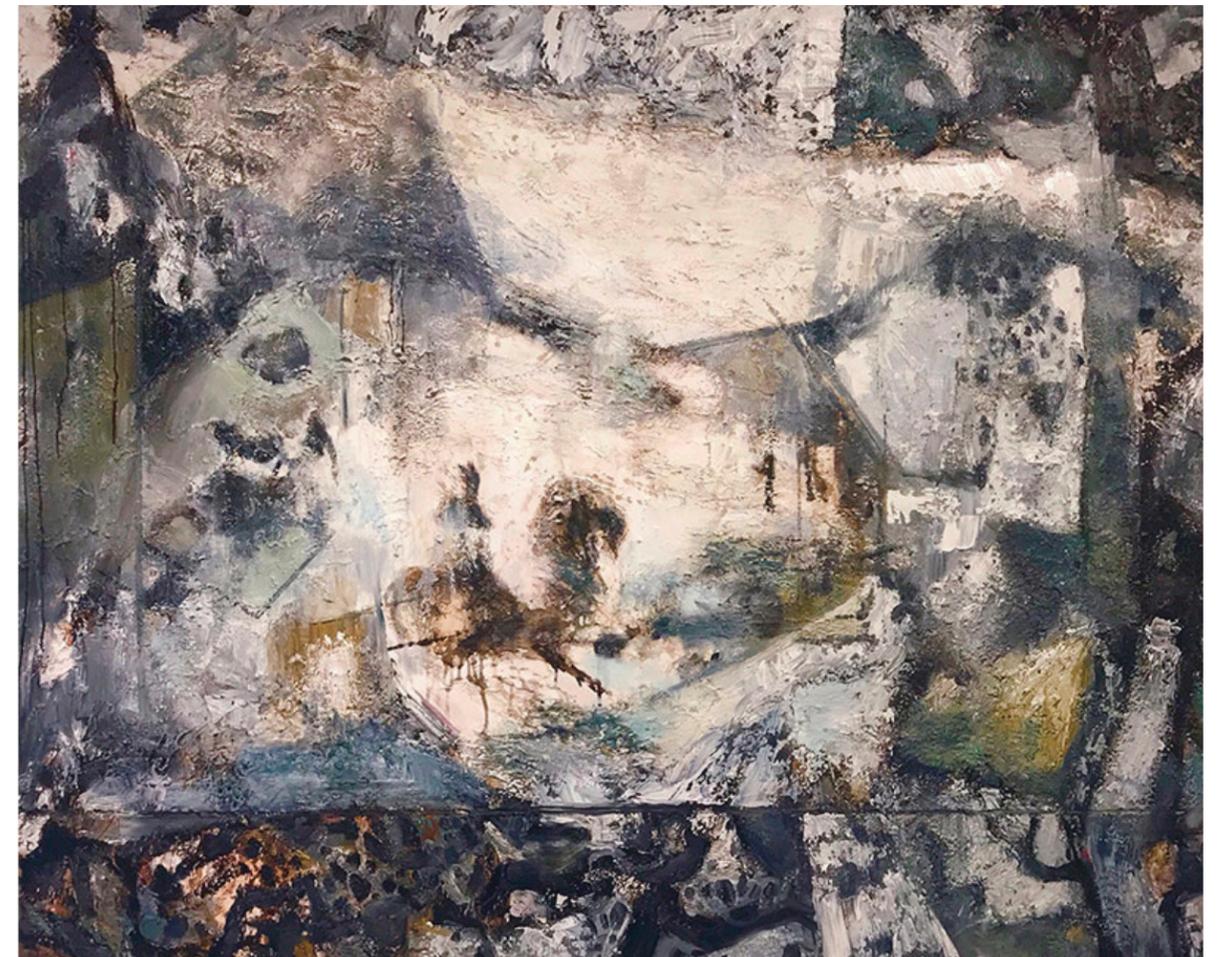
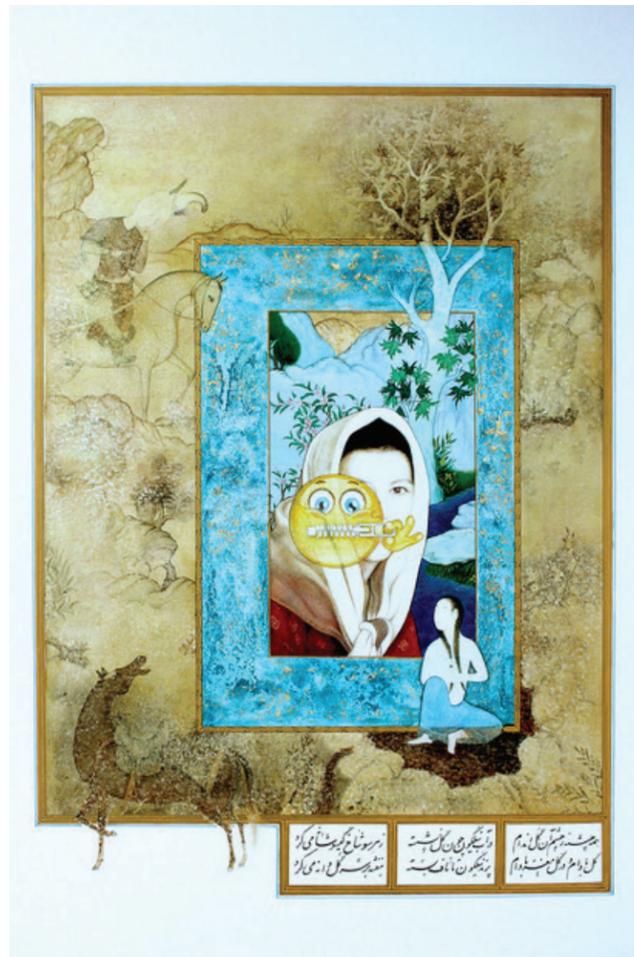
*“I was beyond honored to even be part of something so impactful.”*

