Celebrate 2013 Year of the Snake

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Member Newsletter • Winter 2013
In 2004 The Wing broke new ground with the powerful exhibit Beyond Talk: Redrawing Race. The show included 20 works by a dozen artists exploring race and racism in the United States, reaching beyond the Asian Pacific American community, including participants and artists of diverse ethnic backgrounds.

In 2013 a new exhibit about race will open at The Wing, Under My Skin: Artists Explore Race in the 21st Century. Once again we'll share perspectives on race through contemporary art, a form of social activism because of its power to transform how people see the world. Under My Skin will grow out of community discussions, this time with a focus on youth voices and intergenerational conversations, and reflecting on the impact of President Obama's elections in 2008 and 2012. In the past year over 85 people engaged in “Race Potlucks,” to begin the process of communities creating an exhibition on the topic of race.

In addition, members of YouthCAN, our nationally recognized high school youth program, will open their own exhibit on identity, race and power. Come see these upcoming exhibitions focusing on provocative and significant issues, opening in May!

Later this year we open the acclaimed exhibition War Baby Love Child: Mixed Race Asian American Art, curated by Laura Kina and Wei Ming Dariotis. In their words, “As an increasingly ethnically ambiguous Asian American generation is coming of age, this show looks at the construction of mixed-heritage Asian American identity in the United States.”

Making possible this entire year of opportunities for expressions and reflections on race, we present our annual auction event, The Wing Celebrates 2013 the Year of The Snake! Please join us on Saturday March 23rd at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel. We are excited to present special guest Kip Fulbeck, pioneering artist, performer and educator, author of Part Asian; 100% Hapa, performing nationally and in twenty countries. Kip describes himself “a complete overachiever despite being only half-Chinese... also an avid surfer, guitar player, ocean lifeguard, pug enthusiast, and multiple-time national champion in U.S. Masters Swimming.” We appreciate the work of so many to create an honest and unforgettable year at The Wing exploring the issues of race through the arts. Would love to see you here!

Beth Takekawa, Executive Director

Welcome to the newest members of our Board of Trustees, Midori Matsui Fulghum, Sally Henriques, and Mark Takagi. Midori Matsui Fulghum was born and raised in Japan and came to the U.S. as a student, attending the University of Washington. She founded and successfully operated an importing/wholesaling textile and gift company, Midori, Inc., for 22 years in Seattle. Midori is the mother of three children, has one grandchild, and enjoys volunteering at the Cherry Street Food Bank for Northwest Harvest.

Sally Henriques attended the University of Pennsylvania and spent most of her career in Pennsylvania as a nurse in health care and education before relocating to Seattle. Although she’s only been in Seattle for less than three years, she has already been active as a member of the Washington Women's Foundation, the Japanese Garden Advisory Council, and a Northwest Harvest volunteer. While in Pennsylvania she served as a board member at the Village Charter School (Trenton, NJ), the Arts and Cultural Council of Bucks County, the Bucks County Housing Group as well as volunteering with a number of other local organizations.

Born and raised in Seattle, Mark Takagi's interest in wine started while working in some of the city’s finest restaurants. That experience guided him into the emerging Washington State
Northwest artist and master of collage Paul Horiuchi (1906 – 1999) pushed the limits of paper through his innovative collage work. The exhibition Paper Unbound: Horiuchi and Beyond highlights Horiuchi’s collage pieces and also features the work of seven contemporary artists who are building on Horiuchi’s legacy and continuing to transform the medium of paper—Romson Regarde Bustillo, Etsuko Ichikawa, Yuri Kinoshita, Bovey Lee, Taiko Suzuki, Jeonghan Yun and Choonhyang Yun.

Artist Profile: Etsuko Ichikawa
One of the featured artists in this group exhibition includes Etsuko Ichikawa. Known for her pyrographs, which use the fire and smoke released from hot molten glass to draw on paper, Ichikawa has more recently started using water-drops and candle soot in her work. The format of her work varies from small two-dimensional work to large-scale installations or performance-based work. She mentions that,

“Drawing with fire on paper is unique yet it works beautifully... After experimenting with various materials, I found that heavy paper works well for my process, especially Lanaquarelle, which is the best.

