



Welcome to the 17th Annual ChinaFest, celebrating Chinese culture and traditions. In collaboration with our programming partners, VMFA and University of Richmond (UR), we offer a wide array of exciting digital contents for your enjoyment. These contents are posted separately at respective websites, but also cross-linked for your easy reference. Wishing you all a peaceful and healthy Chinese New Year!



**The Rose Group for Cross-Cultural Understanding**

[www.theROSEgroup.org](http://www.theROSEgroup.org) poster, official program brochure

*Scrolling Down the Creative Paths:* [https://www.therosegroup.org/chinafest/programs\\_2021\\_00.htm](https://www.therosegroup.org/chinafest/programs_2021_00.htm)

A video collection of Chinese heritage arts & crafts, music, and cooking demo, such as paper making, teapot making, clay-figure making, music by Lang Lang, James Beard award-winning cooking demo by Grace Young, Pipa & Jazz by Min Xiao Fen.



**University of Richmond** (link will be activated at 10 a.m. on Feb 3)

<https://www.richmond.edu/chinafest>



**Virginia Museum of Fine Arts** (link will be activated at 10 a.m. on Feb 5 and stay on until the end of Feb)

<https://www.vmfa.museum/calendar/events/chinafest2022/>

## Festival Events

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### University of Richmond

A recording of the Opening Lecture will be activated at 10 a.m. on Feb 3. The Lecture is cosponsored with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

<https://www.richmond.edu/chinafest>

#### **The Irby B. Brown Lecture:**

#### ***The U.S. and China in a Changing World: Problems and Prospects***

While the world struggles to grapple with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic dislocation and climate change, the U.S. and China appear to be locked in a zero-sum contest over Asian security, economic prowess, innovative technology and talent, leadership on the global stage, ideology, human rights and more. Can these two giants find a way to manage their differences so they can work together on pressing problems, or will changing power dynamics and mutual suspicions lead us down a path to confrontation and even conflict? Join us as we explore U.S. relations with China, the problems they present and the prospects for future progress.



Susan A. Thornton is a retired senior U.S. diplomat with almost 30 years of experience with the U.S. State Department in Eurasia and East Asia. She is currently a Senior Fellow and Visiting Lecturer in Law at the Yale University Law School Paul Tsai China Center, Director of the Forum on Asia-Pacific Security at the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, and a Non-Resident Fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Thornton received her MA in International Relations from Johns Hopkins SAIS and her BA from Bowdoin College in Economics and Russian. She serves on several non-profit boards, speaks Mandarin and Russian, and lives on an organic farm in Maine.

Thornton's lecture will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Martha Merritt (Dean, Office of International Education), featuring Stephen B. Long (Associate Professor of Political Science & Global Studies) and Dan Chen (Assistant Professor of Political Science). It will conclude with a Q&A session from the viewing audiences.



## The Hometown Project



Our inaugural Hometown project of last year was a great success featuring five students, each showcased their respective hometowns. However, due to sudden restricted public access during the pandemic, this year only one student was able to finish his project. Enjoy!



Yixuan Zhao, President, Chinese Students & Scholars Association at UR (CSSA) has served as the coordinator of the Hometown Project.



### Suzhou, Jiangsu **Cisco Cheng** 程利

Hello everyone! I am a sophomore majoring in Accounting. I like working out and playing basketball in my free time. I hope my Video can give you a broad view of how Suzhou is like.

## Chinese Films



Co-sponsored with International Film Series (IFS)

### *Swimming Out Till the Sea Turns Blue*

Dir. Jia Zhang-Ke, China, 2020, 112 min.

This indispensable account of a changing China from one of the country's foremost cinematic storytellers features the lived experiences of three prominent Chinese authors—Jia Pingwa, Yu Hua, and Liang Hong. All from the same Shanxi province, their stories document the dire circumstances faced in their rural villages and small towns, and the substantial political effort undertaken to address them. Their accounts span the social revolution of the 1950s through the unrest of the late 1980s, yet in their faces we see full volumes left unsaid.





### *Please Vote for Me*

Dir. Weijun Chen, China, 2007, 52 min.



