

What's On

Portal to the past

Photographer Tang Xilin's exhibition "Echoes of Silence" is showing at the Cangcheng Impression Art Space through March. The works of the veteran photographer capture the essence of old Songjiang, his birthplace. Driven by a profound love for his hometown, Tang began documenting Songjiang's ancient cityscape in the 1970s. Witnessing the imminent demolition of historic houses in the 1990s, he felt compelled to preserve the images of a disappearing life-style, silently conveying the "nostalgia" of his homeland. These photographs serve as a portal to the past, tracing the remnants of yesteryears scattered across Songjiang. The exhibition is on at 197 Zhongshan Road W., 10am-7pm every day.

Wall-less art museum

The exhibition "Mountains and Rivers" at Art+ Century Museum in Rabor Nova features nearly 300 paintings by over 60 renowned Chinese artists such as Huang Yongyu and Guan Shanyue and explores the theme of nature-inspired landscapes and patriotic sentiment. The exhibition is divided into one main exhibition and three special exhibitions, each taking place in public spaces such as lawns and gardens, creating a "wall-less art museum." The exhibition runs until August 1, 2024, at 885 Wangjiashe Road.

Mystery of Shanhaijing

The Guangfulin International Cultural Exchange Center is hosting the Mystery of Shanhaijing (Classic of Mountains and Seas) exhibition. Shanhaijing is an ancient text made up of mythological and geographical lore. This extraordinary showcase, hailed as a visual feast, features a 9.9-meter-long and 1.9-meter-high "Mountain and Seas Map," 10,000 sculptures of 447 mountains, over 7,900 tribal figures and over 1,900 divine beasts, herbs and divine trees described in the classic. The exhibition is ongoing at 3088 Guangfulin Road.



EDITOR'S PICK

Sijing holds showcase of work by female artists

Tan Weiyun

AN extraordinary gathering unfolded at the Xianhe Art Museum recently in Sijing Town, as it became a vibrant canvas showcasing the talents of contemporary female artists. The fourth edition of the "Flourishing Flowers of Sijing" exhibition brought together more than 50 exquisite pieces of art created by 45 emblematic women artists, each with a unique story and background.

From doctors to dance instructors, full-time mothers to retirees, these women converged under the shared identity of contemporary artists, revealing the intricate and tender perspectives women bring to the world through their art. Their creations - ranging from blooming flowers and noble peacocks to soaring butterflies and tranquil lakes - offer a glimpse into the delicate beauty, uniqueness and vivacity of the female spirit.

Among the artists, Sima Chuxue,

a rehabilitation doctor, shared how she turned to art as a therapeutic tool for her patients, discovering the profound impact colors could have on their psychological well-being. Through her journey, Sima herself fell in love with painting, exploring various mediums over five years.

"The evidence shows that drawing indeed has the power to facilitate psychological adjustments and changes in patients," Sima said. "For instance, to help patients calm down, I might encourage them to use more blue, while to uplift those with depression, it's beneficial to incorporate more red into their artwork."

Fan Yufei's work stands out with its vibrant interplay of Chinese brushwork techniques and the luminosity of oil painting, achieved by using silk as canvas and acrylic for frames, creating a mesmerizing blend of Eastern and Western art traditions and a dialogue between the ancient and the modern.

Zhang Sihua, who took up painting after her retirement from a career in economics, spoke about rediscovering her passion for art - a seed that had been germinating in her heart for decades. Freed from the constraints of her previous life, her work boldly steps away from traditional ink painting, marked by innovation and dynamism.

"The exhibition has evolved over its four iterations, with the geographical diversity of the artists expanding, subjects becoming boundlessly creative, and the artists' personal expressions maturing," said the curator Yang Wenwen. "This year's exhibition transcends traditional notions of femininity, showcasing a wide array of materials, forms and concepts, and inviting viewers into a rich visual culture of new forms and ideas."

Date: through May 13
Address: 150 Gulang Road
鼓浪路150号

Grass Carp Wontons: Recreate local delicacy in your home

Tan Weiyun

SONGJIANG boasts a rich culinary heritage with unique local flavors. One standout delicacy is Grass Carp Wontons, a dish that combines the region's famed grass carp with the comforting embrace of wonton wrappers. Here is a simple recipe to recreate this delectable treat at home.

Start by creating the wonton wrappers. Place high-gluten flour in a large bowl and gradually add warm water while stirring to form a smooth dough. Knead the dough until it's supple, cover with a damp

cloth and let rest for 15-20 minutes. After resting, knead the dough again, roll it into a thin sheet and cut into round wonton wrappers.

For the filling, finely chop deboned Songjiang grass carp fillet and mix it with chopped spring onions, ginger paste, salt, light soy sauce and a pinch of chicken bouillon powder. Stir in cooking oil to enhance the filling's texture and flavor.

Take a portion of the filling and place it in the center of each wonton wrapper. Fold the wrapper into a half-moon shape, sealing

the edges tightly.

Cook the wontons in boiling water until they float to the surface. Add a bit of cold water and repeat this process 2-3 times until the wontons are fully cooked. Remove them from the water and set aside.

In a separate pot, bring chicken broth or clear soup to a boil. Add vegetables such as bok choy or spinach and cook until tender.

Place the cooked wontons in a bowl and ladle the hot soup with vegetables over them. Garnish with chopped spring onions and adjust the seasoning with soy sauce to taste.

Now, you're ready to savor the delightful Songjiang Grass Carp Wontons, a harmonious blend of flavors that pays homage to the district's culinary traditions.

Chinese Snacks

This is a series of stories about famous snacks in China. Each article will break down the ingredients of each tasty treat and tell you how it is prepared. Interesting stories about how each snack got its name will also be included.