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## I6H ArtWeek 2019

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## I6B Extracurriculars

*Events on and off campus in March and April*



## I6D J.S. Bach and Josephine Baker

*Free concerts hosted by the Harvard music department*



## I6J Mass Audubon

*Springtime timberdoodles, maple-sugaring, and falconry*



## I6L Howardena Pindell's Abstractions

*The Rose Art Museum*



## I6N Beyond Phở

*Vietnamese food options in Greater Boston*

ARTWEEK





# Extracurriculars

Events on and off campus during March and April

SEASONAL

Arts First Festival

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The annual arts celebration in and around Harvard Square offers live performances of

dance, music, comedy, circus acts, and theater, along with art exhibits and hands-on activities for all ages. The 2019 Harvard Arts Medalist is Tracy K. Smith '94 (see page 28), poet laureate of the United States. (May 2-5)

From left: A photograph of Albina Visilova, at the Naftalan Sanatorium, Azerbaijan (2010), at the Peabody Museum; from the Argentine film *Zama*, at the Harvard Film Archive; and *Dragon Mama*, starring Sara Porkalob, at the American Repertory Theater

NATURE AND SCIENCE

The Arnold Arboretum

www.arboretum.harvard.edu

Gavin Van Horn, director of cultures and conversations at Chicago's Center for Humans and Nature, hosts a talk, "Shared Journeys in the Urban Wilds," and a walk: **Cultivating Wildness Where You Are.** (April 3 and April 4)

An Introduction to Medicinal Plants

is a five-part series that explains the scientific principles and anthropological underpinnings of plant-based drugs found around the

FROM LEFT: COURTESY PEABODY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY, HARVARD UNIVERSITY; © CHLOE DEWE MATHEWS; HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE; AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER

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world, with John de la Parra, an associate of the Harvard University Herbaria, and Ernest Anemone, lecturer at the Tufts University Experimental College. (April 17-May 11)

**THEATER**  
**Lyric Stage Company of Boston**  
www.lyricstage.com  
*The Little Foxes*, Lillian Hellman’s tale of a family’s lust for power and money in the post-Civil War American South, plays as well today as it did in 1939. Remo Airdi ’85, Harvard lecturer on theater, dance, and media, plays steely schemer Benjamin Hub-

bard, who timelessly asserts: “The country is turning, the world is open...there are hundreds of Hubbards...and they will own this country some day.” (Through March 17)

**Harvard-Radcliffe**  
**Gilbert and Sullivan Players**  
www.boxoffice.harvard.edu  
*The Gondoliers; or, The King of Barataria*. Confusion reigns when a king dies and two brothers learn that one of them is heir to the throne; meanwhile, the new young would-be queen is in love with someone else. Agassiz Theater. (March 29-April 7)

**American Repertory Theater**  
www.americanrepertorytheater.org  
In *Dragon Mama*, Seattle-based performer, singer, writer, and producer Sara Porkalob delves into the next chapter of her autobiographical *Dragon Cycle* series, which began with *Dragon Lady*, a work based on her grandmother, an unflappable Filipina immigrant to the United States. Oberon. (March 20-April 6)

The concert-party-performance *Clairvoyance* features its creator, Diane Oh, and her “original soul, pop, rock, and punk music.” Oberon. (April 24-28)

**MUSIC**  
**Shawn Colvin**  
www.boxoffice.harvard.edu  
The enduring Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter and author performs her signature “slow-release works of craft and catharsis.” Sanders Theatre. (March 22)

**America/We Need to Talk**  
www.boxoffice.harvard.edu  
**Coro Allegro**, Boston’s LG-BTQ+ and allied classical chorus, presents a concert that calls for national dialogue and social justice. Program includes the world premiere of “A Triptych of American Voices: A Cantata of the People,” by award-winning composer Fred Onovwerosuoke. Sanders Theatre. (March 24)

