

**(Logo) Chinese Arts Centre  
Education Programme**



Chinese Arts Centre continues its commitment to an extensive learning programme. From 1986, Chinese Arts Centre has been introducing thousands of children to Chinese visual arts, crafts and performance. Led by our team of experienced and dedicated artists, our workshop programme will enhance the skills and creativity of each participant.

Also available is our very successful Education Resource CD ROM, which covers 11 topics of Chinese arts. The pack was developed by a primary school teacher and is particularly suitable for key stage 1 + 2.

## **Workshops**

Available at Chinese Arts Centre, at the school or other venue

**Please note** All workshops have a maximum group size of 30. Members of school staff, ratio of 1 staff: 15 students must be present during the whole workshop.

### **Chinese New Year taster workshop**

New Year is the most important festival in the Chinese calendar, marking the beginning of the lunar year. Engage with the historical and social significance of this 2600 year-old festival, as well as the preparations and celebrations involved. Ever wondered what the Lion Dance is all about or which Zodiac animal rules your year of birth? Find out whilst making New Year lucky red packets and sampling New Year delicacies such as preserved plums and melons.

**Age: 7+ Duration: 1.5 to 1.75 hours (depending on age group)**

### **Guided tour of Chinatown in Manchester**

Like many cities where the Chinese have settled, such as San Francisco, Vancouver, Sydney and London, Manchester has its own unique Chinatown. Firmly established since the 70's, it is a dynamic hub of smells, sights and sounds, which gives participants a memorable slice of Chinese life.

Led by your guide, the tour starts at the beautiful, multicoloured gateway to Chinatown: The Arch.

To relish the full flavour of Chinatown, consider completing your visit with a special Chinese banquet at one of the excellent restaurants. We would be happy to recommend a restaurant on request.

**Age: 7+ Duration: 1.5 to 1.75 hours (depending on age group)**



## Chinese Calligraphy

Traditionally regarded as the highest form of Chinese creativity. Using the Chinese brush and ink stone, students practice the many different strokes, which will then be used to create a single, complete character. Strength, balance, beauty, life and movement are combined to make the brush dance and the ink sing.

**Age: 7+ Duration: 2hours**

## Chinese brush painting

Rooted in calligraphy, this delicate art form adapts brush strokes to represent space, form, light and shade. As with calligraphy, the use of the brush is instrumental to the evolution of the painting. Brushes of varying flexibility and thickness, when applied with differing pressure, achieve a vast number of effects. In both calligraphy and painting, colour is also used to generate forms, vary tone and provide character.

**Age: 7+ Duration: 2 hours**





### **Lantern making**

The Lantern Festival falls on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month in the lunar calendar, the night of the first full moon after the Spring Festival. Celebrated since the Han Dynasty (206BC – 221 AD), the ceremony welcomed the ascendant sun, bringing warmth and increasing daylight after the winter's cold and rains, in preparation for the new spring planting.

**Age: 4+ Duration: 1.5 to 2 hours (depending on age group)**

## Origami

Though collectively understood to be a Japanese art form, Origami began in China. The art of paper folding – ori, means to fold and kami, means paper – is millennia old. The flat sheet of decorative paper can be transformed, by a few folds, into 3D art works, often representations of natural forms e.g. flowers, animals etc. The joy of origami is witnessing this transformation.

**Age: 6+ Duration: 1.25 to 1.75 hours (depending on age group)**



## Paper cutting

One of China's most popular folk arts is pedigree, can be traced back to 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. Paper cuts depict exaggerated yet simple images, inspired by nature, language, customs, rituals, myths, stories and scenes from everyday life. They symbolize ideas of luck and fortune. They have exerted much influence on Chinese style and design. At its most basic, it requires only a sheet of paper and a pair of scissors or a craft knife to compose a detailed decoration.

**Age: 6+ Duration: 1.5 to 2 hours (depending on age group)**



### **Opera mask making**

Chinese Opera and Theatre relies on exaggerated painted faces, masks and costumes to symbolise character and help tell the story. It is stylised in form, colour and pattern so that the audience, seeing a painted face, can tell easily whether it is a hero or a villain, a wise man or a fool, to be loved or hated, respected or ridiculed. The masks are the refined inheritance of generations of artists and dramatists. As well as making a mask this workshop has a storytelling element, including the legend of The Monkey King.

**Age: 4+ Duration: 1.25 to 1.75 hours (depending on age group)**

### **Chinese music**

In China, 80 different musical instruments have been developed and played over the last 2,000 years. All are used in instrumental pieces, ballads, songs, operas and dance music. This workshop will explore the history of Chinese music and its contrasts with Western musical traditions. There is also a chance for the children to play some of the authentic instruments.

