



Asia
SocietySM

India Centre

Asia Society India Centre Monsoon Edition 2012

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Message from the Executive Director

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Monsoon 2012 Edition of our quarterly newsletter, offering you highlights of Asia Society's programmes and initiatives of the last quarter.

Our events at the India Centre have included a range of programmes across business, politics, arts and culture, such as a visit to the studio of leading contemporary Indian artist Shilpa Gupta, a screening of the documentary 'FLOW: For the Love of Water' and discussion with its Director Irena Salina, and a conversation with DataWind CEO Suneet Singh Tulli on the world's cheapest tablet, *Aakash*, and why he chose to manufacture this in India despite cheaper manufacturing costs in China.

At our global centres, we have presented an address by Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, a President's Circle dinner with former White House Chief of Staff to President Obama

Quick Links

www.asiasociety.org/centers/india

www.facebook.com/AsiaSocietyIndiaCentre

<http://twitter.com/#!/AsiaSocietyIC>

Upcoming Events

www.asiasociety.org/events

31 July
Did the Financial Crisis Make Way for China? Private Breakfast Discussion with Martin Jacques, Author, *When China Rules the World*
9:00am, Mumbai

31 July
The Rise of the Civilization State: China in the World Order, Discussion with Martin Jacques, Author, *When China Rules the World*, and Mark Tully, Former BBC New Delhi Bureau Chief
6:30pm, NGMA, Mumbai

7 August
Discussion with Shehan Karunatilaka, Author of *Chinaman*, and Rahul Bose, Actor, Director and Screenwriter
6:30pm, Bungalow 8, Mumbai

9-11 September
Collaboration with The Park's New Festival, Mumbai

September
Rendezvous with the Artist- Atul Dodiya, Mumbai

25 October
A Presentation on the Guangju Biennale by Curator Nancy Adajania, Mumbai

William M. Daley, a luncheon presentation on lessons from the 2008 economic crisis by Yale University President Richard C. Levin, and the New York City premiere of renowned Indian classical dance performance *PranAyam*.

Do visit our website www.asiasociety.org for summaries on these events, highlights of our programmes across our 11 global centres, and other exclusive web content from book excerpts on our blog (<http://www.asiasociety.org/blog/asia>) to glimpses of our exhibitions in our New York, Hong Kong and Houston museums.

As a membership-based organization, we continue to rely on your support to develop programmes that offer nuanced understandings of Asia-Pacific affairs, and that build towards a shared future for the region. If you are not already a member, we would be delighted if you would join us- for more information on individual and corporate memberships, please visit <http://www.asiasociety.org/support/membership/india>, and we would be happy to assist you with any queries you may have.

We will bring you our next newsletter in October 2012. Until then, please do let us know if you have any feedback for us, and we look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming events.

Bunty Chand
Executive Director
Asia Society India Centre

Rendezvous with the Artist- Shilpa Gupta

For the inaugural *Rendezvous with the Artist* event, contemporary Indian artist Shilpa Gupta gave an in-depth presentation to Asia Society members and guests at her studio in Mumbai. She explored many of the interactive projects, sculptural works and multimedia installations she has made in Mumbai and onsite at museums like Tate Modern, London; Centre Pompidou, Paris and the San Francisco Museum.



Singing Cloud. Installation comprised of thousands of microphones with 48 multi-channel audio

Talking about this new series, Asia Society India Centre's Executive Director Bunty Chand said, "We want to provide access to the kind of experience and discussion that is usually off-limits to all but the closest associates and friends of an artist. In these contexts, in the comfort and control of their own working environments, we believe artists will speak with a degree of candor and immediacy that is unusual and refreshing for art enthusiasts."

The series is generously sponsored by Christie's, the world's leading auction house. Visit <http://www.asiasociety.org/arts/visual-arts/shilpa-gupta-driven-instinct-become-artist> to see video highlights of the talk and an interview of Shilpa Gupta.

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Women Leaders of New Asia Summit, Zhenjiang, China



The Third Annual Women Leaders of New Asia (WLNA) Summit commenced on April 19, 2012, with a press conference announcing the launch of 'Rising to the Top?', a new report on women's leadership in the Asia Pacific region. The theme of the 2012 conference was 'Women Leaders Driving Asia's Rapid Growth.'

