



Asian American Arts Centre

**For Immediate Release**

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Asian American Arts Centre  
In collaboration with  
The Children's Museum of the Arts  
Presents

## **Lunar New Year Celebration!**

Saturday, January 28, 2012 from 10:30am – 6pm

**Location: 103 Charlton Street, between Hudson St. & Greenwich St., just below West Houston St.**

Entrance fee: \$10

To celebrate the Lunar New Year 4710 – the Year of the Dragon—the Arts Centre is pleased to announce its annual "Lunar New Year Celebration", this year in collaboration with the [Children's Museum of the Arts](#) (CMA) at its brand new spacious facility. The celebration features many special events, including those of AAAC mainly from 1pm to 5pm: - Ming Liang Lu – master paper-cut artist, particularly of portraits, Rose Ipsen Segal – an acclaimed calligrapher, Kavita Vyas – an Indian Mahendi hand painting artist, Shao Hua Yu and his protégé Wang Wai – masterful in the art of grass animal figurine weaving, and a special performance by Zong Li Lu at 11:30 AM on his *duxianqin* (於弦琴), a traditional one string instrument.

Also featured are: a shadow puppet performance by [Chinese Theater Works](#), a performance by the Chinese lion dancers of P.S. 124, as well as hands-on art making workshops.

Please join us in recognizing time-honored traditions as presented by these select artists as we bring in the Lunar New Year with bright colors, music, and a warm welcoming atmosphere. Children will be entertained by the array of activities prepared by the Museum and the whole family can enjoy the masterful displays of skill that our traditional folk artists will rekindle and revive for one of the most important Asian holidays of the year. The enthusiasm and liveliness of the P.S.124 Lion Dancers will invigorate the senses and a shadow puppet show by The Chinese Theater Works will be an intriguing learning experience for those who have never encountered the art form or "Tiger Tales" before.

This event is part the Children's Museum of the Arts (CMA) series of Multicultural Festivals, one-day festivals tied to various communities in NYC, this one highlights the Chinese American community.

It is an excellent opportunity to indulge the senses and participate in a cultural celebration. Bring the entire family—you won't want to miss out! The event is open to the public at the Children's Museum of the Arts and doors open at 10 AM, while the festival ends at 6 PM! **Entrance fee is \$10 per person.** Stay as long as you like!

For more information, please go to [www.artspiral.org](http://www.artspiral.org) or contact AAAC at [aaacinfo@artspiral.com](mailto:aaacinfo@artspiral.com). You can check for a schedule of the whole day's events at [www.cmany.org](http://www.cmany.org) or [blog.cmany.org](http://blog.cmany.org) or [www.twitter.com/cmainnyc](http://www.twitter.com/cmainnyc) or call the Children's Museum of the Arts at: (212) 274-0986.

## Lunar New Year Folk Festival Artists:

### Ming Liang Lu: Master Paper Cutter of Portraits.

Ming Liang Lu began studying calligraphy with his father at the age of five. He also studied carving, sculpture and engraving under the tutelage of renowned Shanghai artists such as Zheng Chi Lai, Shu Xun Long and Wu Su Wei. In 1981 he was commissioned to replicate a miniature scale model of Qing Pu Dai Guan Garden with 796 stone sculptures, some as small as a grain of rice. His sculptures were exhibited in the US from 1980 to 1985 and received wide acclaim. A creation from this period, "Dawn", was enlarged into a public art piece over five meters tall and is now permanently installed in the Shanghai Hua Xin Garden. He been in the US for nineteen years and continues to receive awards at various art shows here.

### Kavita Vyas: Mehendi Artist

Kavita Vyas practices the Art of Mehendi, the art of painting designs on hands and feet. Mehendi designs use animals and floral patterns, sometimes even musical instruments, taking hours to finish. It began over 100 years ago in India by the Muslims, mostly in Pakistan. It is also widely done by the Arab people. She learned this art form from the master Mrs. Saroj Oza, who created the cone method. Kavita loves Mehendi art because she can create new designs each time she paints.

### Rose Sigal-Ibsen: Calligrapher

Rose Sigal-Ibsen has practiced calligraphy for many years and won critical acclaim for her work. Born in Romania and migrating from Israel to the US, she worked as an enamelist after studying at FIT. In 1979 she began her study of Sumi ink at the KoHo School of Sumi-e in NY and later Chinese brushwork at the Zhejiang Academy in China. She has won Awards of Excellence from the Kampo Cultural Center and from the Manhattan Arts International magazine. She has exhibited widely, for example, in China at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, in Bucharest at the Romanian Cultural Foundation, and in the US at the Steinhardt Conservatory and the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington DC.

### Shao Hua Yu: Master Grass Animal Artist

Shao Hua Yu learned to make animals by weaving palm leaves together from his father who learned it from his mother. He taught him how to make frogs and snakes, which he found very easy. By traveling around China and seeing other masters he gathered many skills and expanded his repertoire. After immigrating to New York in 2000, he found he could continue his art by starting demonstration tables on Mott St, in Soho and in Time Square.

### Zong Li Lu: Traditional One String Musician

Zong Li Lu came to America six years ago from Shenzhen, China. He learned to play the traditional Chinese flute from an early age and found a talent for the instrument—after seven days, his master said that there was no more he could teach him. From the ages of 19-24, Lu travelled around China in a performance group. He came to America six years ago, but upon hearing the sound of the Chinese monochord, he went back to China to learn from a master of the instrument. He learned this instrument, *duxianqin* (於弦琴), from Master Wang Lin, who taught at a university in China. Recently, he was interviewed by the Chinese TV station, Channel 64, and played about an hour's worth of music for their Christmas special.

Children's Museum of Arts is located at 103 Charlton Street, between Hudson & Greenwich Sts. Tel: 212.274.0986

**Direction to CMA: By Subway:** take 1 to Houston Street, Walk south on Varick St., right on Charlton St. Take C/E to Spring Street, walk west on Vandam, right on Hudson St. left on Charlton St. **By Car:** From the east side, travel west on Houston St., make left on Varick St. right on Charlton St. From the west side, take the West Side Highway, exit on Spring St., make left on Hudson St., left on Charlton St. There is street parking, as well as a parking lot on Greenwich and Charlton Sts.

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**\*\* Press note: please send us a copy of your publication for our file when this press release appears in your publication.\*\***



**Image 1: Cutting Portrait, Ming Liang Lu**



**Image 2: Grass Pig, Shao-Hua**



**Image 3: Rose Sigal-Ibsen**



**Image 4: Mehendi Painting, Kavita Vyas**