

ASIA SOCIETY MUSEUM

ASIA ARTS

GAME CHANGER

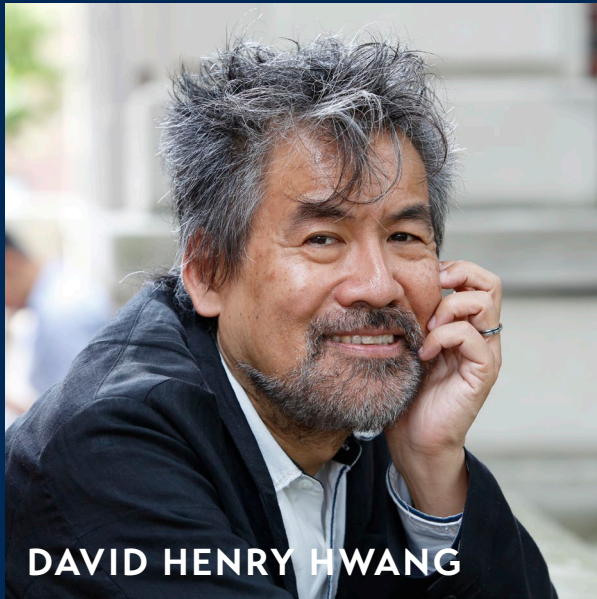
AWARDS

10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022



2022 ASIA ARTS GAME CHANGER HONOREES



ASIA ARTS GAME CHANGER AWARDS

10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022

WELCOME

Michelle Yun Mapplethorpe

Vice President for Global Artistic Programs
and Director of Asia Society Museum

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

David Henry Hwang

presented by **Betsy Z. Cohen** | Vice-Chair
Asia Society Board of Trustees

Y.Z. Kami

presented by **Robert Storr** | Artist, Critic,
and Curator

Min Jin Lee

presented by Ambassador **Byung Hwa Chung**
Consul General of the Republic of Korea
in New York

Sarah Sze

presented by **Lulu C. Wang** | Vice-Chair,
Asia Society Board of Trustees,
and **Vishakha N. Desai**,
Asia Society President Emerita

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

Music by **Huang Ruo** and libretti by
David Henry Hwang

DINNER MENU

Composed by Chef **Vikas Khanna**

WELCOME

Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2022 Asia Arts Game Changer Awards.

Asia Society Museum has been a pioneer in identifying and fostering avant-garde artists and engaging new audiences through their work. With this mission in mind, we inaugurated the Asia Arts Game Changer Awards, a celebration of Asian and Asian American contemporary art. This signature event, celebrating its 10th Anniversary, allows Asia Society Museum an opportunity to recognize and honor some of the most influential artists and leaders across the art world at a time when their voices have become a vital reminder of our shared humanity. For our milestone year of the Asia Arts Game Changer Awards, and in conjunction with Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month, we are proud to pay tribute for the first time to trailblazing visionaries from across the arts disciplines and our honorees include: David Henry Hwang, Y.Z. Kami, Min Jin Lee, and Sarah Sze. These honorees have collectively transformed the global cultural landscape through their innovative practices and in doing so, have enabled greater empathy and understanding across cultures, which has become all the more meaningful amidst the unprecedented wave of xenophobia and violence against Asian American communities.

I want to take this opportunity to also recognize the contributions of celebrated chef Vikas Khanna, who so brilliantly composed the menu for our reception and awards dinner. Our appreciation extends to the prodigious talents of the composer Huang Ruo and librettist David Henry Hwang for so graciously allowing us to share excerpts of their recent musical collaborations as a riveting highlight of the program. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all those who have generously supported this evening. The Asia Arts Game Changer Awards gala is the Asia Society's most important fundraiser and your contributions allow us to continue our mission to champion Asian and Asian American excellence in the arts, especially during this most challenging time. I thank you for your support of Asia Society and our important role in bringing the arts and culture of Asia, and its diaspora, to the world.

I'm delighted to salute the significant achievements of our 2022 honorees with you and thank you for sharing in this very special milestone event for Asia Society Museum!