**Holden Choruses**  
www.boxoffice.harvard.edu  
The **Radcliffe Choral Society** hosts the Rising Voices Treble Chorus Festival, featuring the Boston-based **Lorelei Ensemble**. Sanders Theatre. (April 5-6)

**Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra**  
www.boxoffice.harvard.edu  
The **Visitas Weekend Concert** includes “Four Ragtime Dances,” by Charles Ives, and the “Dance of the Seven Veils,” from *Salome*, by Richard Strauss, among other works. Sanders Theatre. (April 27)

**LECTURES**  
**Mahindra Humanities Center**  
www.mahindrahumanities.fas.harvard.edu  
This year’s Tanner lecturer, **Masha Gessen**,

the Russian-born journalist and activist, *New Yorker* staff writer, and author of the National Book Award-winning *The Future Is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia*, addresses: “How Do We Talk About Migration?” Paine Hall. (April 3-4)

**The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study**  
www.radcliffe.harvard.edu  
The **Vision and Justice** conference—with keynote address by New York University law professor Bryan Stevenson, J.D.-M.P.A. ’85, LL.D. ’15, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative (see harvardmag.com/stevenson-18, and short presentations by dozens of scholars, artists, writers, and businesspeople—explores the role of arts in understanding the nexus of art, race, and justice. Events include performances by Carrie Mae Weems and Wynton Marsalis. (April 25-26)

**EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS**  
**The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study**  
www.radcliffe.harvard.edu  
Willie Cole’s **Beauties** are full-scale prints made using crushed and hammered ironing boards, each honoring a woman significant to his personal and cultural history. Johnson-Kulukundis Family Gallery. (Cole gives a talk during the opening reception on March 26; exhibit opens on March 27)

**Harvard Art Museums**  
www.harvardartmuseums.org  
Scholars, including Laura Muir, curator of **The Bauhaus and Harvard** exhibit (see page 44), present new research on artworks and on the seismic design movement during the daylong **Bauhaus 100: Object Lessons from a Historic Collection Symposium**. (March 29)

**The Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**  
www.peabody.harvard.edu  
Photographer Chloe Dewe Mathews spent five years documenting people, nature, and landscapes along the Caspian Sea. **Caspian: The Elements** (also the title of her new book) elucidates her journey, and the roles that materials like rock, oil, and uranium play in daily life. Mathews, recipient of the museum’s 2014 Robert Gardner Fellowship in Photography, talks about her work during a reception on April 25. (Opens April 27)

**Houghton Library**  
www.hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/houghton  
**Small Steps, Giant Leaps: Apollo 11 at 50** pairs items from the library’s history of science collection with rarely seen objects from a private spaceflight collection, including some used during the mission by astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. (Opens April 29)

**Currier Museum of Art**  
www.currier.org  
**Ubhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence** highlights colorful, meticulously beaded textiles—a single panel takes up to 10 months to complete—that were created by a community of women living and working together in rural South Africa. (Opens March 23)

**FILM**  
**IFFBoston**  
www.iffboston.org  
**The Independent Film Festival Boston** offers documentaries and narrative features, short films, and animated and experimental works not readily available elsewhere. New and established filmmakers, along with a host of regional practitioners, are featured through screenings at the Brattle, Somerville, and Coolidge Corner Theatres, among other venues. (April 24-May 1)

**Harvard Film Archive**  
www.hcl.harvard.edu/hfa  
Thai filmmaker and VES visiting lecturer Anocha Suwichakornpong, creator of the Cannes-honored film short *Graceland*, curates a survey of **New Thai Cinema**, including Phuttiphong Aroonpheng’s *Manta Ray* and Jakrawal Nilthamrong’s *Vanishing Point*. (March 8-April 13)

**The Films of Lucrecia Martel** explores the sensual and perceptive works by this founding member of the New Argentine Cinema, a prominent figure in contemporary world cinema. Martel appears for showings of both *Zama* (2017), based on the book by Antonio di Benedetto, about a Spanish imperial functionary toiling in South America, and *La Niña Santa* (2004), in which an adolescent girl struggles to reconcile her nascent sexuality with her Catholic faith. (March 10-April 7).

