

Centre A presents

SING JUK SING

A live streaming performance between Vancouver and Montréal

with Master Toa Wong and Mary Sui Yee Wong

Saturday, May 15, 2010 Centre A, 2 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, 1:00 pm (Pacific Time) OBORO, 4001 Berri, # 301, Montréal. 4:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Artists: Master Toa Wong and Mary Sui Yee Wong Curatpr: Janet Lumb, Festival Accès Asie, Montréal Curator: Makiko Hara, Centre A, Vancouver

Co-produced by Oboro and Centre A in collaboration with Festival Accès Asie, Montréal and ExplorASIAN, Vancouver Patron: Joanne Louie Mah

In *Sing Juk Sing*, a renowned Vancouver master musician, Toa Wong, and a Montréal visual artist, Mary Sui Yee Wong, meet through cyber technology in a live streaming performance.

By invoking a childhood fantasy of becoming a pop star with an irrational fear of singing, Mary Sui Yee Wong will work in tandem with her father, Toa Wong, to create an experimental performance that embraces the complexities of inter-generational communication, acculturation, and hybridization.

The project title, *SING JUK SING* [G, G] is a play on the term *juk sing* (*bamboo essence*), a term coined at the turn of the 20th century in reference to overseas-born Chinese. Like the bamboo flowing between two knots, overseas Chinese straddle two worlds. By combining the word *sing* (*to rise or ascend*) with *juk sing*, a new term is created. *SING JUK SING* moves towards hope, possibility and reconciliation.

Highlighting the relationship between father and daughter, visual artist and musician, community elder and community activist, the collaborators will play with language, music, image, memory, technology and family history to give voice to the tension between tradition and the new.

Master Toa Wong has accompanied prestigious opera performers in Hong Kong and Canada and has tutored over two hundred artists and actors in Cantonese opera. In 1961, Wong immigrated to Canada to take up the position of lead erhu player (violinist) with the Jin Wah Sing Chinese Orchestra in Vancouver. Since then, Wong has contributed in many ways to the preservation of Cantonese opera through his performances, publications and community leadership. Toa Wong's enthusiastic support led to the donation of important collections of Chinese opera costumes to the UBC Museum of Anthropology and the Museum of the Chinese in America, New York. At the age of 93, this exceptional individual continues to teach and perform.

Mary Sui Yee Wong is a multidisciplinary artist who immigrated to Canada from Hong Kong in 1963. Wong has exhibited extensively in solo and group exhibitions in Canada and internationally. She has been involved in numerous curatorial initiatives and is an active member of the Chinese community. Wong is presently teaching in the Studio Arts program at Concordia University, Montréal.