

ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH ART AND PHOTO EXHIBITIONS

“CANADA'S MULTICULTURALISM AND PEACE ”

City Hall Rotunda - from May 13 to May 19, 2016

Metro Hall Rotunda - May 21 to May 26, 2016

Opening Ceremony and Interactive Events on:
Friday May 13th, 7pm – 9pm, Toronto City Hall Rotunda

I. PHOTO EXHIBITIONS ON “CANADA’S MULTICULTURALISM AND PEACE”

1. There will be **exhibition** of more than 100 large photos by featured photographers Mr. Tam Kam Chiu, Dr. Neville Poy and Mr. Stephen Siu, and by award-winning members of the Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto. These photos will be around the theme of peace against the settings of Canada’s multiculturalism.

2. **Interactive opportunities:** the photographers will station in the display area to explain to visitors how some of the photos were taken and to answer queries, covering topics from photo techniques, composition, artistic expression/approach to photo-editing with Photoshop and Lightroom, etc. This will be held several times at the opening and at the exhibitions at City Hall Rotunda and Metro Hall Rotunda.

3. **Interactive sessions:** two or three laptops with Photoshop, so that our expert photographers can discuss with the visitors who bring in their digital files on how to improve their pictures. It could be small group discussion or one-on-one instruction.

4. **Opening Ceremony**

Date: Friday May 13, 2016

Location: City Hall Rotunda

Time: 7pm-9pm

SCHEDULE

Welcome Address

by Mr. Justin Poy, Patron, Asian Heritage Month-CFACI

Live Creation of Artwork Celebrating Multiculturalism

The officiating guests including the Mayor of Toronto, Deputy Mayor of Toronto, City Councillors, and representatives of key community organizations will each take a long paintbrush -- long so that it's ornate and more theatrical -- and each is assigned a colour and then one by one add a splash of colour that shows his/her interpretation of the event,

turn it around and hold up the embellished sign and take a photo. The photo will be circulated to the media too and put on our Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage (VMACCH) to show our dedication to Canada's multiculturalism.

Featured talks by Chinese Canadian Legend Award Recipients

The featured photographers, Dr. Neville Poy and Mr. Stephen Siu, are Chinese Canadian Legend Award recipients, and so is Mr. Justin Poy, Asian Heritage Month-CFACI's patron. The Chinese Canadian Legend Award recognizes Chinese Canadians who have accomplished outstanding achievements in their lives and made valuable contributions to the world community.

1. Presentation by Dr. Neville Poy and Mr. Justin Poy

Dr. Neville Poy's collection reflects the diversity and range of colours from around the world. His son, Justin Poy, will speak about Dr. Poy's philosophy of capturing culture, landscapes and mood through an artistic lens.

2. Presentation by Mr. Justin Poy: "Millennials and Diversity"

Millennials in Canada make up roughly 37% of our workforce. Defined as those between the ages of 13 to 34, they are far more diverse than previous groups before them such as GenX, Baby Boomers and earlier. We have all heard the stereotypes — that they're lazy, entitled and narcissistic. But does any of this ring true with Millennials from Asia Canadian communities?

2. Presentation by Mr. Stephen Siu: "An Immigrant's Philosophical Perspectives in Photography"

Mr Stephen Siu will talk about how an immigrant employs Chinese philosophical thinking in his photography to meet with the challenges in a new country. When he talks about the philosophical thinking, he'll cite some poems as examples as well.

Featured Performance

By Moon Pointer Production

Title: Our Land of Canada: Diversity and Peace (A multi-media stage production)

Presenters: Ashley Poy, Henry Ho, Lien Chao and other visual and performing artists

Synopsis:

Continuing on the path set out in AHM 2015, the Moon Pointer Production team will present "Our Land of Canada: Diversity and Peace" at the AHM 2016 opening on May 13th at the City Hall. The presentation will be a multi-media production involving video, sound, live music, poetry, installation art, Taichi, meditation, and potential audience participation.

The core performers of the Moon Pointer Production are: painter, calligrapher, and Taichi brushwork artist Henry Ho, poet Lien Chao, and meditative artist Ashley Poy.

