FIRST SATURDAY PROGRAM
XUN (Clay Vessel-Flute): An Ancient Dragon Egg-like Instrument
December 7, 2013

For another journey with your colleagues to experience the Fragrance of Discovery, please join First Saturday to learn about an ancient Chinese wind instrument, the XUN.

In collaboration with PSU’s Institute of Asian Studies, this program will be on the campus of Portland State University (PSU) at the Urban and Public Affairs Center, where there is direct transportation on the MAX Green and Yellow lines (SW5th & Mills stop) and the Trolley. There is a nearby parking structure at SW 6th and Harrison with an entrance on 6th Avenue.

Date: December 7, 2013 (Saturday)
Time: 9:30 am – 11:00 am
Place: Portland State University (Urban Center Room 250)
Address: 507 SW Mill St., Portland
Topic: Clay Vessel-Flute (Xun): An Ancient Dragon Egg-like Instrument
Presenter: Dr. Juwen Zhang, Chinese Language & Culture, Willamette University

In our prior season, one of the most popular presentation was ‘Abiding with Antiquity’ which was about the “Qin or string instrument of the sages”. This program with Dr. Juwen Zhang will also be interactive on the making and playing of another heritage instrument but associated initially with popular folk music. Moreover, it is First Saturday’s way of celebrating the new School of Music at PSU. The Xun is a Chinese wind instrument with a very ancient pedigree going as far back as 5000 BC or earlier, and was said to be made of baked clay by the legendary Bao Xin Gong or by Fuxi, the first male ancestor in Chinese mythology. It falls into the category of earth in the traditional classifications of musical instruments based on eight kinds of materials. With the excavation of the terra cotta soldiers at Xian in the late 20th century, many of these little egg-shaped clay vessel-flutes were also found along with the statues, weapons, and tools. Interest in the Xun has rekindled, and today the Xun has taken its place once again among the instruments of Chinese formal and popular music. Come and discover the making and playing of this wind instrument as well as its cultural symbolism.

First Saturday Planning Committee