Events listings are also found at [www.harvardmagazine.com/harvard2-events](http://www.harvardmagazine.com/harvard2-events).

STAFF PICK: Music in the Air

Among the free performances sponsored by the Harvard music department this spring is “*Perle Noire: Meditations for Joséphine*” (May 3). Conceived by Peter Sellars ’80 and starring Julia Bullock, the luminous soprano and artist-in-residence at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the production features music, songs, and texts that make contemporary the life and work of Josephine Baker.

The American-born Baker was a street-corner and vaudeville dancer who moved to Paris in the 1920s and forged a career as an international cabaret entertainer. She worked for the French Resistance during World War II (ultimately becoming a naturalized citizen of her adopted country), and went on to play a part in the American civil-rights movement.

The production features texts by poet, essayist, and playwright Claudia Rankine, along with original compositions by Tyshawn Sorey, a multi-instrumentalist and assistant professor of composition and creative music at Wesleyan University. He performs in the show, and is joined by members of the International Contemporary Ensemble, founded by flutist and Harvard professor



Soprano Julia Bullock, as Josephine Baker, and pianist Angela Hewitt



RICHARD TERMINE

Hewitt (the department’s 2018 Christoph Wolff Distinguished Visiting Scholar), plays a section of “The Bach Odyssey,” her four-year project to perform the entirety of J.S. Bach’s solo piano works in concerts around the world. All events are free, but tickets, obtained through the Harvard Box Office, are required.

—N.P.B.



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# ArtWeek 2019

Helping “people access creativity across the Commonwealth”

by NELL PORTER BROWN



**S**CREENINGS FROM The 90-Second Newbery Film Festival. A match-up of poets and painters on Cape Cod. Dancing along Malden's bike trail. And an afternoon of Spanish cuisine and Flamenco performers in Cambridge. This spring's ArtWeek (April 25-May 6) offers “creative experiences that do not happen at any other time of the year,” says Susan Dahling Sullivan, chief strategic officer of the nonprofit Boch Center, producer of the 12-day annual event. “ArtWeek provides people access to art and culture in new ways. From hands-on art-making and demonstrations to panel discussions and performances—the week has something that allows people to get closer to the creative process themselves.”

ArtWeek began in 2013 (thanks to seed money from ArtPlace America), with 25

events in Boston. It has since grown to encompass more than 100 partner organizations and 525 events in 130 communities across the state. Says Sullivan, “The original idea was inspired by the popularity of restaurant weeks, but not necessarily with the same business model of offering meals (or art) at discounted prices.”

It was also a response to research conducted by the National Endowment for the Arts and LaPlaca Cohen (a firm that tracks

**Last year, ArtWeek featured Airmen of Note, the U.S. Air Force Jazz Band (Franklin); Japanese folk dancing (Brookline); tours of a tiny house, from HGTV's Deek Diedricksen (Brockton); Rhythm Dance Co. (Arlington); and “art in the dark” projections on Boston Common.**

trends and behaviors among cultural consumers) that reveals a shifting paradigm “in terms of how people are engaging with the

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STAFF PICK: Laying It On

**Howardena Pindell: What Remains To Be Seen**, a traveling show at the Rose Art Museum, reveals her ardent experimentation. Across a 50-year career, from figural drawings and abstract paintings to conceptual works and photography, Pindell has played with fantastical color schemes (as in *Untitled #4D*, below), delved into deconstructionism, and reveled in circles and serialized forms. Works of collaged strips of textiles—ripped, then re-sewn—are painted over. Some are embedded with texts, numbers, or surreal images; others are adorned with glitter, talcum powder, and perfume. In her New York City studio, Pindell has hole-punched thousands of paper dots that she sprinkles or clumps onto canvases, layering on acrylic or spray paint, to create, by turns, raw textures and dreamy, abstract, impressionistic depths.