Sincerely,

Michelle Yun Mapplethorpe

Vice President for Global Artistic Programs and Director of Asia Society Museum

HONOREE **DAVID HENRY HWANG**



A playwright, librettist, and screenwriter, **DAVID HENRY HWANG** is a Tony Award winner and three-time nominee, a Grammy Award winner and two-time nominee, a three-time OBIE Award winner, and a three-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama. He has written libretti for thirteen operas, including the Grammy Award-winning *Ainadamar*, with music by Osvaldo Golijov; *The Sound of a Voice*, with music by Philip Glass; and *The Rift*, with music by Huang Ruo and which recently premiered in a series of commissioned work to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy Center. Other works include the plays *Chinglish*, *The Dance and the Railroad*, *FOB*, *Golden Child*, *M. Butterfly*, and *Yellow Face*; the musicals *Aida*, *Flower Drum Song*, *Soft Power*, and *Tarzan*. His film and TV work includes the movie *M. Butterfly* and four seasons of *The Affair* (Showtime). The performance at this year's Asia Arts Game Changer Awards comprises a selection of recent pieces written by Hwang in collaboration with Huang Ruo.

HONOREE Y.Z. KAMI



Photo by Cesar Chavez Lechowick,
courtesy the artist and Gagosian

Born in Tehran and based in New York, **Y.Z. KAMI** explores in paintings, drawings, collages, and sculptures the flux between matter and spirit. His abstract works reference architecture, geometry, and poetry, and his large-scale portraits ponder the unknown. *Self-Portrait as a Child* (1990) begins a series based on a family snapshot; *Endless Prayers* incorporates mandala-like arrangements of textual fragments; and the ongoing series begun in 2017, *Night Paintings*, features dreamlike biomorphic patterns. Kami's work has been collected and exhibited by institutions including the British Museum in London and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, and Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. Solo institutional exhibitions include the 52nd Biennale di Venezia (2007); *Perspectives: Y.Z. Kami*, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (2008); and *Endless Prayers*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2017).

HONOREE MIN JIN LEE

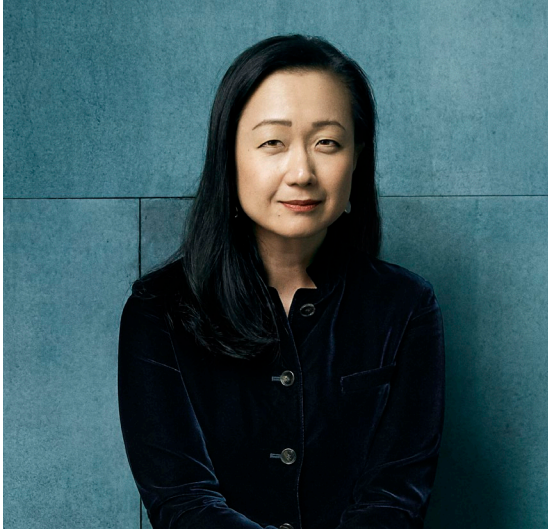


Photo by Art Streiber

MIN JIN LEE is the author of the novels *Free Food for Millionaires* and *Pachinko*, which was named a finalist for the National Book Award and runner-up for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. Her writing has been featured in *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The New Yorker*, *One Story*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. She is the recipient of fellowships in Fiction from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study at Harvard, and the New York Foundation for the Arts. In 2019, she was inducted into the New York Foundation for the Arts Hall of Fame. She is a Writer-in-Residence at Amherst College and serves as a trustee of PEN America and a director of the Authors Guild. She is at work on her third novel, *American Hagwon*, and a nonfiction work, *Name Recognition*.

