

Art professor awarded distinguished residency

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An art professor in Kansas University's School of Fine Arts was recently selected to participate in the notable Banff residency program in Alberta, Canada.

So Yeon Park, assistant professor of art in new or expanded media, was notified of her acceptance into the "New Works" residency through The Banff Centre. The Banff residency selected about 10 visual artists from around the world to participate in the seven-week program, taking place in January and February, where the artists will explore vision, perception, consciousness and meaning in media and visual arts.

The Banff Centre is a learning institute created to promote the continued professional development of artists, providing a mixture of lectures, studio visits and seminars with worldwide curators and art critics to expand the artists' international exhibition opportunities.

FLAS Applications now available

The KU CEAS awards summer and academic year fellowships (pending continued funding) for the study of Chinese, Japanese, Korean or Uyghur. These awards are available for any student who is a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident and who will be a full-time graduate student at the time of study.

A FLAS fellowship pays up to \$12,000 for tuition and a stipend of \$15,000 for the academic year.

Summer FLAS grants pay up to \$4,000 for tuition and a stipend of \$2,500.

The application deadline is March 1, 2006 for Summer 2006 and academic year 2006-2007 awards.

Detailed information, eligibility requirements, and a downloadable application are available at www.ceas.ku.edu/flas.shtml or at the CEAS office, 201 Bailey Hall.

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CEAS Annual East Asian Film Festival

The annual CEAS film festival will take place in February. Come in out of the cold and enjoy an “East Asian Film Buffet: All you can watch \$FREE!”

February 1: *Nobody Knows (Darai Mo Shiranai, 2004, Japan)*, Hirokazu Kore-eda, director. This “harrowing, tender film, was inspired by a real event known in Japan as ‘the affair of the four abandoned children of Nishi-Sugamo.’ ... Four children - three of them without birth records, all of them the offspring of different fathers - were left alone by their mother in a small Tokyo apartment, where they lived for six months without attracting any notice or intervention....Kore-eda explores nearly every emotional nuance and implication of the story.” A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*. (Film courtesy of the Japan Foundation.)

7 PM, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union.

Introduction: Prof. Michael Baskett, Theatre & Film

February 3: *Seoul Train (2004, USA)*, Directors: Jim Butterworth, Aaron Lubarsky, & Lisa Sleeth. A prize-winning documentary on the life-and-death struggle faced by North Koreans who attempt to flee their homeland through China, where a few fortunate discover an “underground railroad” to freedom in South Korea. For more on this 60-minute film, see www.pbs.org/independentlens/seoultrain/timeline.html.

7 PM, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union.

Introduction: Michael Devine, Director of the Truman Presidential Museum & Library

February 6: *Formula 17 (Shi qi sui de tian kong, 2004, Taiwan)*, Chen Yin-jung, director. “A lighthearted, humorous spin on gay life in Taiwan, painting an idealized portrait that contains no mention of the difficulties associated with the gay community. Ponderous topics like AIDS, societal pressures, or coming-out issues are absent, and there are no women or straight people—only beautiful young men with hearts more or less made of gold.” “A smash hit in its native Taiwan.” www.rottentomatoes.com/m/formula_17/about.php

7 PM, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union.

Introduction: Prof. Megan Greene, History

February 12: *The Story of the Weeping Camel (2003, filmed in Mongolia)*, Byambasuren Davaa and Luigi Falorni, directors. “This magical film...unfolds amid the scrubby brushland of the Gobi Desert, where nomads live in yurts, ride camels, and tend to herds of sheep and goats as they have for centuries. The granddaughter of nomads, Byambasuren Davaa (who co-wrote and -directed the film with Luigi Falorni) was inspired by a movie she remembered from her Mongolian childhood about a mother camel who rejects her newborn calf, before the two are reconciled by means of an ancient musical ceremony.” Leslie Camhi, *The Village Voice*.

Co-sponsored with the Spencer Museum of Art.