Other multimedia collages reflect both her world travels and her social-justice causes. Her 1980 filmed performance *Free, White and 21* examines racism. It marked her return to work after a near-fatal car crash, and an enduring resolve to create.

—N.P.B.

Rose Art Museum  
www.brandeis.edu/rose  
Through May 19



es, and in any other relationships requiring dynamic negotiation and problem-solving. It's even an aspect of home-based projects like designing and planting a garden, decorating a bedroom, and cooking meals.

Honoring the culinary arts, *Una Tarde En España* (April 27, at Cambridge Center for Adult Education) features sangria and Spanish fare, discussions with the chef, and Flamenco music and dances performed by members of the Boston Arts Consort.

Creativity is also crucial, Sullivan says, to scientific and technical endeavors, and to any form of economy-enhancing innovations. From dreaming up experimental modalities and writing computer code, to engineering and architectural feats and the commercial application of research—all require vision, inspiration, and originality: just what she thinks creativity means. “To think outside of the rules,” she summarizes. “An opportunity to make connections that are not obvious, to define and redefine, and,

at the other end of the spectrum, to experience joy and wonder and express ourselves in different ways. Creativity captures the past and allows you to envision a future.”

ArtWeek delves into physics, for example, in *See the World Differently* through *Kaleidoscope Sculptures* (April 27), sited next to Boston's Christopher Columbus Waterfront Park. The 'scope art is hosted by Beautiful Forms to See and explores technical facets of mirrored systems and light refraction, while offering nearly infinite, ever-changing, mind-bending images. The project is entrancing—while enhancing knowledge of science, technology, engineering, art, and math (known as STEAM).

A half-mile walk away, in the North End, *Changing Course* (April 27-28) highlights oceanic life and the impact of human-created pollution. Presented by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, the sculptures comprise 2,000 plastic drinking bottles collected from regional beaches and waterways that, when strung together, depict “a powerful school of fish swimming upstream against the tide of plastics.” Creators aim to inspire people to stop using plastic products or, at least,



Learn the art of floral arrangements with Alice's Table (Boston), and that of recipe-writing, with the Diva of Delicious (Hawley); or transform your look with vintage clothes during “Wear Your Raspberry Beret” (Maynard).



constructively recycle them.

ArtWeek also taps into fresh perspectives on cultural history. The Massachusetts Historical Society, in Boston, has organized the exhibit “Can She Do it? Massachusetts Debates a Woman's Right to Vote,” (April 26-September 21) and during ArtWeek, on April 29, hosts a reception with guest curator Allison Lange, assistant

history professor at Wentworth Institute of Technology, who explains how imagery was used to define gender and power during the suffrage movement.

Each year, ArtWeek draws more participating towns, organizations, and individuals, Sullivan says: “Everyone is seeing the value of this designated time as a way to help people access creativity across the Commonwealth. Creativity is one of the most important elements of a full life.”






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# Of Ph , Bún, and Fish Sauce

*Boston-area Vietnamese cuisine*  
by NELL PORTER BROWN



IT'S LUNCHTIME in Harvard Square, and Le's Restaurant is packed. Diners slurp steaming beef noodle soup (*tái nam pho*) and dig into grilled shrimp and pork and vermicelli (*bún tôm thịt*) laced with *nước mắm*, a limey fish-sauce vinaigrette. At a window table, Duong Huynh and Vinh Le (no relation to Le's owners) peruse the menu. As the duo behind Nem, a local Vietnamese food venture that offers culinary classes and pop-up dinners, they are, naturally, choosy.

"You have to understand," says Huynh, who moved to the United States with her

family at age 10, and settled in Boston after graduating from MIT. "Vietnamese people live for food."

"After the war—what we call the American War," adds Le, "the people were so hungry. My mother told me this—that for a meal you have only two or three small pieces of meat. So when we have food, we sit around and talk and we celebrate together."