HONOREE **SARAH SZE**



A peerless bricoleur, **SARAH SZE** moves with a light touch across proliferating media. Her dynamic, generative body of work spans sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking, video, and installation. Sze was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2003 and a Radcliffe Fellowship in 2005. In 2013, she represented the United States at the Venice Biennale. Her work is exhibited in museums worldwide and held in the permanent collections of prominent institutions across the globe. Sze has created permanent public works for LaGuardia Airport, Storm King Art Center, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in New York. In 2023 Sze will present a solo exhibition at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. Sze is a professor at Columbia University in the department of visual arts.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

AN AMERICAN SOLDIER (2014, 2018)

Music by Huang Ruo

Libretto by David Henry Hwang

“I was Born Here”

Yi Li, tenor as Pvt. Danny Chen

“The Moon Here”

Karen Vuong, soprano as Josephine Young; Yi Li, tenor as Pvt. Danny Chen

“I’m Sorry, Ah Ma”

Yi Li, tenor as Pvt. Danny Chen

Stephen Buck, piano

THE RIFT (2022)

Music by Huang Ruo

Libretto by David Henry Hwang

“A Rift Cut into the Earth”

Karen Vuong, soprano as Maya Lin

“I Always Had the Best of Intentions”

Rod Gilfry, baritone as Robert McNamara (appearing courtesy of The Metropolitan Opera)

“Chinese as Apple Pie”

Karen Vuong, soprano as Maya Lin

Stephen Buck, piano

COMPOSER **HUANG RUO**



Photo by Max Lee

Born in Hainan Island, China, in 1976—the year the Chinese Cultural Revolution ended, composer **HUANG RUO** began his musical studies under the tutelage of his father, also a composer, at the age of six.

He draws equal inspiration from Chinese ancient and folk music, Western avant-garde, experimental, noise, natural and processed sound, rock, and jazz. His diverse compositional range spans from orchestra, chamber music, opera, theater, and dance, to cross-genre, sound installation, architectural installation, multi-media, experimental improvisation, folk rock, and film. His work has premiered at, or performed by, the Asko/Schoenberg, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Modern, Houston Grand Opera, Lincoln Center, London Sinfonietta, National Polish Radio Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Santa Fe Opera, and Washington National Opera. His opera *An American Soldier* (with libretto by David Henry Hwang) was named one of the best classical music events in 2018 by *The New York Times*.

BARITONE ROD GILFRY



Two-time Grammy award nominee, singer, and actor, **ROD GILFRY** has performed in all of the world's music capitals. His most recent Grammy award nomination was for the title role of Olivier Messiaen's monumental opera *Saint François d'Assise* in Amsterdam. Best known as an opera singer with a 77-role repertoire, he is also an acclaimed recitalist and concert artist, appearing frequently in musical theater classics and singing music from the Baroque to that composed specifically for him. He was brought to world-wide attention with his role as Stanley Kowalski in the 1998 premiere of André Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire* at San Francisco Opera, opposite Renée Fleming. Other world premieres include *Every Man Jack*, *Gesualdo*, *Nicholas and Alexandra*, *Die Rote Laterne*, and *Sophie's Choice*. More recently, he performed in *The Brightness of Light*, *Crossing*, *Eurydice*, *Hamlet*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *The Loser*. In the 2021/2022 season, Gilfry returns to the Metropolitan Opera as Claudius in *Hamlet* and plays Robert McNamara in the world premiere of Huang Ruo and David Henry Hwang's *Written in Stone* at Washington National Opera. His discography of 28 audio and video recordings includes *My Heart Is So Full of You*. Rod Gilfry appears courtesy of the MET opera.

SOPRANO **KAREN VUONG**



Based in New York, **KAREN VUONG** is an American soprano who has appeared in the 2021/2022 season as Mimì in *La Bohème* at Seattle Opera, Suzel in *L'Amico Fritz* at the Tiroler Festspiele, and Maya Lin in the world premiere of Huang Ruo's opera *The Rift* at Washington National Opera, Kennedy Center. She also performed at the *American Songbook: A World of Voices* at Lincoln Center and held a solo recital at North Florida University. Vuong sings the title role of *Rusalka* at Portland Opera. She has also performed as Tina in Seattle Opera's recent film production, *Flight*. Other roles include Die Gänsemagd in *Königskinder*, Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Gretel in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Gerhilde in *Die Walküre*, and Micaëla in *Carmen*. Previously an ensemble member of Frankfurt Opera, where she sang numerous leading roles, Vuong studied at the Juilliard School and has enjoyed great success at competitions including the Eastern Regional Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions and Operalia. She was awarded the grand prize in the Marilyn Horne Lieder Competition.

