

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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learning activities, raffle prizes, and refreshments. Free childcare is available. For info, call (503) 235-9396 or visit <www.ircoc.org>.

Keali'i Reichel workshop

May 20, 4pm, Portland State University, Native American Student Community Center (710 SW Jackson St, Portland). Attend a free lecture on Hawaiian chant styles and vocal techniques with Keali'i Reichel, founding director of Pūnana Leo O Maui Hawaiian-language immersion school and his own hula school, Halau Ke'alaokamalei. For info, or to verify time and location, call (503) 725-9779 or e-mail <pic@pdx.edu>.

Commodore Perry's Minstrel Show

May 21, 7:30pm, Elliott Bay Book Company (101 S Main St, Seattle). Join author Richard Wiley as he presents *Commodore Perry's Minstrel Show*, his novel set during Commodore Matthew Perry's historic 1854 opening of Japan to trade with the West. For info, call (206) 624-6600 or visit <www.elliottbaybook.com>.

Austin Family Business Conference

May 22, 7:30am-3pm, Hilton Portland & Executive Tower (921 SW Sixth Ave, Portland). Attend the 2007 Austin Family Business Conference, presented by the Austin Family Business Program of Oregon State University. For info, or to register, call 1-800-859-7609 or (541) 737-3326, or visit <www.familybusinessonline.org/programs>.

States and global warming

May 22, 11:30am & 5:30pm, Multnomah Athletic Club (1849 SW Salmon St, Portland); 5:30pm, Mission Hill Museum (1313 Mill St SE, Salem, Ore). Learn how U.S. states are addressing the federal carbon-emissions policy vacuum and how Oregon businesses can thrive in a changing regulatory climate in which states are leading the effort to maximize both climate protection and economic well-being. The event is part of the Oregon Environmental Council's 2007 Forum for Business and the Environment Series. For info, or to register, call (503) 222-1963, ext. 100 or visit <www.oeonline.org>.

"Educating Global Citizens in China"

May 22, 7pm, University of Washington (UW), Communications Building, Room 120 (Seattle). Join UW anthropology professor Ann Anagnost for a free talk entitled "Educating Global Citizens in China." The event is part of the "Childhood and Youth Culture in Asia" lecture series presented by UW's Jackson School of International Studies' Asia Outreach Centers. For info, call (206) 543-4800, e-mail <asascu@u.washington.edu>, or visit <jis.washington.edu/soasias>.

Portland Taiko benefit banquet

May 23, 6pm, Wong's King Seafood Restaurant (8733 SE Division St, Portland). Attend the second annual benefit banquet for Portland Taiko, the renowned Japanese-style drumming troupe. The event will feature a multi-course dinner, a demonstration by Portland Taiko, and Mystery Balloon prizes. The deadline to buy tickets is May 18. For info, call (503) 287TAIKO (288-2156) or visit <www.portlandtaiko.org>. To buy tickets, call Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006 or visit <www.brownpapertickets.com>.

Texas AAJA offers scholarship to Southwest-bound students

Each year the Texas chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a promising student who is pursuing journalism (print, TV, radio, or web) at an accredited college or university. For the 2007-08 school year, the award is open to undergraduates, graduate students, and graduating high school seniors who will be college freshmen.

The student must attend a school in Texas, Oklahoma, or New Mexico, or be from one of those states and attending school elsewhere. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of journalistic ability, commitment to the field of journalism, awareness of Asian-American issues, and scholastic ability. Financial need will be considered, but is not required.

To learn more, or to download a scholarship application, visit <www.aajatexas.org>. Applications must be postmarked by May 31, 2007.

CIO offers summer internships

The Center for Intercultural Organizing in Portland is looking for summer interns. The positions are unpaid, but university credit is possible.

Applicants must have a strong desire to work in the areas of advocacy and organizing with immigrant and refugee communities. Racial minorities, women, immigrants, refugees, and multilingual applicants are encouraged to apply.

To learn more, call (503) 287-4117 or visit <www.interculturalorganizing.org>. Applications are available online.