"But even before the war, we were foodies," his wife goes on. "I think it's because geographically we are blessed with so many different ingredients."

**Clockwise from top right: Chef Vinh Le in the kitchen, and Duong Huynh, with guests, during a Nem pop-up event that offered dishes like crispy mini pancakes with shrimp and glazed chicken wings; Harvard Square's (unaffiliated) Le's Restaurant**

A FERTILE, mainly coastal, country, Vietnam boasts three distinct culinary regions: the north (influenced by Cantonese cuisine), the middle (once home to imperial Hue cuisine), and the agricultural-rich south, which integrates Thai and Cambo-

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Vietnamese cooking, according to Le. Families have their own secret recipes, and batches can take days to make using slow-cooked bones and herbal infusions.

SINCE the wave of migration to the United States after the fall of Saigon in 1975, the biggest Vietnamese-American enclave in Massachusetts has grown up in Dorchester, in a section book-ended by the Savin Hill and Fields Corner MBTA stations. To

Choose from the hot bar, cold bar, smoothies station, or take-out cases at Mi Ba Le, in Dorchester; try a green jelly, flavored by pandan leaves, for dessert.

ding: Seussical-green pandan jelly (among Duong Huynh's favorite treats); and a soupy drink, *chè sâm bổ lượng*, with lychee fruit, pearl barley, seaweed, mango, and brown sugar.

A few blocks away is the less crowded, also very good, Nhu Lan (1155-57 Dot Ave), which has both a sit-down restaurant and a fast-food counter. Try the fresh fish, steamed or fried, slathered with coconut-curry or black bean sauce, or get the Vietnamese fondue (*lẩu*) and cook your own goat, seafood, or beef in a scalding-hot pot of soup stock. Everything on the menu also appears to have a vegetarian option, but double-check to make sure fish sauce is not added. Ready-made takeout opportunities for more adventurous eaters include *mủ trôm*, a sweet pandan-flavored drink with jellies that looked like fish eggs, and *gio thu*, a hunk of head cheese made with pig's ear and black fungus.

Pho Hoa (1370 Dot Ave) is among the largest and most established restaurants; look for the mural outside depicting immigration with Vietnamese folkloric imagery: people in a boat watching fish swim toward a waterfall, above which a tree and dragon spiral skyward, encircling a scene from contemporary Boston.

A few blocks from the Fields Corner MBTA station, is the family-oriented Anh Hong (291 Adams Street), best known for its shared entrée "beef seven



Pho Countryside is a pretty, casual spot that serves fresh noodle soups and rice dishes, with plenty of greens and vegetarian options.



PHO COUNTRYSIDE (3)

dian fare, according to Le (who's not related to the restaurant's owners). In that base of rice paddies, lush produce, and tropical fruits, the food tends to be sweeter.

Freshness is paramount, and the diet, overall, relies heavily on fish and seafood. Rice (*com*) and vermicelli (*bún*) are eaten in countless varieties, as is phở, a brothly soup with rice noodles: *phở bò* (with beef), *phở gà* (with chicken)... Also common, and popularized through the Boston-area Bon Me food trucks, are the delectable Vietnamese sandwiches (*bánh mì*), made with airy rice-flour baguettes, and fresh rice-paper rolls, called *gỏi cuốn*.

French colonization played a role in culinary techniques—along with breads and broths, which have a nearly sacred role in

explore that culture and its cuisine, take the Red Line to JFK/UMASS, then walk east on Columbia Road to Dorchester Avenue.

Within 15 minutes, you will come to Banh Mi Ba Le (1052 Dot Ave). The combination take-out place, grocery store, and bakery serves some of the best *bánh mì* around. Check out the spicy beef on the homemade rice-flour baguette, or order from the hot bar. Try the fruit smoothies (we like the taro and coconut) and milk teas with or without *boba*—tapioca balls. House-made desserts include coconut-flavored three-bean pud-



ways": grilled with butter, rolled into sausage, or dipped in a tangy vinegar sauce are among the options. And steps from the station itself is Hiên Vương (1487 Dot Ave), which features a touted *bún mắm*, a fermented-fish broth and vermicelli gumbo-like soup with seafood, pork, vegetables, and herbs.