The summit included addresses, breakout sessions and discussions designed to focus on issues like the potential for women to be leaders in a rapidly changing Asia and ways the number of women in leadership roles can be increased. Speakers and panelists included Farah Pandith, the US State Department's Special Representative to Muslim communities; Jiao Yang, Party Secretary-General for the Shanghai Municipal Women's Federation; and Claire Huang, Head of International Marketing and Corporate Affairs at Bank of America – Merrill Lynch.

Visit <http://sites.asiasociety.org/womenleaders/> for more details about the summit and <http://sites.asiasociety.org/womenleaders/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Rising-to-the-Top-Final-PDF.pdf> to view the 'Rising to the Top?' report. To read an article written by Asia Society President Vishakha Desai on the sidelines of the summit, published in the Shanghai Daily, visit http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.asp?id=65814.

National Chinese Language Conference, Washington, D.C.



The fifth annual National Chinese Language Conference (NCLC) was co-organized by Asia Society and College Board in Washington, D.C. April, 2012. NCLC is the largest annual gathering of practitioners, policymakers and school leaders with an interest in Chinese language teaching and learning in North America, and a key venue for bringing together U.S.

and Chinese educators in the field. This year's theme was 'State of the Field: Proficiency, Sustainability, and Beyond.' Presentations focused on the sustainability of Chinese language programmes, enhancing education through international exchanges and partnerships and other related topics. Keynotes addresses were made by distinguished speakers like Ambassador Zhang Yesui, Chinese Ambassador to the US; John D. Negroponte, American diplomat and national security official; and Chuck Hagel, Distinguished Professor at Georgetown University.

Visit <http://sites.asiasociety.org/nclc2012/> for more information and video highlights.

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Asia Society Celebrates Opening of New Texas Office

Asia Society Texas Center introduced its new building to the people of Houston on April 14, 2012, at an outdoor Dedication Ceremony on the grounds of the Center. The new 40,000 square-foot building has been designed by internationally renowned architect Yoshio Taniguchi, and will house exhibitions, performances, lectures and more. Executive Director Martha Blackwelder said that the new centre would be a building for all Houstonians, and would hopefully act as Houston's gateway to Asia and a place where Asians and Houstonians could come together for a shared future.



Dignitaries and Asia Society officials celebrate the moment of official opening

A First Look Festival was held, during which the centre offered a long-anticipated glimpse of its spectacular new home in the heart of Houston's Museum District- including events in art, culture and education- bringing together some 5,300 Houstonians. Inside the building, activity booths offered everything from Taiwanese kite-making to Islamic tile painting and Japanese Ikebana. Non-stop live stage performances presented art forms including Indian classical dance, Nepali folk music, Australian aboriginal music and even a Cambodian wedding ceremony.

Visit <http://asiasociety.org/texas/dedication-ribbon-cutting-mark-asia-society-texas-center-opening> for more information and video highlights.

April Rabkin wins 2012 Osborn Elliott Prize

April Rabkin of Fast Company magazine has won Asia Society's 2012 Osborn Elliott Prize for Excellence in Journalism on Asia for a three-part series illuminating how Chinese society is changing. An awards programme honouring the winner and finalists took place May 21, 2012 in New York. During the ceremony, a panel discussion on the challenges of journalism in China was held featuring April Rabkin and other veteran journalists and experts, including the Orville Schelle, the Arthur Ross Director of Asia Society's Center on U.S.-China relations.



Bloomberg L.P. Chief Content Officer Norm Pearlstine, 2012 Osborn Elliott Prize Winner April Rabkin, Inger McCabe Elliott, and Asia Society President Vishakha Desai.

During the discussion Rabkin noted that repression of Chinese journalists is "a lot more sophisticated...for example, it's financial — journalists are not getting put in jail for stories, but publishers are being fined to the point where they have to shut down, so it's different, but probably just as strict as it was 15 years ago."

Visit <http://asiasociety.org/about/awards/osborn-elliott> for more information on the winner and her series of stories, as well as the Osborn Elliott Prize.

