

# THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER

SPRING 2023 CULTURAL PROGRAMS



# THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Bamboo is a plant like no other. Due to its size and stature, some call it a tree. Botanists say it's technically grass. It's strong, flexible, lightweight, and grows remarkably fast. Throughout history, bamboo and humanity have exchanged many lessons and secrets, and the hardy plant has proven to be an inspiring symbol of versatility, elegance, and resilience. The Charles B. Wang Center's new cultural programs highlight the importance of bamboo in Japanese arts, crafts, and horticulture as well as philosophy. So please be sure to visit the Wang Center and take in the beauty of bamboo baskets and their positive presence in contemporary society. We hope that this season's exhibition, workshops, lectures, performances, and festivals will serve as seeds of insight that may sprout in your imagination.

With kind regards,

Jinyoung A. Jin  
Director of Cultural Programs

### GALLERY & BUILDING HOURS

Monday through Friday: 8 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 cover):*  
Tanioka Shigeo, *High Mountain* (2019). Madake bamboo and rattan. 14 x 16 x 8.75 inches.  
Courtesy of TAI Modern.

*Image credit (back cover):*  
Tanioka Shigeo, *Migration* (2019). Koyachiku bamboo and rattan. 6.75 x 23 x 6.75 inches.  
Courtesy of TAI Modern.

# THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER CALENDAR

## SPRING 2023 EXHIBITIONS

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### OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, 3/24 @ 5–7 PM  
Skylight Gallery

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### THE SPLENDOR OF BAMBOO: JAPANESE CONTEMPORARY BASKETS

ON VIEW THROUGH 5/31  
Skylight Gallery

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### THE STUDIO: THROUGH A SURREALISTIC LENS

BY PROJECT GROUP GREEM

Long-term Installation  
Theatre Gallery

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### SIMPLICITY OVER COMPLEXITY

BY JONGIL MA

Long-term Installation  
Wang Center Outdoor Garden

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### AGAIN

BY SEONGMIN AHN

Long-Term Installation  
Charles B. Wang Center Main Lobby

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## LECTURES, FILMS, & OTHER PROGRAMS

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2/3  
11AM–  
12 PM

FESTIVAL | Celebrating the Lunar New Year with  
*Tangyuan* (Teaching Kitchen with SBU Chef)  
Theatre Lobby

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2/3  
3–5 PM

LECTURE & TASTING | Celebrating the Lunar New  
Year with *Black Sesame Butter*  
Theatre

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3/3  
7–8 PM

PERFORMANCE | *Let the Crows Come*  
Theatre

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3/20  
2:30–4 PM

LECTURE | The Curious Case of the Camel in Modern  
Japan by Ayelet Zohar  
Theatre

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3/24  
4–5 PM

LECTURE | Listening to Bamboo by Rob Coffland  
Theatre

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3/31  
3–5 PM

WORKSHOP | Weaving Workshop: Woven Coasters  
by Heechan Kim  
East Hall

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3/31  
6:30–8 PM

FILM | *Miss Hokusai*  
Theatre

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4/14  
1–3 PM

WORKSHOP | The Art of Bonsai by Robert Mahler  
East Hall

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4/14  
6:30–8 PM

FILM | *Fortune Favors Lady Nikuko*  
Theatre

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4/21  
6:30–8 PM

FILM | *The Deer King*  
Theatre

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4/28  
6:30–8 PM

FILM | *Weathering with You*  
Theatre

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4/29  
1–3:30 PM

WORKSHOP | Playing with Cable Ties by Sui Park  
East Hall

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5/4  
7–8 PM

PERFORMANCE | ADG7: Korean Shamanic Folk-Pop  
Theatre

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5/7  
12–5 PM

FESTIVAL | *Sakura Matsuri*: Cherry Blossom Festival  
Charles B. Wang Center

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# EXHIBITION

**OPENING RECEPTION**  
**MAR 24 at 5 PM**

Skylight Gallery  
Free and Open to the Public  
RSVP at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)



## RELATED PROGRAMS

LECTURE | **LISTENING TO BAMBOO** | FRIDAY,  
MARCH 24, 4 PM | THEATRE (PAGES 12–13)