# Proposed for Spring 2022



## Exhibition and Festival Asia North 2022: A Celebration of Art, Culture & Community

We hope to have our fourth 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 and multiple community partners.





## Asia in Maryland (AIM) Programming

Asia in Maryland (AIM) engages community and showcases the stories of Maryland-based Asian and AAPI artists and creatives. The series, which was launched in 2015, increases awareness and understanding of Maryland’s diversity through exhibitions, workshops, family programs, performances, courses, and more. Through the unique power of the arts to connect people on personal and emotional levels, participants gain intimate understandings of the integral roles that over 500,000 Asian and AAPI residents play in the fabric of Maryland life.

### Aspirations:

- Dedicate a full semester to AIM every three years with an exhibit and programs
- Offer a minimum of six AIM programs/year all other years
- Offer a minimum of four AIM youth outreach activities every year in schools, after school program, libraries, and community centers.
- Create online AIM resources by putting existing materials online and adding new materials as they are created
- Offer AIM student exhibitions (students of community artists) in AA&CC’s Asian Arts Gallery every summer
- Build a robust program of AIM community artist classes
- Expand the AIM artist residency program
- Offer the Asia in Maryland Cultural History Project course each year. (An interdisciplinary studies course combining ethnography and oral history to explore, understand and document Asian arts and culture in Maryland.)

## Exhibition & Events Asia in Maryland



*“Made me stop to think about the struggles that Asian Americans might experience.”*

In fall 2021, the AA&CC aspires to present Asia in Maryland (AIM) programming, including a community exhibition featuring work by Maryland artists who are Asian and Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI), as well as an opening reception, panel discussion, family arts day activities, and hands-on workshops. AIM programs uplift and showcase the voices and stories of Asian and AAPI artists and communities. This work is particularly urgent within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to a sharp rise in anti-Asian racism in the U.S., including in Maryland.

Because of AA&CC’s great success dedicating fall 2018 to AIM programming, we are eager to bring artists and communities together around AIM programming in fall 2021 as well. In fall 2018, thirty-three artists displayed their work in the Asian Arts Gallery, most of whom—including Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan—shared their work personally with 142 guests on opening day.