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Visit <http://asiasociety.org/blog/asia/veteran-journalist-china-vastly-more-open-foreign-reporters#2> for video highlights from the award ceremony.

Modern Chinese Theatre Takes Center Stage at Asia Society New York



The Monkey King: Journey to the West
Performance

This past May, the Asia Society in New York hosted two performances by Chinese theatre troupes, showcasing *The Monkey King: Journey to the West*, and *Shanghai Kunqu Opera: The Lanke Mountain (Performance 1)*. Sponsored in part by the Ministry of Culture for the People's Republic of China, these performances highlighted some of the most famous and entertaining forms of Chinese theatrical performance.

The Monkey King: Journey to the West, featured the beloved Chinese superhero, Sun Wukong, or the Monkey King, in his unforgettable classic *Journey to the West*. The clever but naughty Monkey King angers everyone he comes across with his behavior, only to atone his actions by journeying across China to bring Buddhist scriptures back from India. Performed by Beijing Opera performers, the play incorporated live music to accompany the incredible array of, singing, dancing and combat acrobatics.

The Shanghai Kunqu Opera Troupe, one of China's most renowned theatre companies, is known for the extraordinary acting craftsmanship they bring to the stage. That evening, the Kunqu artists combined acting, movement, singing and live music in total theatrical immersion. One of the oldest and most influential forms of Chinese opera, the troupe brought 20 performers for three special performances in New York. Their performance, *The Lanke Mountain*, was a thrilling tale of greed, ambition, betrayal and humor; a story which harkens back to a historical past while connecting to temporary times. Their live showing was acted with total abandon, rarely seen in Kunqu performances which are generally marked by subtlety and restraint.

Visit <http://asiasociety.org/new-york/events/monkey-king-journey-west> and <http://asiasociety.org/new-york/events/monkey-king-journey-west> for more information and video excerpts.

Partnership for Global Learning Annual Conference, New York



The 2012 Partnership for Global Learning Annual Conference was organized by the Asia Society in New York in June 2012. With an aim to provide 'Pathways to Global Competence,' the conference focused on innovations in teacher practice, exploring the global issues of today, technology and media integration and assessing student work. A unique pre-conference session explored experiential learning by taking to the streets of New York and discerning the global attributes of local communities. Keynote speakers at the

About Asia Society

Asia Society is the leading global and pan-Asian organization working to strengthen relationships and promote understanding among the people, leaders, and institutions of the United States and Asia. We seek to increase knowledge and enhance dialogue, encourage creative expression, and generate new ideas across the fields of arts and culture, policy and business, and education.

Founded in 1956, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution with offices in Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, New York, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, and Washington, DC.

Charles R. Kaye, Chairman, Board of Trustees

Vishakha N. Desai, President

conference included Dan Rather, renowned journalist; Tony Wagner, educator and author; and Steve Hargadon, Julie Lindsay and Lucy Gray, digital educators.

Visit <http://sites.asiasociety.org/pgl2012/> for more information.

Revolutionary Ink: The Paintings of Wu Guanzhong



A Big Manor, 2001, ink and color on rice paper, 70 x 140 cm, Shanghai Art Museum.

From April to August, 2012, Asia Society is showcasing 'Revolutionary Ink: The Paintings of Wu Guanzhong' at its New York museum. Wu Guanzhong (1919–2010) stands as one of the most important artists of 20th century China. Born in Jiangsu Province, Wu studied art at the National Academy of Art in Hangzhou (today's China Academy of Art) and, from 1947, in Paris at the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts.

He returned to China after three years and taught at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. His works were condemned before and during the Cultural Revolution because his oil paintings did not comply with the political interests of the time. In spite of this he continued to paint and emerged as a national cultural figure whose works came to be celebrated inside and outside China.

With a career spanning over sixty years, the selection of paintings in this exhibition focuses on some of his best works in the medium of ink and spans the decades from the mid-1970s to 2004. The exhibition traces the development of Wu's work during this period with a thematic focus illuminating the rich historical legacy of ink painting in China, and also representing his radical individual style steeped in his strong belief in formalist principles.

Visit the exhibition website at

<http://asiasociety.org/new-york/exhibitions/revolutionary-ink-paintings-wu-guanzhong> for more information on Wu Guanzhong and to peruse some of his artwork.