It's a favorite of Huynh's, but she recommends the version served at New Dong Khanh (83 Harrison Avenue), in Chinatown: "Very pungent broth. Not easy to handle," she warns, "but it's full of umami and better than the same dish I've had in Vietnam." She also likes that restaurant's *bánh cuốn* (steamed rice flour rolls with pork filling); *bánh xèo* (a Vietnamese crêpe flavored with turmeric and stuffed with mung bean and bean sprouts); and *hoanh thanh bo kho* (braised beef broth in five spices, with wontons). And try the smoothies, she adds; especially the avocado and durian.

On the next street over, New Saigon Sandwich (696 Washington Street), a tiny storefront serving take-out hot boxed meals (like teriyaki chicken with rice or noodles), also sells fresh *bánh mì*—try the shredded pork, tofu, or BBQ beef, layered with cilantro, carrots, daikon, pickles, onions, and chili peppers.

For more ambience, go to Pho Countryside, in Kenmore Square, where the subdued lighting, tiny bar, and 12 cozy tables are enhanced by digital images of flickering flames simulating a fireplace. We liked the "Countryside rice plate," flavored with grilled pork chop, sausage, shredded pork skin, pork-egg custard, and the fresh "health conscious" entrées, especially the *hủ tiếu* southern-styled tofu and vegetable noodle soup.

BACK AT Le's Restaurant, in Harvard Square, the couple who own Nem start the meal with *bánh hời tôm nướng* (\$12.25). It's a ceremonial dish often served at weddings or engagement parties, Huynh explains, as a waiter sets down a platter piled with fresh bean sprouts, basil and mint leaves, shredded carrots, chopped cucumbers, scalions, and peanuts, squares of white vermicelli, and grilled shrimp. Separate bowls hold rice papers, hot water, and *nước mắm*. Soften the paper in the water, lay it on a plate, line it with bite-sized bits of anything from the platter, then roll the mass into a taut bundle. The yin-yang mélange of flavors and textures is refreshing, healthy, and filling. Americans think of rice-paper rolls as a specific dish, Huynh says, but in Vietnam



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HARVARD SQUARED

they are “more of a way to eat your protein. My family is from a coastal town and if my uncle had a fresh catch, he’d steam up the big fish and we would all sit down and we’ll have this to pair it with.”

Next up is a pot of *phở tái nam* (\$9.50): vermicelli and tender slices of rare eye round and brisket swimming in hot broth. Again, there’s basil, scallions, cilantro, and bean sprouts on hand to add in.

“And you know, *phở* is often eaten for breakfast,” Huynh says.

“They eat it *every day*—for breakfast, lunch, and dinner—whatever,” adds Le. Huynh reaches for the *bánh xèo* (\$9.95), cutting a chunk of the crispy rice-powder crepe stuffed with bean sprouts and mung bean, but too few chunks of shrimp and pork. “I like to just put it in my bowl and lather the *nước chấm* on, like this,” she says, sprinkling the sauce onto a mound of basil and mint. At Le’s, she also likes the “family meals” on the menu—a caramelized fish, for example—as well as the sour soup (*canh chua*). More exotic is the “fire pot” with a vinegar-base broth, “eaten by dipping ingredients and then rolling them up in spring rolls.”


