



Press Release

6-6-2014

Smithsonian Welcomes China to the 2014 Folklife Festival Flower Plaque Installation by Danny Yung

The 48th annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival will experience the living traditions of China, the world's most populous country. "China: Tradition and the Art of Living" will feature 120 participants highlighting the diversity among the country's distinct communities. Musicians, dancers, craftspeople and cooks will show how the Chinese, despite current change and pressures, are working to preserve and adapt their traditional culture in meaningful ways.

The Festival will be held Wednesday, June 25, through Sunday, June 29, and Wednesday, July 2, through Sunday, July 6, outdoors on the National Mall between Seventh and Fourteenth streets.

Visitors will also see a flower plaque, a decorative bamboo structure that celebrates the culture of southern China. The Festival's flower plaque was designed by artist Danny Yung and constructed by bamboo craftsmen from the New Territories in Hong Kong. It is one of the largest structures in Festival history and measures 112 feet wide and 34 feet high.

Flower Plaque Installation

"Tian Tian Xiang Shang Gateway" is a broad-scale installation by experimental art pioneer Danny Yung commissioned by the Smithsonian Institute of the United States. The work is constructed with 1000 bamboo poles that measure 6 meters long, 200 wooden columns that measure 8 meters long, 160 decoration panels and dozens of bamboo ladders, which form a grand city gate 35-metre broad, 10-metre high and 6-metre deep, decorated with around 90 Tian Tian flags and 1400 bamboo wind chimes from Taiwan. Integrating the Hong Kong local crafts of bamboo scaffolding and flower plaque, wedding the visual arts and sound arts that are both based on bamboos, Danny Yung presents an experimental installation interweaving the traditional and the contemporary, with the vision to promote cultural exchange between China and the world, bring Hong Kong contemporary arts and southern China Lingnan culture

to the spotlight, make substantial breakthrough in innovating and passing along the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), and thus contribute to the ICH protection in China and the world. Danny Yung is the sole artist from Hong Kong invited by Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

About Danny Yung

An experimental art pioneer, Yung is a founding member and Co-Artistic Director of Zuni Icosahedron, an epitome of the professional experimental arts company in Hong Kong. He is also Chairperson of the Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture, Convener of the Chinese Creative Industries Forum, Board Member of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, and Member of Design Council of Hong Kong. In the past 40 years, he involved extensively in multifarious fields of the arts, including theatre, cartoon, film and video, visual and installation art; and his works have been presented in over 30 cities across Europe, the US and Asia. Yung is also the artist of Tian Tian Xiang Shang conceptual comics, figurine and sculpture.

Yung is freshly announced recipient of the Fukuoka Prize – Arts and Cultural Prize 2014. In 2009, Yung was bestowed the Merit Cross of the Order of Merit on Ribbon by the Federal Republic of Germany in recognition of his contributions towards arts and cultural exchange between Germany and Hong Kong. In 2008, with Tears of Barren Hill he garnered the Music Theatre NOW Award given by the UNESCO's International Theatre Institute.

Beginning in 1997, Yung has initiated several important cultural and arts networks. Among them are the Asia Arts Net, Asia Performing Arts Network, and World Culture Forum. Yung is currently the Member Consultant of United Nations Common Consultant Roster, Honorary Member of Music Theater Committee, International Theatre Institute, Chairperson of World Culture Forum Asia-Pacific Alliance, Vice Chair in Board of Directors of Asia-Pacific Performing Arts Network (APPAN), President of Asia Arts Net.

Program Details

Time: 25-29 June, 2-6 July, 2014
Venue: National Mall, Washington, D.C.
Produced by: The Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Co-sponsored: The National Park Service

The CHINA program is produced in partnership with the China International Culture Association under the Ministry of Culture

Acknowledgment

Annie Wong Art Foundation (Hong Kong)
China Arts and Entertainment Group (Beijing)
China International Culture Association (Beijing)
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong)
Create Hong Kong, Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong)
Design Council of Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
Department of Culture of Guizhou Province (Guiyang)
Home Affairs Bureau, Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong)
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Washington D.C.)
Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture (Hong Kong)

Information Service Department, Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong)
Lau Siu Hong Freeman (Hong Kong)
Lewis & Paul Investment Corporation Limited (Hong Kong)
New City Development Group Limited (Hong Kong)
Poly Culture Group Corporation Limited (Beijing)
Ronald Lu & Partners (Hong Kong)
The Koo Foundation (Taipei)
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (Hong Kong)
Wing Kei Flower Store Limited (Hong Kong)
Zixag Design Commune (Hong Kong)
Zuni Icosahedron (Hong Kong)

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