Safeena Husain : Championing Girls' Education

The Asia Society India Centre supports over 80 Asia 21 Fellows with varied backgrounds in areas such as environment, film, business, health, and education. This space features a different member of Asia 21's India network in each edition and highlights their organisations, initiatives, and projects. To learn more about Asia 21 visit www.asiasociety.org/asia21. This quarter, we look at Safeena Husain and her work with 'Educate Girls.'



Safeena Husain, the Executive Director of Educate Girls, has been committed to girls' education in India since 2002. She has worked extensively with rural and urban underserved communities in South America, Africa and Asia, and has brought her depth of knowledge about development to the complex issue of gender inequality in education in India.

Mailing List, Membership, and More

For more information on the following, please email admin@asiasociety.org.in.

- Upcoming events
- Join the mailing list
- Individual membership
- Corporate Membership

If you would like to react, offer suggestions, or comment on any of the content you've read in this newsletter, we would be happy to hear from you. Please write to asiasociety@asiasociety.org.in. We look forward to your active participation in the Asia Society India Centre community.

Thank you!

Starting with a test project in Rajasthan, Educate Girls has expanded its activities from 50 schools in 2005 to close to 4500 schools in 2012, serving close to half a million children. Safeena's vision and the work of Educate Girls have been appreciated and recognized, most recently with the Women Change Makers Award. Educate Girls has also been shortlisted for the second stage of the Stars Impact Awards. Educate Girls is now building a cadre of village based education volunteers known as Team Balika. These educated youth are champions for girl education and support Educate Girls' programs to ensure enrollment and retention of every girl along with provision of quality education.

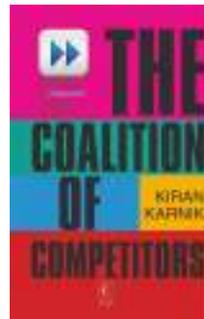
For more information on her organization, visit www.educategirls.in.

Book Corner

The Book Corner features two books in every edition of our newsletter that we believe would be of interest to our members. We feature both new releases as well as older books of relevance today, which engage themes relating to Asian countries.

The Coalition of Competitors

In *The Coalition of Competitors*, Kiran Karnik, who headed Nasscom from 2001 to 2008, explores competition and cooperation within the Indian IT sector and the role that Nasscom played in this. He concludes that it was the 'compete but cooperate' mantra that was the secret of the IT industry'- and Nasscom's- success. Many countries, as well as other industrial sectors in India, have expressed an interest in adopting the Nasscom model, and in this book, Karnik examines whether it can be replicated.

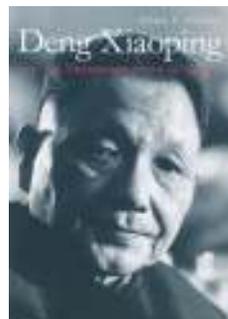


To further explore this subject, Asia Society India Centre presented a discussion on *Collaborating with Competitors: Driving Industry and Managing Dominance*, featuring panelists Kiran Karnik, Ashok Advani, Founder Publisher of Business India Group of Publications; Subir Gokarn, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India; and Patrick Foulis, India Business Editor of *The Economist*.

Visit <http://asiasociety.org/business/economic-trends/collaborating-competitors-and-dominating-industry> for more information and video highlights of the discussion.

Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China

In this book, author Ezra F. Vogel explores China's reform era to tell the story of China's transformation into a global juggernaut. From interviews and memoirs, the book builds a clear account of the revolution that turned China into the power it has become today. Deng Xiaoping was the pragmatic yet disciplined driving force behind China's radical transformation in the late 20th century. In the book, Vogel examines how Deng's experience in France and the Soviet Union shaped his later understanding of foreign developments and traces Deng's



experience in dealing with the Communist Bloc, as well as his relations with Japan, the U.S., and Southeast Asia in 1978 as he prepared for the open door policy.

Asia Society Hong Kong Center held a luncheon presentation by author Ezra Vogel, Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences Emeritus at Harvard University, to discuss the biography of China's boldest strategist. Visit <http://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/events/deng-xiaoping-and-foreign-relations> for more information.