TENOR YI LI



Tenor **YI LI** is quickly gaining attention as a rising star in the opera world across the globe. He has performed as Cheng Quing in Meredith Monk's *ATLAS* at the Los Angeles Philharmonic; as Dick Johnson in *La fanciulla del West*, Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and Turridu/Luigi in *Il Tabarro/Cavalleria Rusticana* at Maryland Lyric Opera; and as the Young Lover in *Il Tabarro* at the Metropolitan Opera. Engagements this season include a return to Maryland Lyric Opera for *Turandot*, singing Pang and covering Calaf; performing as Danny in *An American Soldier* at China Now Music Festival, as Turridu in *Cavalleria Rusticana* at Opera Tampa, and as tenor soloist in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* at Jackson Symphony. Li's forthcoming engagement is with the Irish National Opera. Trained at the Sichuan Conservatory in China and the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, Li has been recognized as winner or finalist at international competitions such as the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World, Gerda Lissner Foundation Vocal Competition, International Singing Competition of Toulouse, Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Opera Columbus, Operalia, and the Sullivan Musical Foundation Awards.

PIANIST **STEPHEN BUCK**



Pianist, arranger, and program designer **STEPHEN BUCK** has collaborated with Lara Downes, Thomas Hampson, Lang Lang, Bill Murray, Daniel Röhn, among others, in redefining the traditional classical concert experience. He serves as Academic Studies Coordinator at Purchase College, training musicians for a musical future that's multidisciplinary. His work has appeared on major concert stages around the world, including Carnegie Hall, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Royal Festival Hall, and Sydney Opera House. His crossover arrangements were performed by his wife, pianist Vanessa Perez, along with Bill Murray, Jan Vogler, and Mira Wang in the concert documentary *New Worlds: Cradle of Civilization*, which premiered at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival. Buck received his doctorate in musical arts from Yale University School of Music.

CHEF VIKAS KHANNA



VIKAS KHANNA is an internationally acclaimed Indian American chef, film maker, and author. He is a James Beard nominee and one of the first Indian chefs to be awarded a Michelin Star in the U.S. He has been featured amongst the 10 most influential chefs in the world by Deutsche Welle and Gazette Review. He is the host of MasterChef India, Twist of Taste and Mega Kitchens on National Geographic. Author of 37 award winning books, including UTSAV (World's most expensive cookbook) and the creator of documentary series Holy Kitchens and Kitchens of Gratitude. He founded the Museum of Kitchen Arts, which is home to thousands of India's unique kitchen tools and equipment, located at his alma mater, WGSMA, Manipal, India. His restaurants, Kinara and Ellora in Dubai are rated as Favorite Indian restaurant by Conde Nast. His initiative Feed India served more than 51 Million Meals during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Last Color marks Khanna's debut as a film writer and director which was eligible for OSCARS race for Best Feature, 2020.

HOST MICHELLE YUN MAPPLETHORPE



MICHELLE YUN MAPPLETHORPE is Vice President for Global Artistic Programs at Asia Society, Director of Asia Society Museum in New York, and Artistic Director of the Asia Society Triennial. She is responsible for overseeing global arts and cultural programs for the organization, the Museum's exhibitions program and its permanent collection. Yun Mapplethorpe is a widely-published author and frequent lecturer on modern and contemporary Asian art. She earned her MA in modern art and critical studies from Columbia University and her BA from Mount Holyoke College. She is a graduate of the Getty Leadership Institute's Executive Education Program for Museum Leaders and sits on the advisory board of the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, among other affiliations. Prior to her appointment to Asia Society, Yun Mapplethorpe was Curator of the Hunter College Art Galleries. She has served as Project Director of Cai Guo-Qiang's studio and as Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Painting and Sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in addition to organizing numerous independently curated exhibitions. After a decade of service at Asia Society, Yun Mapplethorpe will take on the role of Executive Director at Katonah Museum of Art, Westchester, NY, where her appointment begins in mid-August.

