

Indianapolis Chinese Festival 2013 中國節

A Day of Cultural Celebration At Military Park



Students from IU Bloomington visit the IAAT booth

When is a Chair more than just a Chair? Indiana State Museum furniture exhibition showcases fearless designs

Most people take furniture for granted. It's a place to sit; a spot to put a book, or even a storage space for clothes. But in the hands of an artist, these pieces become much more than the functional furniture we're used to. They become fearless. They become art.

On October 5, the work of 24 studio furniture makers, with Indiana connections, will be featured in one of the Midwest's most illuminating showcases of traditional and contemporary design. The hallmark of their artistry is centered on courage and willingness to take risks. Through their choices in material, techniques and creative design, these artists distinguish themselves and enhance our appreciation for the exceptional.

Wendy Maruyama, noted artist and Professor Emeritus of Woodworking and Design at San Diego State University, juried the show. She selected the best pieces - both traditional and contemporary - from an array of designs by artists who were either born in Indiana, live in the Hoosier state, or who trained at one of Indiana's well-known design programs.

The pieces in this collection include creations from artists with ties to several Indiana schools including Ball State University, Herron School of Art and Design, Purdue University and the University of Southern Indiana, as well as designers from independent furniture studios across the state.

This exhibition is an inspiring and sometimes surprising array of one-of-a-kind designs. From a chair carved from a tree stump, to an aerodynamic table that

appears poised for flight, to a cabinet pieced together like a quilt, these pieces bring furniture design into the limelight.

An opening lecture and reception will be held on Friday, Oct. 11 at the museum. Maruyama will speak and answer questions at 4 p.m., followed by a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. The lecture and opening reception are free and open to the public, though seating is limited and a RSVP is required.

Come see for yourself how furniture can be more than a place to sit while you view art; it is the art.

Come and discover the art of furniture design. For more information, call the museum at 317.232.1637.



HUA MULAN 花木蘭

"Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance." -Kofi Annan



The famous legend of Hua Mulan 花木蘭, an iconic character in Chinese ancient history, can be originally traced back to a poem "木蘭辭" ("The Ballad of Hua Mulan"), composed sometime in the fifth or sixth century. The touching anecdote has been handed down from generation to generation in Chinese society and culture in the form of poems, plays, articles, books, novels, paintings, operas, musicals, TV series, cartoon and movies. In 1998, Disney's animated film entitled "Mulan", expanding and adapting the script, adding some roles and details, popularized this celebrated Chinese heroine worldwide.

According to most scholars, Mulan was born during the Northern Wei Dynasty 北魏, and she lived between 386 and 534 AD. Her father was an army veteran, who passed the skill to her regarding martial arts, equitation (horse-riding), archery and sword fighting (swordplay). Her mother, on the other hand, taught her weaving and embroidery that were considered appropriate womanly duties and role as a daughter of the family.

During that time, the northern barbarian nomadic (Tujie) tribes 柔然族 attempted to invade mainland China, killing and looting the citizens. The emperor commanded a draft recruit of soldiers to battle the enemies along the northern borders. The Emperor's decree ordered every family send one man to join the army. Mulan's ailing father was too old and too frail to fight in combat. And her younger brother was too young to enlist. Mulan steadfastly decided to disguise as a male warrior, taking her father's place in the military force. Mulan cut her hair, put on her father's armor, disguising as a male warrior and departed on horseback to the frontier to face the invaders with utmost great valor. 木蘭代父去，秣馬備戎行。易卻綺綺裝，洗卻鉛粉妝。馳馬赴軍幕，慷慨攜幹將。朝屯雲山下，暮宿青海傍。 She fearlessly fought in combat along with the emperor's troops in hundreds of bloody battles in which many of her comrades perished and wounded. She fought in combat for 12 years. 將軍百戰死，壯士十年歸。 Mulan was such an outstanding warrior; she rose through the ranks to the level of general. When the war was finally over, the emperor summoned her to the court, appointing her to a high government position as a reward for her exceptional war records and service. However, Mulan humbly declined his offer; instead she requested and was given a good horse, so she could journey back home to her family and return to a normal life. 杜牧：彎弓征戰作男兒，夢裡曾經與畫眉。幾度思歸還把酒，拂雲堆上祝明妃。

Her family felt ecstatic to see her return. Her father was old and infirm. Her younger brother had grown up into a robust young man. Mulan took off her warrior's uniform and changed into her traditional



Dr. Patrick Lau was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to the U.S. after high school. He retired from the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System where he served as Chief Radiologist and moved to Florida with his wife in 2011. He was an active member & contributor of IACA and ICMA while in Indiana. Dr. Lau is also a scholar of art and literature and a prolific writer, he has been a dedicated columnist for Indy Asian American Times since 2010.

female attire. She styled her hair and applied rouge on her face. Consequently she transformed into a pretty classic lady. Later, when her military comrades paid her a visit, they were flabbergasted; they could hardly imagine that the most courageous warrior they fought along in those fierce battles turned out to be a woman. 出門看火伴，火伴皆驚忙。同行十二年，不知木蘭是女郎。

Over time, Mulan's story has become very popular as a folktale in China. The legend of Mulan has evolved to be honored characteristics of Chinese culture and tradition; namely filial piety of honoring one's elders, sacrifice for one's family, loyalty to one's country, courage of fighting the battles and humility of declining rewards from the emperor. 忠孝兩不渝，千古之名焉可滅。 Furthermore, Mulan's name has been synonymous with heroism. It is also the first fable advocating for the notion of gender equality in China. In fact, Mulan's courageous achievement inspired young Chinese females in the twentieth century; many of them entered the predominantly male professional workforce. The significance of Mulan is gender equality; she inspired an epoch of female equality/empowerment.