Coming back, going forward

By Ronault L.S. Catalan
The Asian Reporter

Malaysia-born artist Ping Khaw is in her "second leap." That's how she characterizes her series of paintings currently hanging in Sellwood's Tilde shop and gallery, and that's the continuing theme of her second and third series opening in Vancouver's Washington State University library and at Southeast Belmont's Kinta Restaurant, both in the month of June.

Portland and Penang audiences familiar with Ms. Khaw's earlier pursuit of reaching beyond the confines of genre, of easily commercialized cultural cliché, may be surprised by her savvy turn to what may be characterized as traditional Chinese elements — unfolding lotus, agitated cloudscaapes, emotionally charged calligraphy.

But Ms. Khaw insists that her inclusion of these artistic expressions are indices of new freedom from convention. "For a long time I avoided doing a lot of Asian art forms, to avoid stereotyping myself as an artist."

Indeed, Ping Khaw's work has always been an intense effort of getting into, then getting beyond culturally imposed limitations on us fully feeling our great big lives. "Our perception," she says "is caught by what we love, what we fear, and what we want. The act of doing art is my quest to understand the range of human perception and of my own self."

A turn, or her return, to classical Asian themes seems to signal emancipation from them as perceptual determinates and acceptance of their power to invoke a universe of emotions.

The down and up sides of immigrant art

Ping Khaw is ethnically Chinese, raised and educated in Penang, Malaysia. She began her fine arts training at the Malaysian Institute of Art in Kuala Lumpur and finished it at the Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland. Since then, the artist has also been a community activist. She has taught children's art classes; she has organized youth banners and neighborhood murals, among them: one at the Southeast Multicultural Center, another at Gresham City Park, at the Asian Family Center, and for the Perspectives on Peace Project. Her oil and acrylic paintings have been exhibited in India, Malaysia, and a variety of Oregon venues.

Ms. Khaw's dislocation has obviously liberated her from traditional Malay and Chinese cultural confines. But the discontinuities, she will tell you, have had another profound effect. "Great loneliness sets in," she says "when letting go of that past, letting go that self."

"Immigrants never completely adjust. Likewise, going back (home) is no longer a complete return. You can understand it. You can participate in it, at best. But identity becomes a problem — how to get comfortable with yourself in both cultures."

Both cultures impose identity on a person, both impose meaning on our worlds, and Ping Khaw's artistic work has been between and outside those dictates. "The lotus," she says, gesturing toward the fleshy flowers of her "Exist and Exit-Inception" series hanging on Tilde's walls, "was fighting for me. For the perceptions others have of me." The container of identity. And also what limits our experience of an expansive universe.

Nowadays, in her "Second Leap," Ms. Khaw is no longer fighting the lotus, no longer reacting against the power of cultural conventions, a posture likely to be just as



SECOND LEAP. The work of Malaysia-born artist Ping Khaw is on display through May 27 at Tilde, located at 7919 S.E. 13th Avenue in Portland's Sellwood neighborhood. Pictured above is "Between Now & Then XI," oil and mixed media, 2007.

"The act of doing art is my quest to understand the range of human perception and of my own self ... But why do I need to understand myself? I would like to lay down when that day comes with a conscious mind."

— Ping Khaw, artist and community activist

confining. Instead of limiting her artistic expression, she is returning and re-claiming the elegant traditional power of it. Of the lotus as well as other time-honored Chinese artistic conventions.

"Perception, the power of observation," she asks, "is it an aptitude or a monkey on our back? It's the question I ask myself — a struggle, a conflict. The battle is a form of reality check."

And this is how Ping Khaw's latest works present themselves. Gnarly branches in one of her "Between Now and Then" series reach for a turmeric turbulent overcast. Elements old and new shoving dynamically beyond the borders of Ms. Khaw's canvas. "When will I get a smiling spring?" the calligraphy asks. A fair question.

A likely answer from the artist: "I would like to lay down when that day comes with a conscious mind."

The work of Ping Khaw is on display through May 27 at Tilde, located at 7919 S.E. 13th Avenue in Portland. Hours are 10:00am to 6:00pm, Wednesday through Saturday, and noon to 5:00pm on Sunday. For more information, call (503) 234-9600 or visit <www.tilde.shop.com>.

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