



MORE TO EXPLORE

To learn more about monkeys and their relatives, explore the Hall of Primates located on the Museum's third floor!

#SPOTLIGHTASIA

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Support for Spotlight Asia is provided, in part, by the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Inc.; the Sidney, Milton and Leoma Simon Foundation; the family of Frederick H. Leonhardt; and The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation.

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Cover Image courtesy of Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, primate photos AMNH/M. Blair, Maria Yoon courtesy of A.a. Roca

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Spotlight Asia:

Ring in the Year of the Monkey

Sunday, February 21 | Noon–5 pm

INTRODUCTION TO SPOTLIGHT ASIA



LUNAR NEW YEAR

Observed by a diverse range of Asian cultures, the Lunar New Year is a time of modern festivity and ancient tradition. This month, we ring in the **Year of the Monkey**, a figure associated with cleverness, curiosity, and mischief.



PRIMATES: OUR CLOSEST COUSINS

As members of the primate family, humans have a lot in common with monkeys and other primates. We all have opposable thumbs, a taste for fruit, and stereoscopic vision. But our primate “cousins” face serious conservation threats. Approximately half of the primate species living today are in danger of extinction, due largely to habitat loss and the illegal pet trade.

Today, the Museum takes a look at the important cultural role primates have played across the Asian continent and explores what needs to be done to ensure their survival.

MAIN STAGE PERFORMANCES

Noon and 3 pm



YOUR HOST

Master storyteller **Maria Yoon** shares monkey legends from Korea as she guides us through a pan-Asian celebration of the Year of the Monkey.

A NEW MAGICAL JOURNEY

Journey to the West is an epic Chinese legend that details the journey of the Monkey King, a magical figure who has the ability to harness the power of nature and obtain scriptures from Buddha to enlighten the world.

In “The Ways of Fire (Fire),” “On the River of Dreams (Water),” and “Whirlwind (Wind),” choreographer Nai-Ni Chen summons the power of nature, her cultural heritage, and creativity to take you on the journey of the Monkey King as he harnesses nature and overcomes obstacles. Let your inner Monkey King out as the company teaches you ribbon-dance movements after each performance.

Q&A WITH EXPERTS

Learn more about monkey myths and primate conservation.

ACTIVITIES Noon–5 pm



Take a photo with the Monkey King!

Paint your own monkey *minhwa*, or folk painting, in the Korean traditional style with artist **Kate Oh Trabulsi** and The Korea Society.



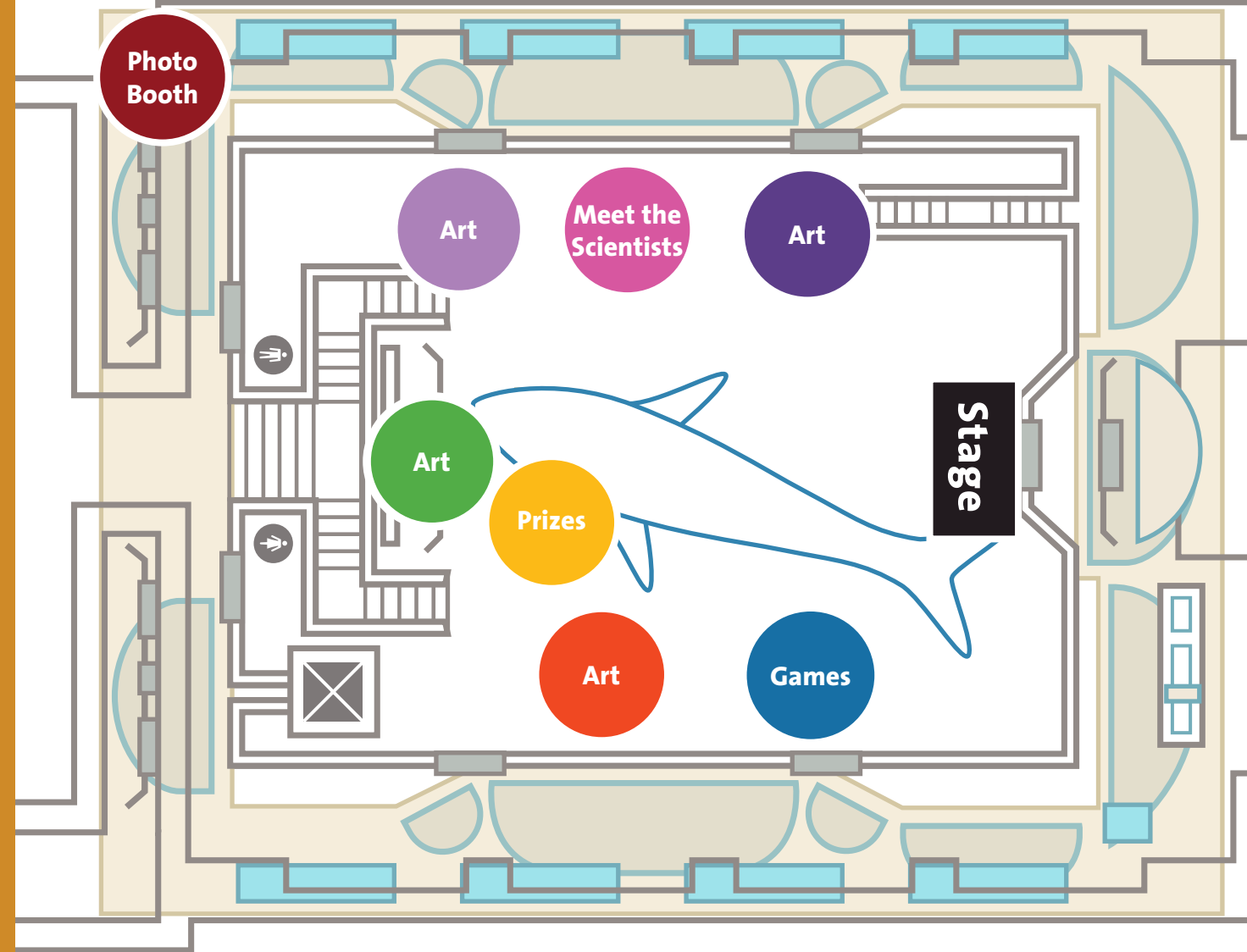
Create an assortment of monkey designs with volunteers from OrigamiUSA.

Try your hand at monkey calligraphy with artist **Tara Lobsang** and Tibet House US!



Sign up to win prizes, including an orangutan plush toy, monkey magnets, a handmade Monkey King flour figurine, and a giant, lovable play gorilla!

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life

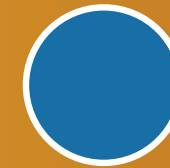


ACTIVITIES Noon–5 pm

Design a monkey shadow puppet with Chinese Theatre Works.



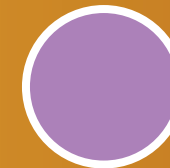
Play monkey games with Mongolia Connections.



Explore a Vietnamese monkey lantern display and discover Đông Hồ monkey woodcut painting with the Institute for Vietnamese Culture & Education.



Learn how to craft your own monkey clay figurine with artist **Xun Ye**.



Meet the scientists! Unleash your monkeylike curiosity and ask Museum experts all your primate questions.

