Make Your Own Shadow Puppet

**Monday 15 April – Thursday 27 June**  
**Chinese Museum Level 1 Temporary Exhibition Gallery, 22 Cohen Place, Melbourne**

Shadow Play: The Art of Shaanxi Shadow Puppetry is back by popular demand at the Chinese Museum. This exhibition presents a rare collection of beautifully hand crafted shadow puppets used in Chinese shadow theatre from Shaanxi province, the birthplace of Chinese shadow puppetry.

The skills of a shadow puppeteer take a lifetime to master and have been passed down from generation to generation. In doing so, they transmit cultural history, social beliefs, oral traditions and local customs. In 2011, UNESCO acknowledged its importance as an intangible cultural heritage and ascribed Chinese Shadow Puppetry on its *Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity*.

The exhibition gives an insight into the history of shadow puppetry, the creation process of these puppets and their different design elements. A number of elaborate puppets will be on display, including the characters from two Chinese classics, *Journey to the West* and *Story of the West Chamber*. In addition, the art of shadow puppetry will be showcased in the viewing tent through a series of informative videos.

Visitors are also invited to create shadow puppets at the workstation. Inspired by the Chinese folk story, *The Reason Why Dogs and People Get Along*, visitors will be able to design their own animal shadow puppets and experience the magic of this intricate craft.

This exhibition is presented in collaboration with the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China in Melbourne.

**Image: Shaanxi Shadow Puppet**

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