The annual Asian Heritage Month provides Asian Canadian artists with a dedicated venue to do what we have always been doing---sharing our cultural values and artistic practices with fellow Canadians. The fact that “our core cultural values” are really not different from the commonly shared Canadian values, and fundamentally, human values, we take this opportunity to share some ancient wisdom and practice in our continuous study of Taoism, a philosophy and way of life that transcends cultural boundaries.

The theme is self-evident in our title based on what Canada stands for. Toronto, named by the native tribes, is an Iroquois word for the meeting place. Our Land of Canada has offered to all of us---immigrants, refugees, and native-born Canadians---an opportunity to thrive in our diverse and multicultural reality, the latter, requiring a dynamic interplay at the grassroots level in this meeting place.

"Our Land of Canada: Diversity and Peace" dramatizes an individual’s personal struggle/journey/growth in relationship to the generosity, freedom, respect, and love that we have all received from Our Land of Canada.

Through the performers’ skillful, artistic, meditative, Taichi movements propped by the installation art design on the stage, our presentation suggests to the audience that the spirit of Our Land of Canada can also be reflected within the human heart. The human spirit, in facing its challenges of everyday life, has the potential of leading us to a self-discovery that we have the capacity to welcome and embrace all colours on our land and to work creatively with various human experiences and emotional expressions. The struggle/journey/growth motif will give rise to greater CLARITY, PEACE and UNDERSTANDING that the transformation of the human heart will eventually help us get ever closer to our aspirations and ideals for this Land of Canada we call home..

II. ART EXHIBITIONS ON “CANADA’S MULTICULTURALISM AND PEACE”

1. There will be **exhibition** of visual art by featured artists including the renowned Henry Ho, and by members of the WE Art Association. These visual art works including Chinese ink painting, oil painting, collages and sculptures will be around the theme of peace against the settings of Canada’s multiculturalism.

2. **Interactive opportunities:** The artists will station in the display area to explain to visitors how some of the paintings were created, and to answer queries, covering topics from their artistic inspiration, painting techniques, how they made use of Asian artistic skills such as ink painting, and applied them on Canadian subjects such as Niagara Falls. They will explain the motivations behind the creation, especially when they were prompted by the challenges of immigration and how their painting became moments of reconciliation enabling them to understand and be incorporated into their new home in Canada.

3. Featured performance by Artist Henry Ho, Dr. Lien Chao and Ashley Poy at Opening Ceremony

“Our Land of Canada: Diversity and Peace”: A multi-medium, artistic-poetic-meditative-musical
Please see the above schedule of the Opening Ceremony for details.

4. Interactive performance: Performance of Taichi Calligraphy jointly by the artists and voluntary audience.

5. Interactive sessions:

1) Hands on with Chinese brushes, ink and Xuan paper;

2) Standing and sitting meditation for stress-reduction, concentration, inner peace, and ultimate happiness.

Bios of Chinese Canadian Legend Award Winners at Opening Ceremony

Dr. Neville Poy B.Sc., M.D., C.M., M.Sc., FRCS (C), FACS

A native of Hong Kong, Dr. Poy immigrated to Canada in 1942, at the age of seven, with his sister and parents after the Colony fell to the Japanese.

Rapidly adapting to his new environment, he progressed to the Presidency of The Students' Council at elementary school, winning the Rotary Club of Ottawa's Public Speaking Contest in 1949. He became President of the Boy's Hi-Y in his senior year at Lisgar Collegiate Institute.

During this time, his hobbies included breeding tropical fish and developing his own colour pattern of *Lebistes Reticulatus*. Model airplane building, flying, including competitive radio-control pattern and scale flying, earned him numerous awards and trophies.

In 1960, he graduated from McGill University with a degree in Medicine. After training in General Surgery and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at McGill, he practiced his specialty as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada in Toronto until his retirement in 1995.

During his medical career, Dr. Poy was the Director of the First Burn Unit in Canada. His keen interest in Hand Reconstructive Surgery led to appointments in numerous educational and executive roles within the American Association for Surgery of the Hand, including its Vice-Presidency. He also established his own surgery clinic where he practiced Cosmetic Surgery.

An active participant in the medical community, he was President of his hospital's Medical Society, President of the Ontario Medical Association, Plastic Surgery Section, and President of the Sydenham Club. He was the first Honorary Member of the Medical Staff at the Scarborough General Hospital.