It is 300lbs 100% cotton hot-press paper made by Lana, an old mill in France. I enjoy working with this paper very much because it is airtight, which allows me to work freely with fire without it getting burnt too fast or too deep. It also has an extremely smooth surface that catches every detail.”

Born in Japan in 1963, Ichikawa grew up in the Nakano district of Tokyo. Geographically, Nakano is right in the middle of the big city of Tokyo, but she recalls that her neighborhood maintained the “old downtown” culture. There was an old temple near her house, and the town and people’s lives were developed around it, so there was a feeling of community. She studied the art of glass blowing at the Tokyo Glass Art Institute in Kanagawa, and eventually received her BFA from Tokyo Zokei University. Born and raised in Japan and having lived in the United States for over the past eighteen years, she recognizes her dual cultures as defining influences.

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wine industry. Mark is currently the Wine, Beer & Spirits Specialist for Metropolitan Market, a locally owned chain of stores where he has worked for the past 20 years. He is acknowledged locally and nationally for his work in the wine industry as a judge, speaker, and panel member. Mark is also devoted to philanthropy, has served on boards including PONCHO, and has contributed as a volunteer to nonprofits such as the Ronald McDonald House, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Woodland Park Zoo, Kin On and Keiro.

Farewell to departing board member Sung Yang. We are grateful for his years of dedicated service as a trustee including several terms in leadership as Board Vice President. Prior to joining the Board, Sung was an important museum advisor from his previous post with the City of Seattle. Then, while chief of staff for the County Executive and a museum trustee, he led us to establish a working Board Governance Committee that recruited a new wave of trustees, amend our organizational bylaws and provided strategic leadership for our post-expansion recession survival. Although he may be stepping down from the board, we will continue to seek his advice and look forward to seeing him at some of our upcoming events. Thank you Sung!

Please welcome new staff members who recently joined the Museum: Chanta Chhay, Marites Mendoza, Cassandra O’Francia, and Jordan Wong.

Thank you to staff members who concluded their service to the Museum over the course of the past six months: Elizabeth Bly, Amy Chinn, Toryan Dixon, Sincere Shiota, and Kaulana Wong.
Happy Lunar New Year!

CELEBRATING YEAR OF THE SNAKE

People born in the year of snake in many ways match the stereotype of the much-derided animal. Clever and introspective, snakes approach problems with a great deal of thought and logic. They may be slithery and seem untrustworthy at first glance, but you’ll be glad to have a snake on your side. Friends of snakes will never be without, not with the cunning, determined nature of snakes and their willingness to share with their closest companions.

Snakes can be nice to have at your side, too, since they’re quite attentive to their outward appearance (think of the often gorgeous skin seen on snakes). For people born in the year of the snake, “gorgeous skin” translates to grace, style, and great taste.


Famous snakes: Abraham Lincoln, Oprah Winfrey, Bob Dylan, Queen Elizabeth I, Picasso, Mahatma Gandhi, and Kanye West.

Characteristics of people born in the Year of the Snake: logical, complex, thoughtful, charming, wise, vibrant, savvy, and refined.

LUNAR NEW YEAR AT THE WING

Jan 19 to Mar 31
Lunar New Year Coloring Contest
This year’s coloring contest offers a new twist: In addition to a grand prize of 2 JetBlue tickets and a $100 toy gift certificate, contestants can vie for the People’s Choice Award. Visitors to The Wing can peruse all entries and vote for the most eye-catching submission. Voting ends March 31 – get to the museum soon to make your vote count!

The People’s Choice winner gets a $500 gift card to shops and restaurants at the Bellevue Collection. Download the coloring contest at www.wingluke.org/2013newyear

Sat, Feb 2
OPENING CELEBRATION
11am Lion Dance
Don’t miss this Lunar New Year kick-off with festive lion dancers as they ward off bad luck from The Wing for the Year of the Snake. Free with admission, members free.

