



Media Alert: February 18, 2020

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March 2020 at Asia Society: FREE Spring Break Fun for Families, Plus Celebrate the Persian New Year with Beloved Chef and Cookbook Writer, Najmieh Batmanglij!



HOUSTON, TX — Asia Society Texas Center (ASTC) is the place to be for fun, free Spring Break activities (March 16–20)! Each day, families can learn about different Asian springtime traditions, play games, build a craft (like Afghan or Japanese kites or Indian *rangoli* sand art), and even learn to make Japanese *onigiri* and Vietnamese spring rolls.



And for adult food lovers, internationally beloved Persian chef **Najmieh Batmanglij** will talk about her storied journey to becoming an authoritative representative of traditional and contemporary Persian cuisine. Batmanglij has curated small plates of Iranian dishes to be served following the program, and guests can also purchase her eighth cookbook, *Cooking in Iran: Regional Recipes and Kitchen Secrets*, which is the culmination of tens of thousands of miles of travel through Iran — her first journey back since she fled to France after the Iranian Revolution — and for which she gathered over 250 regional recipes, mostly from women.



March 2020

- What:** **Cooking in Iran: Regional Recipes and Kitchen Secrets**
Celebrate *Nowruz* (the Persian New Year) with chef and cookbook writer **Najmieh Batmanglij**, who has spent the past 40 years cooking, traveling, and adapting authentic Persian recipes to tastes and techniques in the West. Small plates of regional Iranian dishes will be served following the program.
- When:** Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. Program, 7:30 p.m. Small Plates
- Where:** Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore at Caroline, 77004 (Museum District)
- Admission:** \$25 Members, \$35 Nonmembers
- More info:** <https://asiasociety.org/texas/events/cooking-iran-regional-recipes-and-kitchen-secrets-chef-najmieh-batmanglij>
- What:** **Spring Break: Spring into Asia**
This Spring Break, explore Asian springtime foods, games, and more with different activities each day, plus film screenings! Enjoy picnic food by learning how to make *onigiri* and spring rolls. Create vivid Rangoli designs with colored sand, play the dragon tail game with friends, and enjoy the spring breeze as you fly a kite!
- When:** Monday, March 16 – Friday, March 20, 12–2 p.m. daily
- Where:** Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore at Caroline, 77004 (Museum District)
- Admission:** Free and open to the public
- More info:** <https://asiasociety.org/texas/events/spring-break-spring-asia>
- What:** **Introduction to Japanese Language and Culture (Part II)**
In these introductory courses, learn the basics of Japanese language and culture. Study Hiragana; learn greetings, introductions, grammar, and vocabulary; and build a foundation for future study!
- When:** **Part II:** Mondays, March 23 – May 4, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
- Where:** Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore at Caroline, 77004 (Museum District)
- Admission:** \$270 Members, \$320 Nonmembers
- More info:** <https://asi.as/ts9ldj>
- What:** **Introduction to Chinese Language and Culture (Part II)**
These beginner courses provide adult language learners with an introduction to the Mandarin dialect and Chinese culture. Through hands-on activities, cooking demonstrations, games, and technology, explore Chinese culture and language in a fun, supportive, and engaging way.
- When:** **Part II:** Mondays, March 30 – May 18, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
- Where:** Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore at Caroline, 77004 (Museum District)
- Registration:** \$300 Members, \$350 Nonmembers
- More info:** <https://asi.as/Q2XZgw>



Ongoing Exhibitions

What: *Form is Emptiness, Empitness is Form: Works by Miya Ando* **[CLOSES THIS MONTH]**

Drawing on the important Buddhist text known as the *Heart Sutra*, artist **Miya Ando** makes her Asia Society debut responding to the Center's unique building with references to elemental materials such as metal, light, water, and wood. This site-specific response to Yoshio Taniguchi's architecture reframes the visitor's perception of the space, and invites contemplation of the nature of reality.

When: On view through March 29

Where: Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore at Caroline, 77004 (Museum District)

Admission: Free and open to the public

More info: <https://asi.as/MiyaAndo>

What: *Eternal Offerings: Chinese Ritual Bronzes*

Exploring the ritual significance of ancient Chinese bronzes, this exhibition sheds new light on innovations of form and ornamentation, and the maturity in techniques of casting these stunning objects dating from the Shang to the Han Dynasties (1600 BE-220 CE). Bronze designs influenced other art forms in China, and later examples in jade, blue and white ceramics, and cloisonné will be featured.

Eternal Offerings: Chinese Ritual Bronzes is organized by the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Generous support for the exhibition and related catalogue provided by the Blakemore Foundation, the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Bei Shan Tang Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, and Christie's.

When: Opens February 29

Where: Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore at Caroline, 77004 (Museum District)

Admission: Free for Asia Society Members, \$5 Students and Seniors with ID, \$8 Nonmembers

More info: <https://asiasociety.org/texas/exhibitions/eternal-offerings-chinese-ritual-bronzes>

Coming Soon...

What: *Club Diamond*

In *Club Diamond*, performer **Saori Tsukada** transforms from a modern New Yorker into an aspiring star of the '20s, and into a *Benshi* (a silent-film narrator). With hand-crafted illustrations, black-and-white film, and a lush score, *Club Diamond* is a wholly original, multi-layered take on the modern immigration tale.

When: Friday, April 10, and Saturday, April 11, 8:00 p.m.

Where: Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore at Caroline, 77004 (Museum District)

Admission: \$25 Members, \$35 Nonmembers

More info: <https://asiasociety.org/texas/club-diamond>

About Asia Society Texas Center: With 14 locations throughout the world, Asia Society is the leading educational organization promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among the peoples, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the West. Asia Society Texas Center executes the global mission with a local focus, enriching and engaging the vast diversity of Houston through innovative, relevant programs in arts and culture, business and policy, education, and community outreach.