**Age: 4+ Duration: 1.25 to 1.75 hours (depending on age group)**

### **Tai Qi (pronounced Chi)/Qi Gong**



Tai Qi is an ancient martial art, combining balance and movement with Qigong breathing exercises. It is a holistic system of meditation, exercise and self-defence. Tai Qi is founded upon Taoist philosophy, the core of which orbits around the promotion of the smooth and uninhibited flow of Qi (essence and energy: the Life Force) throughout the body, channelling and harmonizing Yin & Yang energies to maximize health.

**Age: 7+ Duration: 1.25 to 1.75 hours (depending on age group)**



### **Lion dance**

The Lion Dance is one of the most important and distinctive cultural touchstones of China. Usually performed by martial arts schools, it remains a potent symbol of good fortune, prosperity and longevity. Lion dancers are appearing in the West with ever-increasing frequency, as it is a unique spectacle in itself, encompassing drama, dance and music, as well as being an embodiment of the spirit of China.

**Age: 4+ Duration: 1.25 to 1.75 hours (depending on age group)**



### **Traditional and contemporary dance**

Ribbon dance is a typical Chinese folk dance, often performed during celebrations and festivals. A discipline which requires athleticism and rhythm, united with dexterity, to gracefully synchronize the movement of the ribbon with the body. The flying ribbon always brings out joyful feelings.

**Age: 4+ Duration: 1.25 to 1.75 hours (depending on age group)**

### **Oriental cookery**

The tutor draws upon their familiarity with both Eastern and Western cultures to adapt traditional Chinese dishes into easy-to-follow steps. The recipes will give participants a taste of the orient, and leave them wanting more. Thankfully there are recipes they can take home.

This is an excellent introduction to exotic ingredients, novel kitchen equipment and cooking techniques.

**Age: 9+ Duration 2 to 2.5 hours (duration depending on age and also complexity of recipes used)**





## **Display resources for hire**

Our collection of beautiful and evocative resource materials is available for hire. They are a superb visual resource for illustrating aspects of Chinese culture. In combination with our education resource packs, they present a fine introduction to one of the world's most enduring and fascinating civilisations.

### **Items available:**

- Lion's head, tail & costume
- Chinese opera costumes
- Kites
- Lanterns
- Posters
- Opera banners
- Traditional clothing

Collection and return of the resources are wholly the responsibility of the person(s) or organisation wishing to hire them. 50% deposit required.

## **For enquiry and booking**

Please telephone our Participation Programme Manager on 0161 832 7271 or email: [education@chinese-arts-centre.org](mailto:education@chinese-arts-centre.org)

For more information about the schools programme, learning programme, exhibitions, teahouse, shop and forthcoming events, please visit our website. [www.chinese-arts-centre.org](http://www.chinese-arts-centre.org)

### **Chinese Arts Centre**

**Market Buildings, Thomas Street, Northern Quarter, Manchester, M4 1EU**

## ORDER FORM

### Education resource pack

To help you celebrate Chinese New Year, Chinese Arts Centre has commissioned an exciting education resource pack for key stages 1 + 2.

The pack was developed exclusively for our centre by a primary school teacher, possessing many years of essential classroom experience. The aim of the resource pack is to give pupils a wide range of experiences that will offer an insight into China's cultural and artistic heritage.

#### Topics include

Chinese New Year kites, lanterns, brush painting, opera & masks, paper cutting, Chinese bronzes, jade sculpture, lacquer work, architecture, pottery, porcelain.

Each of the comprehensive topics includes background information to be read by the teachers or pupils and a selection of art and craft activities including masters to photocopy. Topics have a recommended key stage for guidance. All activities can be easily adapted to suit other key stages.

I would like to order ..... resource CD-ROM(s) @ £21.99 per pack (inc. P&P)

Name .....

Address .....

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..... Postcode .....

Telephone .....

Email .....

Please include payment when ordering making cheques payable to **Chinese Arts Centre**. Packs will be posted within three working days of receiving your order.

#### Chinese Arts Centre

Market Buildings, Thomas Street, Northern Quarter, Manchester, M4 1EU

Contact our **Participation Programme Manager** on 0161 832 7271

Alternatively you could fax us on 0161 832 7513

Email: [education@chinese-arts-centre.org](mailto:education@chinese-arts-centre.org) or log onto our website at

[www.chinese-arts-centre.org](http://www.chinese-arts-centre.org)