

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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(High-res images available on request)



## **Ya Ji East/West Cultural Gatherings brings China to Portland, Maine, with a talk by Portland-based Chinese Artist, Mei Selvage**

Inspired by the historic ‘elegant gatherings’ (雅集) of the Song Dynasty, where artists, poets, sages and scholars would come together to drink tea and contemplate art and life—Ya Ji is a modern day salon focusing on the new waves of Chinese and Asian contemporary art and culture as they intersect with New England. Join us on November 19 at Thinktank—admission is free and warm Chinese tea will be served.

Hosted by Fox Intercultural Consulting—headquartered in Portland—the first Ya Ji gathering includes an exhibition and a talk, *Journey to the East*, by Portland artist, Mei Selvage. The title of the exhibition refers to a famous Chinese novel, *Journey to the West* (西游记), published in the 16th century. The novel describes a monk and his three mythical students who went on an odyssey-like pilgrimage to the Western Pure Land where they obtained sacred texts and fulfilled their life missions. Ms. Selvage used this story as an analogy for her own inner journey, searching for her artistic and spiritual home.

“My art is my way to tell stories and compose visual poetry,” explains Ms. Selvage. “I love to use words, colors and images to reveal the interplay of hidden and perceived realities. To engage and tell meaningful stories, I continuously integrate diverse techniques and materials from the East and West, both ancient and contemporary.”

Please join Ya Ji East/West Cultural Gatherings at Thinktank, 533 Congress Street on Wednesday, November 19, from 5:30 to 7 pm.

### **About Mei Selvage:**

Mei Selvage is a multi-faceted woman: she is a self-taught visual artist who loves to tell stories through her artwork; she has also received over 30 patents and works at Gartner as a research director. She is a co-founder and co-curator of Ya Ji East/West Cultural Gatherings. For more artist information, visit [www.meiselvage.com](http://www.meiselvage.com)

### **About Fox Intercultural Consulting:**

Headquartered in the pristine setting of Portland, Maine, Fox Intercultural Consulting promotes understanding between the United States and China through a diverse range of educational and cultural programs. Building bridges between the people of these two vast countries is their primary goal. Fox also has offices in Beijing and networks throughout China, Hong Kong and the U.S.

For more details, visit [www.foxintercultural.net](http://www.foxintercultural.net)

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