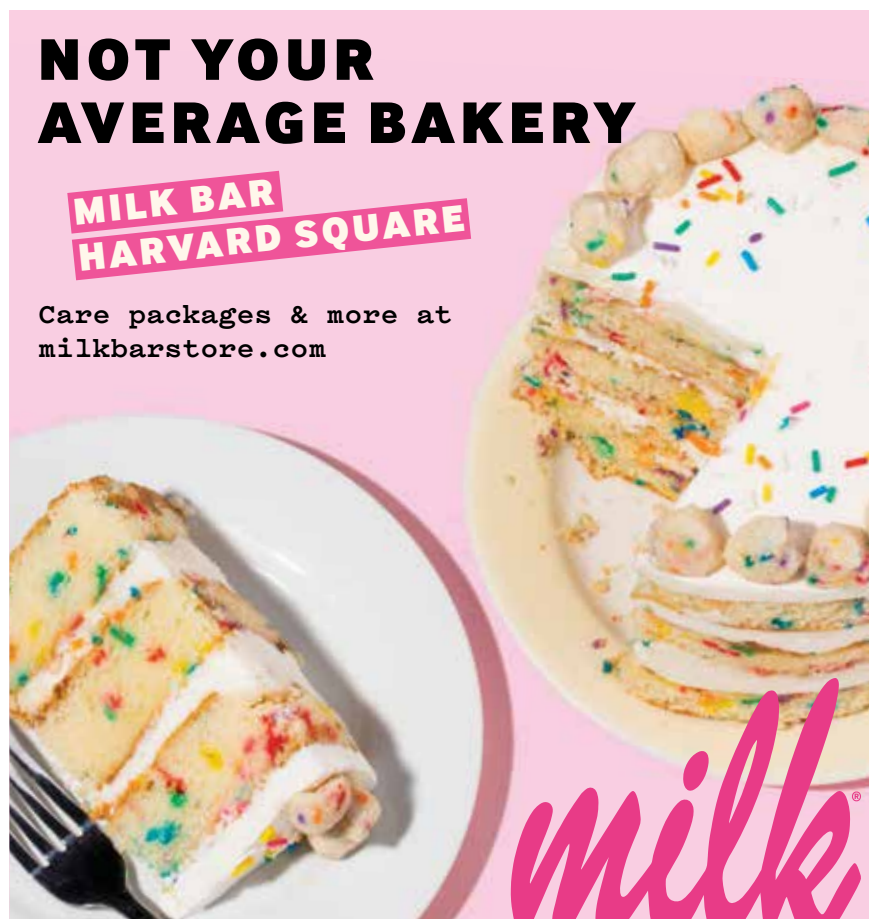
The couple met when she spent an academic semester abroad interning at the Ho Chi Minh City design firm where he worked. They founded Nem in 2014, partly as a culinary outlet for Le (who splits his time between Boston, working in urban design, and Hanoi, where he developed the menu at the new Monsoon Bar & Kitchen). Huynh works in real-estate finance and development, which helps support his creative ventures. For both of them, their venture—which offers cooking classes, private events, and pop-up dinners (held periodically at Urban Hearth in Cambridge)—is both a business and an important means of pairing a communal meal with a cultural event.

Amid Vietnamese music and flowers, Nem guests may enjoy Le’s duck magret, beef tartare with a pineapple sauce, and fresh, handmade vermicelli, which, he points out, “you cannot even find in Boston.” Talk easily turns to Southeast Asian spices, history, or the landscape of the Mekong Delta, where he once led tours, scouting out restaurants (and their kitchens) to ensure that visitors ate well. “What I see now with the contemporary Vietnamese food scene is that we need to bring it to a new level,” he says. “The process of making this food is very complex and sophisticated...with Nem, I am not selling the food, I am selling the experience.”

