



Media Alert: February 1, 2019

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February at Asia Society: **TWO Weekends of Lunar New Year Celebrations, Plus MSNBC Anchor Ali Velshi's Return and the Final Weeks of Ayomi Yoshida Exhibition**



HOUSTON, TX — Asia Society Texas Center (ASTC) invites Houstonians to celebrate Lunar New Year and the Year of the Pig with festivities over two weekends in early February.

The celebration kicks off on Friday, February 8, with **Enchanting Puppetry Traditions of Henan**, a performance presented in partnership with the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Houston. Folk legends and historical tales come alive via traditional *zhangtou* (rod-based) puppetry by the Puppet Troupe of the Henan Opera and Dance Theater.

The festivities continue on Saturday, February 9, with a free **Family Day: Lunar New Year** at ASTC. Families will enjoy an array of arts and crafts, hands-on kids' activities, and food inspired by Lunar New Year traditions across Asia. Lion dancers of Shaolin Kung Fu Academy in Houston and two ticketed performances by Huaxing Arts Group round out a joyous celebration of the Year of the Pig.

Shoppers can look forward to **Asia Society's Lunar New Year at The Galleria** on Sunday, February 10, and Saturday and Sunday, February 16 and 17. Korean Arts Group, Huaxing Arts Group, and Shaolin Academy Lion Dancers will present traditional and contemporary Asian performances on Level One near Nordstrom. ASTC will also offer a selection of arts and crafts activities and games, all free of charge, to Galleria visitors.

February 2019

What: Bank of America Women's Leadership Series: Energy Executives on the Importance of STEM Education

How does STEM education empower the next generation of women leaders, especially in Houston, the Energy Capital of the World? In this second installment of the 2019 Bank of America Women's Leadership Series, local energy and economy leaders **Jennifer Chan**, **Paula Harris**, **Dr. Janet Kong**, and **Liz Schwarze** address the leadership roles, challenges, and opportunities in pursuing STEM career paths.

More info: <http://asi.as/WLSEnergy>

When: Thursday, February 7, 2019, 6 p.m. Reception, 7 p.m. Program

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



Admission: \$25 ASTC Members, \$35 Nonmembers
Image title: ASTC WLS Energy Execs and STEM high res 1.jpg

What: **Enchanting Puppetry Traditions of Henan**
Experience exciting fables and legends told through the traditional Chinese art of *zhangtou* (rod-based puppetry). This evening performance kicks off ASTC's Lunar New Year festivities.
More info: <https://asi.as/c6cPOp>

When: **Friday, February 8, 2019, 7 p.m.**

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

Admission: \$5 ASTC Members, \$10 Nonmembers

Image title: LNY-葫芦娃 3.jpg

What: **Family Day: Lunar New Year (FREE!)**
Celebrate the Year of the Pig with free arts and crafts activities and games, plus food, face-painting, and ticketed performances, all inspired by Lunar New Year traditions across Asia! Dance to the beat of traditional lion dancers as they perform throughout the building. A limited quantity of red envelopes will also be given to children.
More info: <https://asi.as/p9EN6F>

When: **Saturday, February 9, 2019, 12-4p.m.**

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

Admission: Free and open to the public, with ticketed face-painting and performances and on-site food vendors

Image titles: LNY-20190209_LNY banner.png, LNY-Image-22.jpg, LNY-Image-23-1.jpg, LNY-IMG_4094rev.jpg

What: **Lunar New Year at The Galleria**
ASTC continues the festivities with a special Lunar New Year celebration at The Galleria, with free arts and crafts activities, games, and exciting performances by Shaolin Academy Lion Dancers, Korean Arts Group, and Huaxing Arts Group. Join us for two weekends of fun!
More info: <https://asi.as/MHVstt>

When: **Sunday, February 10; Saturday, February 16; Sunday, February 17, 12-5 p.m.**

When: The Galleria, 5085 Westheimer Rd, 77056 (Level One, near Nordstrom)

Admission: Free and open to the public

Image titles: LNY-20190209_LNY Galleria banner.jpg, LNY-IMG_3964rev.jpg, LNY-IMG_4036rev.jpg

What: **Weaponization of Culture: The Role of Culture in Politics**



Back by popular demand! Following a sold-out event at ASTC in October 2017, MSNBC anchor **Ali Velshi** returns for a timely and engaging conversation on how culture and diversity can be used to unify a country or nation, as well as polarize and segment populations.