12-3pm Lunar New Year Fair
Play games, create crafts, and read, watch, and share New Year stories. “Pet” an animal in our stuffed zodiac zoo! Free with admission, members free.

Sat, Feb 9
10am Lion Dance 101
Learn about the lion dance, what it symbolizes, and more. General tickets $8, reserved member seating $5.

11-4pm
Celebrate in the neighborhood with the Lunar New Year festival. Free.

Sat, Feb 16, 1-3pm
FAMILY FUN DAY
Celebrate the Year of the Snake by creating balloon snakes! Free.

Be sure to turn in entries as soon as possible to maximize voting opportunity for the People’s Choice Award.
Behind the Scenes of an Upcoming Exhibition

UPROOTED & INVISIBLE: Asian American Homelessness

On display through August 17, 2013

Uprooted & Invisible: Asian American Homelessness, an exhibition exploring homelessness and the meaning of home in the Asian Pacific American community, began with a pair of statistics in a 2010 King County report: 14% of those living in poverty were Asian or Pacific Islander, but APA’s made up only 5% of those receiving homeless services. This discrepancy prompted several questions. If APAs are not showing up as “homeless,” how are they coping with poverty? Are there cultural differences that affect APAs experience of homelessness? How does homelessness play out in an APA neighborhood like the Chinatown-International District?

Over the course of a year, our Community Advisory Committee explored these questions, gathered stories from homeless and formerly homeless APAs as well as those who serve homeless people in the community, and thought about how to convey some of these experiences to our visitors. The process took us to shelters and day centers, to the cramped offices of homeless advocacy organizations and to sleeping bag encampments under the freeway.

It took us to a bookcase shop in Ballard, where photographer (and furniture maker) David Entrikin showed us hundreds of pictures from his "Outsiders" project, documenting people sleeping outside all over the city.

It took us to the King County Environmental Health Department to interview Deputy Director Stella Chao, whose powerful story about living on the streets of New York City as a child provided the central image of the exhibition:

I would dumpster dive, find discarded blankets… I would bury them in the park in plastic bags, so that when I needed them I could go and get them. I also buried tin boxes with things like Snickers candy bars because they were the only ones with nuts and they didn’t spoil. There were gangs in my neighborhood, and being out on the streets at night alone, gangs would prey on me. Being the only Asian [in an all-white neighborhood] brought attention. So I used to get beat up a lot. I started to climb trees to hide. Because people don’t look up – if you’re really really quiet, nobody knows you’re there. So I love trees… I found sanctuary in trees.

In the exhibition, a tree represents shelter and rootedness. On Bainbridge Island we tracked down another arboreal symbol: Red Pines planted by Zenhichi Harui from seeds he brought with him from Japan. The seedlings survived when the family’s nursery business was abandoned during World War II, and now stand tall and proud over the restored Bainbridge Gardens, run by Zenhichi’s granddaughter, Donna Harui.

The exhibition illuminates “hidden homelessness” – large extended families of very poor immigrants and refugees living in overcrowded, poorly maintained housing. Because these families do not fit the popular image of “homelessness” (or even think of themselves as homeless), it is difficult for social service agencies to connect them with the housing assistance and support services they need.

As part of the exhibition, The Wing is working with a series of local organizations to collect donations of needed items throughout the run of the show. In December visitors and staff donated nearly 80 holiday gifts for Mary’s Place, a day center for homeless women and children.

Come see this exhibition at The Wing and find out how you can help.
Supporter Spotlight: In Our Community
DEBBIE KILLINGER

When I was a kid I always gave stuff away because it made me feel great. I saved my birthday money and used it to buy Christmas presents for my family. I grew up middle class in Iowa. Before settling here in Seattle, I moved around quite a bit, and giving what I could to local organizations helped me find a sense of community.

After my last donation to The Wing, they sent me a thank you card that had a Chinese proverb on it. “A bit of fragrance always clings to the hand that gives roses.” I love this saying and have it posted up at home. We all hope that we go through life and make the world better than when we started.