He holds memberships in numerous national and international medical societies and organizations, and was a Visiting Professor at McGill University and the University of Toronto.

He served on the Dean's Medical Advisory Board of McGill University from its inception until 2005.

In 1997, he received the Chairman of the Board of Governor's "Award of Excellence in the Medical Community," a prestigious award offered annually by his hospital, the Scarborough General.

In 1998, he was inducted into The Order of Canada as an Officer within the Order in recognition of his groundbreaking medical achievements. In 2002, he received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and in 2003, he was made an Officer of the Order of St. John. In the same year he was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Queen's York Rangers Regiment (Militia). Dr. Poy was subsequently promoted to Honourary Colonel 2007-2010. He was conferred the status of Honourary Colonel of his regiment. Since 2004, he has also been "on call" to act as Presiding Officer for Citizenship and Immigration's Citizenship Swearing-in Ceremonies for new Canadians.

Mr. Justin Poy

Mr. Justin Poy is the President and Creative Director of The Justin Poy Agency and an active member of Canada's Chinese community. He has won numerous Canadian and international advertising creative awards over the past 22 years and is a frequent keynote speaker across Canada and the U.S.. Justin is a Director on the Board of the SickKids Foundation, Vice-Chair of The Canadian Foundation for Chinese Heritage Preservation and is the recipient of the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals and the Chinese Canadian Legend Award. He is the Host and Co-Producer of the Rogers TV Show "Philanthropy Today" and the latest recipient of the Campbell's Food Services Award for Excellence in Cross-Cultural Business.

Mr Stephen Siu is Chair of the Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto. He is also the President of the Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation. Winner of the Chinese Legend Award in 2009, his life is legendary. Siu immigrated to Canada in 1988 when he headed Hong Kong Urban Council's cultural promotions, and government information services' publicity, supervising a staff of 40 and a budget in the millions.

"If I followed the path that my life seemed to be, I would see the light at the end of the tunnel. I try to make a difference and make it a challenge to myself," Siu said, explaining why he moved to Canada from Hong Kong, where he had lived a life of ease and enjoyed a handsome income.

"My favorite quote is from Man of La Mancha: 'To dream the impossible dream; to fight the unbeatable foe; to bear with unbearable sorrow; to run where the brave dare not to go', and I will follow that star, no matter how far," he said.

When Siu followed his star to Canada, he never dreamed he would have the same struggles as most new immigrants. He worked a minimum-wage job, but never stopped believing that as long as he kept driving forward, there was nothing to lose.

Stephen started a marketing and public relations consultancy and quickly established a network in Canada, which eventually led him to joining the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in Toronto.

Mr. Siu spent his life bridging Canada to Asia. In 1992, the Hong Kong government set up its representative office in Toronto, Stephen Siu was hired as HKETO's public relations consultant, helping the office launch the multi-month Festival Hong Kong '92 across 11 cities, from Victoria to Halifax, which was aimed to promote the international image of Hong Kong.

"So far it is the largest promotion campaign organized by the Hong Kong government in Canada," Stephen recalled.

After going through the hardships of being a new immigrant, Stephen took on volunteer work with charitable organizations. "I thought I should help the new immigrants integrate with the community, and make ourselves part of the mainstream," he said.

Through volunteering with various community organizations, Siu has proven himself to be a person of action and the community has benefited from his skills and contributions.

In 2000, Siu started a four-year-tenure as executive director of the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto (CCC), where he focused on bridging the Chinese community with mainstream projects with the Royal Ontario Museum and other cultural groups. He launched a matching program to bring Chinese immigrants and adoptive families together, sharing each other's experience and culture.

Although he loved working for CCC, Siu's career continued to thrive. He left CCC and re-joined to the HKETO in late 2004 to take on a more important role as its assistant director.

In the nine years since, Siu has been the driving force behind major cultural projects, including the record-setting China Central Television (CCTV) Same Song concert at the Rogers Centre, the largest-ever performance in Canada's Chinese community with an audience of more than 21,000 people.

"With a performance put up together by 18 artists from the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan at the Rogers Centre, we enjoyed the unity over variety and cohesion over diversity within the Chinese nation," he said.

Now as the president of Yee Hong Foundation, Siu said it was a new runway to take off from, and he would fly away in flying colors as high as he could, with no regrets.