WORKSHOP | **WEAVING WORKSHOP: WOVEN  
COASTERS** | FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 3 PM |  
EAST HALL (PAGES 18–19)

WORKSHOP | **THE ART OF BONSAI** | FRIDAY,  
APRIL 14, 1 PM | EAST HALL (PAGES 20–21)

WORKSHOP | **PLAYING WITH CABLE TIES** | SATURDAY,  
APRIL 29, 1 PM | EAST HALL (PAGES 22–23)

FESTIVAL | **SAKURA MATSURI: CHERRY BLOSSOM  
FESTIVAL** | SUNDAY, MAY 7, 12 PM |  
CHARLES B. WANG CENTER (PAGES 30–31)

# THE SPLENDOR OF BAMBOO JAPANESE CONTEMPORARY BASKETS

Skylight Gallery

The aesthetic beauty of woven Japanese bamboo baskets has been praised and acknowledged for centuries. To this day, bamboo baskets are an integral and cherished part of the flower arrangement (*ikebana*) and tea ceremony in Japan. The Charles B. Wang Center celebrates the extraordinary beauty and intricate craftsmanship of Japanese bamboo baskets with a new generation of Japanese artists who produce functional, sculptural, and refined works with their individual sensibility and creativity. Twenty-seven baskets on display reflect the longstanding basket-weaving traditions and modern transformations of Japanese basketry with advanced plaiting skills and experimentation with new shapes.

All works are on loan from TAI Modern.

Curated by Jinyoung A. Jin, director of cultural programs at the Charles B. Wang Center, the treasures in this exhibition take visitors on a remarkable journey across regions and time.



ON VIEW

**MARCH 9, 2023 TO MAY 31, 2023**

*Image credit: Abe Motoshi, Reverse Pine Needle Basket (2014). Madake bamboo and rattan. 13.25 x 11 x 11 inches. Courtesy of TAI Modern.*



# LECTURE & TASTING



## CELEBRATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR WITH BLACK SESAME BUTTER

Presented by Rooted Fare



**FEB 3 at 3 PM**

Theatre  
Free Admission  
Tickets at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)

The Lunar New Year is the biggest holiday in China and is celebrated over the course of 16 days. The last day of festivities is known as the Lantern Festival (*Yuan xiao jie*), which marks the first full moon of the new year. It's the final day to celebrate, so people light lanterns and firecrackers, lion dance, and eat *tangyuan*, a round glutinous rice ball usually filled with a sweet filling like black sesame paste. *Tangyuan* is a special staple of the Lunar New Year since it symbolizes togetherness, reunion, and fortune.

Second-generation Chinese Americans Ashley Xie and Hedy Yu are the co-founders of Rooted Fare, a company that sells black sesame butter, a Chinese pantry staple inspired by their favorite dessert, sweet *tangyuan*. They will talk about their Chinese heritage, culinary culture, and how a new generation of Chinese Americans maintains and enlivens their culture in America.

This special program will also offer a tasting session with black sesame paste to hopefully bring good fortune this year!

MAR 20 at 2:30 PM

Theatre  
Free Admission  
Tickets at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)

# THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE CAMEL IN MODERN JAPAN: [DE]COLONIALISM, ORIENTALISM, AND IMAGINING ASIA

By Ayelet Zohar



Ayelet Zohar will discuss the camel in Japanese art and visual culture, from early depictions in the Nara period to Edo era, until the first living pair arrived in Japan in 1821. The arrival of the giraffes created a boom of hundreds of *misemono* roadshows, as well as numerous images in paintings and prints. However, the most intriguing examples come from the 20th century, after Japan became a leading power in Asia. Camels became trophies, living symbols of Japan's military success on the mainland. They were displayed prominently in scientific zoological gardens, served as beasts of burden in tourist venues, and recruited by the Japanese military to carry its arsenal and supplies. Zohar then moves to discuss images of camels in the postwar period, where they were transformed into Buddhist messengers of peace and harmony, crossing the deserts of Central Asia in yet another imaginary projection of Japan's relations with Asia. The camel—whether as a mythical beast, a wartime trophy, or a beast of burden—is an ever shifting icon of attitudes toward Asia in the Japanese imagination.