More info: <http://asi.as/RxNfr1>

When: Thursday, February 21, 2019, 5:45 p.m. Reception, 6:30 p.m. Program
When: Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore at Caroline, 77004 (Museum District)
Admission: Program only: \$15 ASTC Members, \$25 Nonmembers | Reception and Program: \$25 Members, \$35 Nonmembers
Image title: 2018 Velshi Headshot.jpg

What: **Artist Talk: Beijing Dance Theater's Wang Yuanyuan**
 Immerse yourself in the world of classical Chinese dance and ballet through a lecture by Beijing Dance Theater choreographer **Wang Yuanyuan** at ASTC, following the Society for the Performing Arts' presentation of *Hamlet* at Jones Hall on Friday, February 22. This program is part of SPA's inaugural Choreographer Discussion Series, which highlights the creative process and careers of some of the greatest choreographers and artistic minds of contemporary dance.

More information: <https://asi.as/X2Hf1n>

When: Sunday, February 24, 2019, 2 p.m.
When: Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore at Caroline, 77004 (Museum District)
Admission: Free and open to the public
Image title: Wang Yuanyuan by 王小宁.jpg

What: **Trilateral Japan, U.S, and Israel Advancements in Artificial Intelligence for the Aging and Healthcare: A Dialogue with Industry and Academic Experts**
 Incredible changes underway in the medtech industry will shape the future of healthcare and aging populations. Expert speakers will address areas of trilateral cooperation and major innovations in medtech and artificial intelligence. Attendees will also get to meet PARO, an interactive stuffed-animal robot resembling a seal, which was developed for patients and seniors by National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST).

More information: <https://asi.as/Ln00g7>

When: Monday, February 25, 2019, 6 p.m.
When: Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore at Caroline, 77004 (Museum District)
Admission: \$10 ASTC for Members, \$20 for Nonmembers
Image title: paro_4colors.jpg

Ongoing Exhibitions

What: **Ayomi Yoshida**
 Building on her family background in woodblock printing, artist **Ayomi Yoshida** has focused recently on large-scale installations that incorporate prints to achieve dramatic transformations of space. These total environments invite the public to



engage with her investigations of time, life cycles in nature, sensory memory and nostalgia. Visitors' experience of the exhibition is impacted by the changing of the seasons and the corresponding angle of the sun as it filters through the two-story installation.

More info: <https://asiasociety.org/texas/exhibitions/ayomi-yoshida>

When: Note new closing date — **Sunday, February 10, 2019**
When: Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore at Caroline, 77004 (Museum District)
Admission: Free
Image title: 20180716-Ayomi-Yoshida-prep-0051.jpg

What: *New Cartographies*

This exhibition delves into the unique ways that contemporary artists such as **Tiffany Chung**, **Allan deSouza**, **Li Songsong**, and **Sohei Nishino** are incorporating mapmaking into their practices as they look at globally relevant topics such as urbanization, economic migration, environmental change, refugee movements, and the repercussions of colonial legacies.

More info: <http://asi.as/NewCartographies>

When: Open through **Sunday, March 17, 2019**
When: Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore at Caroline, 77004 (Museum District)
Admission: Free for ASTC Members, \$5 for Students and Seniors, \$8 for Nonmembers
Image title: tokyo2014_2014_800mm copy.jpg
Image credit: Sohei Nishino, *Tokyo, 2014, 2014*, Light jet print on Kodak Endura paper, Courtesy Michael Hoppen Gallery, UK, © Sohei Nishino.

Looking ahead

What: **Spring Break: Journey through Japan (FREE!)**
 Celebrate Spring Break with ASTC by learning about Japan and its beautiful spring season! Each day during the week, welcome spring by participating in a different come-and-go, kid-friendly activity. Learn about the different *sakura* (Japanese cherry blossoms), create spring-inspired origami, and enjoy daily screenings of fun Japanese movies.

When: **Monday, March 11 – Friday, March 15, 2019, 12-3p.m.**
When: Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore at Caroline, 77004 (Museum District)
Admission: FREE and open to the public; RSVP required for Wednesday's activity
Image title: sakura3.png

About Asia Society Texas Center: With 13 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.