3 PM, Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium.

February 13: *Face (Kao, 2000, Japan)*, Junji Sakamoto, director. “This odd Japanese film is technically a crime picture but comes off as more of an eccentric, insightful women’s film. A dowdy recluse becomes a fugitive from the law, an experience that ironically opens up her life to experiences she’d never have known otherwise. The key to the picture is its leading lady Naomi Fujiyama’s entirely self-effacing performance. Known as one of Japan’s top stage actors, Fujiyama holds our attention with her clumsy attempts to fit into the world while on the run from a murder charge.” (Glenn Erickson, *DVD Savant Review*) (Film Courtesy of the Japan Foundation.)

7 PM, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union.

Introduction: Prof. Michael Baskett, Theatre & Film

February 20: *Go (2001, Japan)* Isao Yukisada, director. A “gritty coming-of-age tale about Sugihara, a Japanese-born, third-generation Korean who struggles to find a place in a society that will not accept him. The film begins with Sugihara studying at a Korean junior high school that is dedicated to memory of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il....Upon graduation, Sugihara enters a normal Japanese high school where he meets and soon falls for Sakurai — a loose-sock copper-haired damsel who is attracted to Sugihara’s restless spirit. As the film progresses, Sugihara desperately struggles to throw off the stigma of his ethnicity and live a quiet, successful life.” Jonathan Crow, “All Movie Guide,” *The New York Times*. (Film courtesy of the Japan Foundation.)

7 PM, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union.

February 25: Two notable Chinese documentaries: *Chinese Foot Binding: The Vanishing Lotus*, (2000) a film by Tang Yuen Mei Joani, and Fung Wing Chuen Tely: “Today there are fewer than 400 women with bound feet among the 1.25 billion people of China. Most of them are over 80 years old. Some of these women tell us of the event that branded their lives with its singular mark.” *Zhang’s Diner* (2003), Mika Koskinen, director. “An impoverished Chinese couple move to Beijing from their home town in search of a better life. They invest what little they have in a shabby diner and begin a new life....The couple represents a phenomenon that has become part of everyday life for tens of millions of Chinese. As China follows the global economy, it is the rural residents who used to make their living in state run cooperatives who now find themselves destitute. The large cities are full of illegal job seekers who have no basic security and are harassed by the local police, adding to their troubles. Nevertheless, the diner in Beijing has an essentially warm and optimistic atmosphere. The young couple carries on with their lives, through joy and worry, determined to succeed.”

Filmakers Library, Asia

2 PM, Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium.

Introduction: Prof. John Kennedy, Political Science

The Best Decision I Have Ever Made

By Ryan Yost

According to any guidebook, Hong Kong is the “Gateway to China” and the “Pearl of the Orient,” a modern international city with more Rolls Royce per capita than anywhere in the world and great Cantonese food. Everything I read about Hong Kong made it sound so foreign when compared to Kansas, but it took less than two weeks for the place to feel like home.

Fears of a language barrier dissolved when I found nearly everybody spoke a little English, and what barrier did exist was easily overcome by a few simple Cantonese phrases and a working knowledge of the numbers. The classes at the University of Hong Kong are taught in English and the instructors enjoy the new perspectives international students bring to class. Fears of a culture shock dissipated when I found the local students helpful and friendly. Fears of finding myself bored disappeared the moment I saw the view from my dorm room on the 22nd floor overlooking the sea.



Ryan Yost (top) and friends at the Great Wall.

Within a week I bought a cellular phone and acquired the numbers of over three-dozen international students, all of which were in the same situation as myself. Everyone made friends fast. We spent our spare time traversing the city streets and visiting the outdoor markets and the restaurants with cuisine from around the world. We saw temples, barbecued on Victoria Peak, and took ferries to the outlying islands. Each weekend was a new adventure, and I now can rest easy at night after seeing the world’s largest outdoor sitting bronze Buddha, which is only a short ferry and bus ride away.