# LISTENING TO BAMBOO

By Rob Coffland

**MAR 24 at 4 PM**

Theatre  
Free Admission  
Tickets at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)

Rob Coffland traces the development of Japanese bamboo art from a folk craft to a sculptural art form. The abundance of bamboo in Japan naturally led to its widespread usage in everything, including building materials, fences, fish traps, musical instruments, weapons, boxes, and baskets. When Japan was closed to trade during the Edo Period, the import of goods from China—including bamboo baskets—was drastically restricted. This gave rise to the domestic fabrication of high-quality copies. As Japan began reopening in the middle of the 19th century, Hayakawa Shokosai I began to incorporate his own ideas into these Chinese-style baskets, eventually signing his baskets and declaring himself an artist. Others followed his lead, sparking a rapid evolution that continues to this day. There are fewer than 100 bamboo artists in Japan today. Despite this, contemporary bamboo art remains an exciting and vibrant art form.

*Image credit: Honma Hideaki, Twin Currents (2020). Madake, nemagari bamboo, and raitan. 20 x 30 x 9.25 inches. Courtesy of TAI Modern.*



- 2015 Fantasia Film Festival Winner  
Best Animated Feature

FI  
LM  
S



A KEIICHI HARA FILM

# MISS HOKUSAI

(2015 | 90 minutes | Animation | Directed by Keiichi Hara)

*Miss Hokusai* is an animated movie based on the Japanese historical manga series of the same name written and illustrated by Hinako Sugiura. It tells the story of O-Ei Katsushika, an artist who worked in the shadow of her father, the revered painter Hokusai. The film is filled with *yōkai*, spirits, dragons, and conniving tradesmen, while O-Ei's relationships with her demanding father and her blind younger sister provide a powerful emotional underpinning to this sumptuously animated coming-of-age tale.

**MAR 31 at 6:30 PM**

Theatre  
Admission: \$5 (General/Students/Seniors)  
Tickets at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)



# FORTUNE FAVORS LADY NIKUKO

(2022 | 96 minutes | Animation | Directed by Ayumu Watanabe)

Brash single mother Nikuko is well-known for her bold spirit, much to the embarrassment of Kikuko, her pensive yet imaginative daughter. In contrast to her mother, Kikuko wants nothing more than to fit in as she navigates the everyday social dramas of middle school. Life in their harbor town is peaceful until a shocking revelation from the past threatens to uproot the pair's tender relationship.

**APR 14 at 6:30 PM**

Theatre  
Admission: \$5 (General/Students/Seniors)  
Tickets at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)





# THE DEER KING

## THE DEER KING

(2022 | 113 minutes | Animation | Directed by Masashi Ando and Masayuki Miyaji)

In the aftermath of a brutal war, a former soldier named Van toils in a mine controlled by the ruling empire. His solitary existence is upended, however, when a pack of wild dogs carrying a mysterious and fatal disease attacks the mine, leaving only Van and a young girl named Yuna as survivors. Finally free, the pair seek out a simple existence in the countryside but are pursued by nefarious forces. Intent on protecting Yuna at all costs, Van must uncover the true cause of the plague ravaging the kingdom—and its possible cure.

**APR 21 at 6:30 PM**

Theatre  
Admission: \$5 (General/Students/Seniors)  
Tickets at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)



# 天気の子 WEATHERING WITH YOU

## WEATHERING WITH YOU

(2022 | 111 minutes | Animation | Directed by Makoto Shinkai)

During the summer of his high-school freshman year, Hodaka runs away from his remote island home to Tokyo and quickly finds himself pushed to his financial and personal limits. The weather is unusually gloomy and rainy, almost as if predicting a bleak future. He lives his days in isolation, but he eventually finds work as a writer for a mysterious occult magazine. Then, one day, Hodaka meets Hina on a busy street corner. This bright and strong-willed girl possesses a strange and wonderful ability: the power to stop the rain and clear the sky...

**APR 28 at 6:30 PM**

Theatre  
Admission: \$5 (General/Students/Seniors)  
Tickets at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)

# WORKSHOPS



**MAR 31 at 3 PM**

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East Hall

Admission: \$20 (General)

\$15 (Students/Seniors)

Fee includes all materials

Limited to 30 people. Advance reservation is required.