SELECT PAST EXHIBITIONS

- 1996** *Contemporary Art in Asia: Traditions/Tensions*
Curated by Apinan Poshyananda
- 1998** *Inside Out: New Chinese Art*
Curated by Gao Minglu
- 2003** *Cai Guo-Qiang—An Explosion Event: Light Cycle Over Central Park*
- 2004** *Between Past and Future: New Photography and Video from China*
- 2007** *Zhang Huan: Altered States*
- 2009** *Hanging Fire: Contemporary Art from Pakistan*
Curated by Salima Hashmi
- 2010** *Yoshitomo Nara: Nobody's Fool*
- 2011** *Sarah Sze: Infinite Line*
American Representative, U.S. Pavilion, 55th Venice Biennale
- 2013** *Iran Modern*
Curated by Fereshteh Daftari and Layla S. Diba
- 2014** *Nam June Paik: Becoming Robot*
- 2016** *No Limits: Zao Wou-Ki*
- 2017** *Lucid Dreams and Distant Visions: South Asian Art in the Diaspora*
- 2018** *The Progressive Revolution: Modern Art for a New India*
- 2019** *Reza Aramesh: 12 noon, Monday 5 August, 1963*
- 2019** *M.F. Husain: Art and the Nation*
- 2019** *Xiaoze Xie: Objects of Evidence*
- 2019** *Wang Dongling: Ink in Motion*
- 2020** *Asia Society Triennial: We Do Not Dream Alone, Part 1*
- 2021** *Asia Society Triennial: We Do Not Dream Alone, Part 2*
- 2022** *Rebel, Jester, Mystic, Poet: Contemporary Persians—The Mohammed Afkhami Collection*
Curated by Fereshteh Daftari

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS



JUNE 15 – AUGUST 28, 2022

MIRROR IMAGE: A TRANSFORMATION OF CHINESE IDENTITY



JUNE 15 – AUGUST 28, 2022

VISIONARY LEGACIES: A TRIBUTE TO HAL J. NEWMAN

TOP: Tianzhuo Chen. Video still, *Trance*, 2019. Two single-channel videos with sound. Duration: 5 minutes, 1 second; 2 minutes, 51 seconds (continuous loop). Courtesy of the artist and BANK/MABSOCIETY. Image courtesy of the artist, BANK/MABSOCIETY, and Asia Society; BOTTOM: Nam June Paik. *Li Tai Po*, 1987. 10 antique wooden TV cabinets, 1 antique radio cabinet, antique Korean printing block, antique Korean book, 11 color TVs. H. 96 x W. 62 x D. 24 in. (243.8 x 157.5 x 61 cm); Duration: continuous loop. Asia Society, New York: Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Harold and Ruth Newman, 2008.2. Photo by Bruce M. White, 2014. Digital image © Asia Society.

ABOUT US

ABOUT ASIA SOCIETY

The Asia Society's purpose is to navigate shared futures for Asia and the world across policy, arts and culture, education, sustainability, business, and technology. Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit institution with major centers and public buildings in New York, Hong Kong, and Houston, and additional locations in Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, San Francisco, Seoul, Sydney, Tokyo, Washington, D.C., and Zurich. Initially established to promote greater knowledge of Asia in the United States, the Society today is a global institution that fulfills its educational mandate through a wide range of cross-disciplinary programming.

ABOUT MUSEUM

Asia Society Museum presents a wide range of traditional, modern, and contemporary exhibitions of Asian and Asian American art, taking new approaches to familiar masterpieces and introducing under-recognized arts and artists. The Asia Society Museum Collection comprises a traditional art collection, including the initial bequests of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd, and a contemporary art collection. Through exhibitions and public programs, Asia Society provides a forum for the issues and viewpoints reflected in both traditional and contemporary Asian art and in Asia today.

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Vikas Khanna

Huang Ruo



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