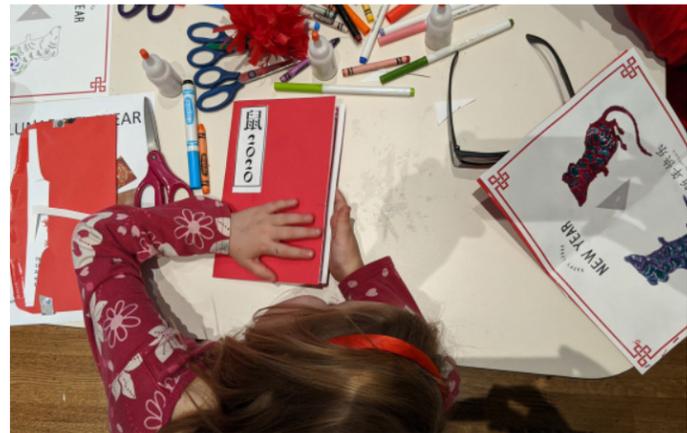
Images: Top- Success by Sul-Jee Scully. Bottom- Still from Immortal Game (2016-17) by Yuqi Wang.

# Family, Youth, School & Teacher Programs

Youth and school groups frequently visit AA&CC galleries. In addition, AA&CC regularly offers programs to families, youth, schools and teachers. Our family arts day activities with Towson University's Community Arts Center engage families in interactive activities connected to the exhibitions in our gallery. We also organize interactive art activities for Lunar New Year celebrations at the Walter's Art Museum and bring guest artists to lead educational presentations at schools, libraries, and after-school youth programs, such as the Boys & Girls Club. We have hosted teacher training sessions, and our online resources are accessible for students, educators and lifelong learners.

## Aspirations:

- Increase AA&CC's ability to bring guest artists to schools and youth centers
- Establish an annual, in-person Our Stories multi-cultural family event exploring local and global stories, including performances, workshops, and hands-on activities
- Expand AA&CC's online resources (see below)
- Create "Art Smart Baltimore" curricular modules featuring Asian literature, dance, music, drama, and art
- Offer professional development opportunities for teachers



## Asia@Towson

AA&CC supports on-campus extracurricular and academic programming with diverse, interdisciplinary subject matter.

Students from Towson University and area colleges and universities have loved to attend, create, host, produce and volunteer for Asian-themed festivals and events such as Tattoo Fest, K-Fest, and Tiger-oke Cabaret. AA&CC also partners with, engages in, and supports student groups and TU student affairs departments such as the International Student Association, Asian Student Union, Alpha Sigma Rho Sorority, South Asian Student Club, Center for Student Diversity, Student Government Association, Campus Activities Board and more.

TU students regularly visit the Asian Arts Gallery for class assignments, out of sheer curiosity, and with their classes, clubs, fraternities/sororities. AA&CC also mentors several students every year who work as graduate assistants, gallery attendants, and interns, offers the Cambodian Classical Music Ensemble with TU's Music Department, and has piloted Asia in Maryland Cultural History Project course.



## Aspirations:

- Co-produce one on-campus Asian-related festival each semester with students/student groups
- Expand behind-the-scenes mentoring opportunities
- Expand AIM artist residency program



## 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, and Earth's Treasures-Threatened.

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.

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



# THANK YOU!

## AY 2020-21 Partners

Asian Pasifika Arts Collective  
Baltimore Changwon Sister Cities Committee  
Baltimore Kawasaki Sister Cities Committee  
Baltimore Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs  
Baltimore Sister Cities  
Blue Water Baltimore  
Boys & Girls Club of Metropolitan Baltimore  
Brown Rice  
Central Baltimore Partnership  
Charm City Night Market  
Crescendo Studios  
The Crown  
Herring Run Nursery  
Impact Hub  
Joe Squared  
Johns Hopkins University  
Motor House  
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Station North Arts District  
Towson University  
TU Center for Student Diversity  
TU College of Fine Arts and Communication  
TU Creative Services  
TU Dance Department  
TU Digital Strategy  
TU Marketing & Communications  
Walters Arts Museum  
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## Farewell and Thank you!

Sabrina Mughal



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