Tickets at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)


## WEAVING WORKSHOP: WOVEN COASTERS

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By Heechan Kim

Join us to learn the basics of weaving! In conjunction with the Wang Center's current exhibition featuring Japanese baskets, the artist Heechan Kim will offer a hands-on weaving workshop for beginners. You'll weave a flat reed coaster using simple tools and naturally grown materials that will be right at home with your most modern decor. By the end of class, you'll have completed a five-inch coaster in a timeless design that's perfect for holding a small object or a drink. No basket-weaving experience is necessary and all materials and equipment will be provided.





**APR 14 at 1 PM**

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East Hall

Admission: \$20 (General)

\$15 (Students/Seniors)

Fee includes all materials

Limited to 30 people. Advance reservation is required.

Tickets at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)

# THE ART OF BONSAI

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By Robert Mahler

Bonsai is the ancient Japanese art of growing and cultivating miniature trees in pots. It is a subtle and elegant form that helps connect us to nature. Learn the artistic, philosophical, horticultural, and technical techniques to design, plant, and maintain your own bonsai.

Robert Mahler will lead a hands-on workshop where participants will be able to shape their own bonsai tree and learn about how to prune, shape, maintain, and re-pot bonsai trees.

Co-presented by the Long Island Bonsai Society.







**APR 29 at 1 PM**

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East Hall

Admission: \$20 (General)

\$15 (Students/Seniors)

Fee includes all materials

Limited to 30 people. Advance reservation is required.

Tickets at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)

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# PLAYING WITH CABLE TIES

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By Sui Park

In conjunction with the Wang Center's current exhibition featuring Japanese baskets, the New York-based artist Sui Park introduces her signature sculptures made of cable ties and demonstrates various ways of making art out of such everyday materials. Participants will have a chance to explore and create their own artwork to take home when finished. The workshop will provide cable ties in various colors that participants can weave and craft in multiple ways.

# PERFORMANCES



## ASHWINI RAMASWAMY'S *LET THE CROWS COME*

**MAR 3 at 7 PM**

Theatre

Admission:

\$20 (General)

\$15 (Students/Seniors/Children ages 6–12)

FREE for children ages 5 and under

Tickets at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)

Evoking mythography and ancestry, *Let the Crows Come* focuses on the symbolism of crows as messengers for the living and guides for the departed. This 60-minute performance explores how memory and homeland channel guidance and dislocation. Featuring Ramaswamy (Bharatanatyam technique), Alanna Morris (Afro-Modern technique), and Berit Ahlgren (Gaga technique), a dance is deconstructed and recontextualized to recall a shared memory remembered differently from person to person.







# ADG7: KOREAN SHAMANIC FOLK-POP

**MAY 4 at 7 PM**

Theatre

Admission: \$20 (General)

\$15 (Students/Seniors/Children ages 6–12)

FREE for children ages 5 and under

Tickets at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)

Ak Dan Gwang Chil (ADG7) presents a rich repertoire rooted in sacred, shamanic ritual music (*gut*) and beloved folk songs (*minyo*) of Hwanghae Province, South Korea, with a dash of modern K-pop stylings. The band's charismatic and fashionably dressed trio of folk singers are backed by master musicians playing traditional Korean instruments.





## CELEBRATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR WITH *TANGYUAN*

(Teaching Kitchen with SBU Chef)

**FEB 3 at 11 AM**

Theatre Lobby

Free but limited to 15 participants.

First come and first serve.

Tickets at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)

Teaching Kitchen is an in-person culinary event for students. Rooted Fare will share a family recipe that the FSA chef will teach participants how to make. In this event, attendees will learn how to make *tangyuan* (sweet glutinous rice balls with black sesame filling), a signature dessert served at the Lunar New Year.



# 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 *Koto* plays, Japanese traditional dances, martial arts demonstrations, calligraphy workshops, *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.

*Image credit: Photos by Frank L. Fumelli*

*This festival is co-produced by the Japan Center at Stony Brook University and the Ryu Shu Kan Japanese Arts Center.*

## MAY 7 at 12 PM

Charles B. Wang Center  
(Rain or Shine)

Admission: \$30 (General) | \$20 (Students/Seniors)  
\$10 (Children ages 6–12)

FREE for children ages 5 and under

Admission includes all film viewings, workshops, and theater presentations.

Tickets at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)





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