A genuine thank you goes a long way towards building loyal donors and The Wing does it very well. The Wing has always been gracious and genuine in their thanks. There’s a lot of competition for your giving dollars. If it’s not a good fit, it’s okay to take your money somewhere else where your contribution is valued. Over the years, I’ve felt like my contribution is valued here at The Wing. Everybody can make a difference. Sometimes we see million dollar grants, and we forget that the steady donor keeps an organization functioning. They are the really important people. And everybody can do something, give something. It doesn’t have to be money. You can be present, give your time; time is the one thing that is very valuable.

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In celebration of Debbie’s recent gift to the Museum, we will be giving away vouchers for the classic Chinatown cocktail bun (dense sweet bread with coconut filling) from our neighbor, Mon Hei Chinese Bakery, just down the street from The Wing. One voucher per visitor. Just visit the Museum and tell admissions that Debbie sent you!

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FESTIVE ARROWHEAD STIR-FRY

The arrowhead bulb or see koo (in Cantonese) is a delicious bulb appearing in early spring. It is widely associated with Chinese New Year. It has a taste that is a cross between a potato and a water chestnut. The Chinese prepare arrowhead bulbs in soups or cook them by themselves, sliced into disks. Another favorite method is to partner them with one of the dried or smoked meats of the season. Potted see koo make charming houseplants for the Chinese New Year. To the Chinese, the plant is symbolic as well as decorative, connoting progeny and all its values.

7 oz Yunnan or Parma ham or back bacon
1 1/2 tablespoons oil
1 clove garlic, minced
8 to 10 arrowhead bulbs (see koo), shoots discarded, peeled and cut into large wedges
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 tablespoon oyster sauce
1/2 teaspoon sugar

Serves 4 to 6
Preparation time: 15 minutes
Cooking time: 20 mins

1. Soak the ham in boiling water for 20 minutes, then drain and slice thinly. Set aside.
2. Heat the oil in a wok over high heat. Stir-fry the garlic until fragrant and golden brown, about 30 seconds. Add the bulb wedges, ham or bacon and stir-fry for 2 to 3 minutes, seasoning with the soy sauce and oyster sauce. Add enough water to just cover the ingredients, then bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium, cover and simmer for about 15 minutes or until the sauce has reduced to half. Season with the sugar and remove from the heat.
3. Transfer to a serving platter and serve immediately.

NOTES: If you cannot find arrowhead bulbs, you can replace them with 14 oz (400 g) potatoes or taro, peeled and cut into wedges, then prepared as instructed in the recipe. Chinese Yunnan ham is slatd pork belly strips that have been cured with sugar and thick soy sauce, and then air dried. They are sold in butcher shops and Chinese groceries, and widely available during Chinese New Year, along with smoked ducks and Chinese sausages. Parma ham or black bacon may be used instead.
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$5,000 - $9,999

Four wonderful donors contributed extraordinary annual support in 2012. To celebrate their remarkable generosity, The Wing is proud to announce the new Leadership Circle Futurebuilders, recognizing these incredible gifts of $25,000 or more. We are pleased that Futurebuilder Debbie Killinger personally selected the final name for this group!

**Eugene Uusi**
Dean, Gloria, Lindsey and Brady Wakayama, in honor of Herb Tsuchiya’s 80th Birthday*
Rick Wong and Reanne Nishi-Wong
York and Paula Wong* Anonymous

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$1,000 - $2,499

The Wing is grateful to the Legacy Society members for investing in the Museum’s future through a planned gift.

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Our Mission is to connect everyone to the rich history, dynamic cultures and art of Asian Pacific Americans through vivid storytelling and inspiring experiences. The Wing is a proud Smithsonian Affiliate, a partnership with the Smithsonian Institution.

03.23 Saturday 2013
The Wing Annual Dinner & Auction

Do you know what will be the hottest ticket in town on Saturday, March 23, 2013? The Wing’s Annual Dinner & Auction at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel!

Eat, drink, and bid with friends. Don your fanciest clothes, and gain special access to a wide array of art, wine, and other must-have items.

Tickets are $175 and $275 (VIP).

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