For the first time ever, the third-grade students at Evergreen Primary School in Wuhan have been asked to elect a class monitor. Three candidates are selected and they must prove their worthiness of office through talent, debate, speech, and – less formally – schoolyard coercion tactics. At times humorous and also intense, the candidates feel and react to the pressure of politics. Viewers are left to decide if this micro experiment in democracy has been successful and what it might mean for democracy in China.

### *Ascension*

Dir. Jessica Kingdon, USA, 2021, 97 min.

Factory workers diligently parsing fabrics and preparing plastic products; men welding metal cylinders with precision; a networking conference training women to excel in business etiquette. These and many other vignettes are the central focus of this award-winning documentary – an exploration of contemporary China where workers strive for the “Chinese Dream” amid a culture that prioritizes productivity and innovation above all else.



## *ChinaFest: Year of the Water Tiger*

VMFA  
VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

VIRTUAL EVENT Online at [VMFA.museum](https://www.vmfamuseum.org): Feb 5-28, 2022



Learn about the Chinese Lunar New Year as we celebrate our VIRTUAL *ChinaFest: Year of the Water Tiger* Family Day!

Online event launches at 10 am on Sat, Feb 5!

Families can join us online and virtually explore artwork from the museum's collection, make your own art, and watch incredible and vibrant performances and presentations. The event will remain live on our website until the end of February.

Stop by the Visitor Services desk at VMFA on Sat, Feb 5, between 10 a.m.-5 p.m., to pick up an art bag that contains the supplies for art activities highlighted during the virtual ChinaFest event: *Constructing a Cricket*, *Making a Tiger Mask*, *Folding a Lucky Money Envelope*, and *Making a Watercolor Creation*!

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## Highlights from VMFA

Our inaugural young chef (a ninth grader) **Alex Tan** has returned with two amazing dishes. Alex enjoys cooking for families and friends; he is also an avid tennis player!



1. Celebratory Rice Cake
2. Aromatic Dan Dan Noodle

**Yu Dance** was founded in 2012 by Yu Xiao, who holds a B.A. in Choreography & Performance at Beijing Dance Academy, and a M.F.A. in choreography at the Ohio State University. Over the years, her students have competed regionally and nationally and consistently won multiple trophies and specialty awards. Her choreography won many Awards in competitions.



### Dance Titles:

1. Han Folk Dance: Sugar-coated Haws
2. Dunhuang Dance: Yue Tian Dance
3. Chinese Classical Dance: Chinese Opera Girls
4. Dai Folk Dance: Flying Peacock

**Ethnobeat** is the University of Maryland, College Park's premier world music a cappella group. Its student members perform songs from all over the world. As the winner of the 2019 MICA Vision Plan (MVP) Award for Cross Cultural Involvement, Ethnobeat shares music from a variety of cultures with audiences to spread tolerance and strengthen unity among people of different backgrounds. Its performances serve as both entertainment and education. Ethnobeat strives to inspire its audiences to look past cultural barriers and to embrace the diversity of all people.



### Titles (and languages) of the Five Songs:

- Baba Yetu (Swahili)
- Embrace the World with You (Mandarin and Paiwan)
- Creo en Mi (Spanish)
- Little Sheep (Chinese)
- Mo Li Hua (Chinese)



## ChinaFest 2022 Acknowledgements, with thanks to:

Our committee members for their devotion and hard work: Rose Nan-Ping Chen, Chair, Cheryl Clark, Cathy Hinton, Kathryn Gray, Mary Nelson, and Franklin Probert.

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Our distinguished speakers for their outstanding scholarship and contributions. Our many presenters for sharing their time and talents.

Our deepest gratitude to all the contact persons, coordinators and volunteers who make ChinaFest truly a community effort.

**The Seventeenth Annual ChinaFest is made possible by: The Rose Group for Cross-Cultural Understanding; Dominion; The Anne Carter Robins & Walter R. Robins, Jr. Foundation; University of Richmond (UR); Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA); Virginia Film Office; Evergreen Enterprises; The Peachtree House Foundation; The E. B. Duff CLAT.**

## List of Supporters

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**In-kind donors:** Universal Leaf.