It is generally believed that Mulan was the first female soldier fighting any war in history; risking the peril of being injured or killed. She demonstrated that female warriors have the physical and mental abilities as males to fight in combat. In fact, she was even superior to her fellow combatants. Consequently, Mulan proved that a woman can excel in a man's world. Incidentally, former U.S. Defense Secretary, Leon E. Panetta lifted the military's official ban on women in combat. In a letter to Panetta, Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated in strong terms that the armed service chiefs all agreed that "the time has come to rescind the direct combat exclusion rule for women and to eliminate all unnecessary gender-based barriers to service."

The Disney movie portrays the contemporary opinion of the independent females in the society of the United States. Nowadays, women are well received and accepted into the positions of power that were once held only or predominantly by males.

In a great majority of the nations around the world, more females are assuming the positions and ranks of political and commercial power, such as the late Margaret Thatcher, the Iron Lady, and many others; they are, in fact, influencing the world in momentous ways. Prime Minister Thatcher once said, "If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman."

白居易：紫房日照胭脂拆，素豔风吹膩粉開。
怪得獨饒脂粉態，木蘭曾作女郎來。

Thousands of citizens enjoy a great afternoon of Dragon & Lion dances, Tai Chi demonstration, children's games, arts and crafts, stage performance of music and dance as well as Asian food and the legendary moon cakes.

This is the 5th annual festival hosted by the Indianapolis Mayor's Office with the collaboration of local Chinese American organizations including Confucius Institutes, Lilly Chinese Culture Network (CCN), Indy Asian American Times (IAAT),

Indiana Association of Chinese Americans (IACA), Indianapolis Chinese Cultural Center Inc. (ICCCI), Indianapolis Chinese Performing Art, Inc. (ICPAI), Chinese School at IUPUI, Families for Children from China-Indiana (FCC-IN).

The festival chose to be held during the month of Chinese Moon Festival, a celebration of harvest, reunion of family and friends. The Moon Festival is the most celebrated festival second to the Chinese New Year. (More about the festival on other pages)



Girls adorned Chinese tribal costume with IAAT staff



Chinese Orchestra at the festival



Chinese Calligraphy at one of the many booths

Carmel Celebrates Chinese Moon Festival

The Carmel-Xiangyang Sister City Committee sponsored by IU Health North Hospital hosted a street festival celebrating the 2013 Mooncake Festival on Saturday September 14th with live traditional Chinese music, dance, performance and moon cake. Also, a reception arranged by the Carmel-Xiangyang Sister City Committee prior to the performance by Chinese pianist Lang Lang was held on Thursday, September 19th at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, IN.

The reception served as an opportunity for attendees to learn about the program areas of the Carmel-Xiangyang Sister City Committee which include cultural, education, business, and municipal exchange.

In addition, The Committee presented awards to members of the community for their contributions to promoting exchange in these areas between and within the cities of Carmel and Xiangyang, China. The recipients were Hande Zhang (Municipal Exchange Award), Albert Chen (Business Exchange Award), Tom Xiao (Education Exchange Award), Ching Li (Cultural Exchange Award), and the Indianapolis Chinese Community Center, Inc. (Community Partner of the Year Award).

City of Carmel Councilman, Ron Carter read a proclamation on behalf of Mayor James Brainard establishing Thursday, September 19th, 2013 as Chinese Community Appreciation Day.



IAAT staff Yu (Lucy) Huang with Moon Cake Festival Organizer Mrs. Susan Anderson
Photo by Yu Huang



Lang Lang at the Palladium, Camel Center for the Performing Arts
Photo courtesy of ICCCI

CITY OF CARMEL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: The Carmel-Xiangyang Sister City Committee and its various partners provide a forum for greater appreciation of Chinese culture within and between the cities of Carmel and Xiangyang by fostering international cooperation and understanding, and by promoting Chinese culture, education and business exchange in the City of Carmel; and

WHEREAS: The Carmel-Xiangyang Sister City Committee has organized events in recognition of the traditional Chinese Mooncake Festival to be celebrated by the Chinese community and all citizens of the City of Carmel; and

WHEREAS: The contributions of citizens of Chinese ancestry to the City of Carmel strengthens the social fabric of the community; and

WHEREAS: Citizens of Chinese ancestry as well as other heritage will benefit from the friendship and programs offered by the Carmel Chinese community; and

WHEREAS: Education programs offering the citizens of Carmel opportunities to learn Chinese language and culture creates greater cultural awareness in the City of Carmel; and

WHEREAS: The ties of friendship and trade between people of Chinese heritage and those of the United States must continue to grow and be strengthened;

NOW, THEREFORE: I, JAMES BRAINARD, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CARMEL, INDIANA, DO PROCLAIM SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 as

Carmel Chinese Community Appreciation Day
Honoring the Contributions of Citizens of Chinese Ancestry

in the City of Carmel, Indiana and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the seal of the City of Carmel to be affixed

James Brainard
James Brainard, Mayor

ATTEST:
Diana L. Cordray
Diana L. Cordray, Clerk-Treasurer