Ryan Yost majored in philosophy and English and graduated from KU in 2005. Ryan was awarded the Freeman-Asia scholarship for study at The University of Hong Kong. For information on the Freeman-Asia scholarship, contact René Frias, Office of Study Abroad, 864-3742.

The Office of Study Abroad is accepting applications until March 1 for study at the University of Hong Kong for Fall semester 2006 and Academic Year 2006-2007.

Wine and Cheese Series (cont. from p. 1)

March 9: Brett Walker, Associate Professor and incoming Chair of the Department of History & Philosophy at Montana State University, Bozeman. “Sanemori’s Revenge: Insect Technologies, Eco-System Accidents, and Environmental Toxicity in Japan”

April 13: Miranda Schreurs, Associate Professor in the Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland. “Environmental Crisis and Response in East Asia: Japan and China Compared”

April 27: Jennifer Turner, Coordinator of the China Environment Forum and Senior Project Associate of the Environmental Change and Security Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Dr. Turner will talk about environmental problems in China with a focus on water. (Title TBA)

May 4 (tentative date): James Harris, Director of the International Crane Foundation based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. “The Story of Zhalong Marsh – Challenges for Wetland and Crane Conservation in Northeastern China.”

Get Ready for an Exciting Spring Semester

Welcome back! We were busy over the break setting up a full schedule of CEAS programs and special events for the spring semester, actually, an embarrassment of riches.

We will kick off the semester Friday, January 27, with the CEAS annual Lunar New Year's Party. Dumpling-making lessons begin at 2 p.m. The party, with Chinese and Korean food and entertainment for all ages (special activities for children), is 4-7 p.m. The location will once again be the Ecumenical Christian Ministries, 1204 Oread. Come and welcome The Year of the Dog!

February is film month. The CEAS film committee has come up with a cinematic "buffet" detailed on page 3. We have included excerpts from a few reviews to give you the flavor of the films. Although there will certainly be light moments, difficult subjects have not been avoided. We hope that some of these films will connect with course topics and stimulate discussion.

Elaine Gerbert has planned the "Wine and Cheese" lectures this spring to coordinate with her course "Nature, Culture, and the Environment in East Asia." The six speakers, two from KU and four coming from other institutions, will address topics as diverse as "Nature in Traditional Chinese Thought" (Wallace Johnson) and "Insect Technologies, Eco-System Accidents, and Environmental Toxicity in Japan" (Brett Walker,

Montana State University). The series will begin Feb. 2. See below for the full schedule.

On March 2, Art Historian Dr. Yi Songmi,

Professor Emerita of the Academy of Korean Studies, will return to KU to bring us up to date on her findings on Korean court records and documentary painting (Spencer 211, 5 p.m.).

Mark your calendars for April 24. This year's Grant Goodman Distinguished Lecturer in Japanese Studies will be Jennifer Robertson. She will be speaking on "Artificial Humans (jinzo ningen) in Japan" on Monday, April 24, in the Dole Institute of Politics.

And just in case this is not enough, three faculty searches will bring candidates to campus this semester. We hope you can find time to come to talks given by candidates for positions in premodern Chinese history, Korean language and culture, and East Asian art history (joint curator-faculty position).

We look forward to seeing you at as many of these events as your schedule will allow. May the new year be "as you wish"!



"Nature, Culture, and the Environment in East Asia" CEAS "Wine and Cheese" Series Spring 2006

The CEAS "Wine and Cheese" talks this spring will all be devoted to a single theme, the East Asian environment. Elaine Gerbert has organized the program in conjunction with her course of the same title (EALC 590). Elaine will introduce the speakers and facilitate discussion following the presentations. All presentations are free and open to the public. Time: 4:30 pm. Place: Ecumenical Christian Ministries.

February 2: Wallace Johnson, Professor of Chinese Thought in EALC, KU.
"Nature in Traditional Chinese Thought"

March 2: William Tsutsui, Associate Professor of Japanese History, KU.
"The Ocean Empire: Reconsidering Japanese Expansionism, 1895-1945"

See p. 2