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- Barbara Best, Executive Director of Harvard Kennedy School Center for Public Leadership




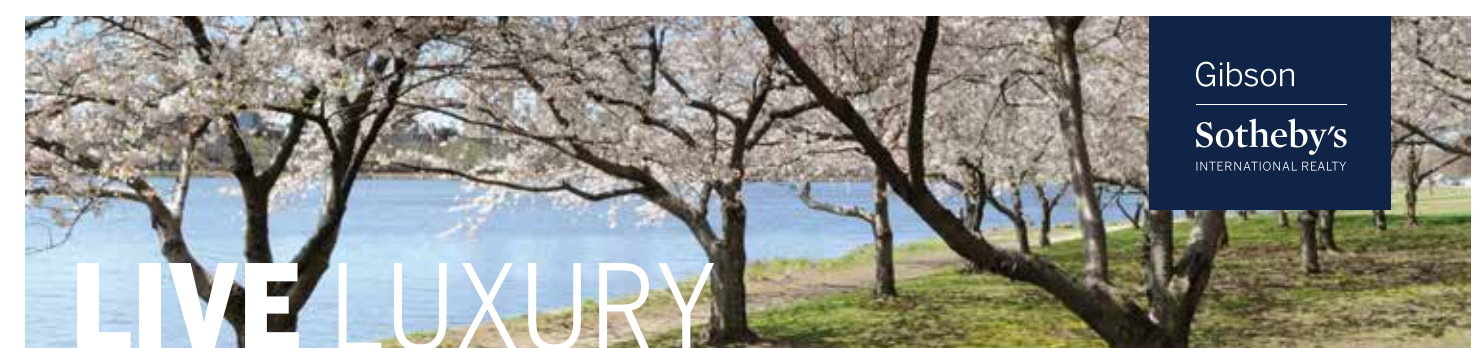


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**HARVARD SQUARED**

**HOME SWEET HOME: Transform Your Space for Spring**

**The sun is shining**, flowers are blooming, and it's finally time to open your windows and welcome a new season. We talked to Boston-area experts—designers, Realtors, organizational gurus—for simple ways to give your home a fresh start.



COURTESY JULIE HARRISON REAL ESTATE

First things first: If you're planning a deep-clean, don't get overwhelmed. Valerie Achorn, M.P.A. '98, president and founder of Simplified Lives, adheres to the "magic of ten" rule: Tackle ten items at a time. Perhaps that means purging ten items from a file cabinet or donating ten unused pairs of shoes.

"Ten things is a manageable number," she says, and the momentum builds on itself. She steers clients toward impactful areas such as linen and coat closets (shed bulky towels, sheets, and coats); pantries and refrigerators (toss expired food and

donate canned goods); and bathroom vanities.

Next, brighten overlooked spaces. Dust the tops of ceiling fans, vacuum oft-forgotten spots such as bookshelves and lampshades, and shift furniture to dislodge dust lurking beneath sofas and chairs. Fingerprints on the walls? The pros use a Mr. Clean magic eraser to make them vanish.

"When a space is clean, it feels somehow lighter, fresher, and more open," says interior designer Heidi Pribell '82.

After that, add pops of color. No need for a full-scale makeover; even simple accessories can create transformative change. Try new throw pillows—"They can change the whole accent of a room," Pribell says—side tables, bath towels, or even brightly patterned coasters. Vases of seasonal fresh flowers, such as orchids or mums, are an easy way to bring the outside in. Another expert favorite: tabletop bowls of colorful fresh fruit, such as lemons.

Looking for a larger-scale transformation? 30E Design's Anne Barrett recommends switching out a standard back door for a slider.

"A sliding door is more than just a door. It's a window, a view, a way to bring daylight and nature into your living space in winter as well as summer. Combined with a ceiling fan, it can also function as source of cooling for your home," she says. (She likes the Arcadia brand's multiple door finishes and functionality.)

Finally, if you're planning to sell your home, springtime's natural scenery will make your space even prettier, says Sotheby's Mary Conner of Julie Harrison Real Estate.

"Flowers are in bloom, trees and plants are filling in, and lawns are becoming lush and green. Therefore, the photos used for marketing a home will be that much more vibrant and compelling. The spring sunlight will also help ensure interior photos are bright and airy," she says.

To boost curb appeal, think about what a buyer will see first, suggests Trudy Dujardin of Dujardin Design. "Focus on the foyer and outside," she says.

Consider painting the front door; replacing rusty address numbers with new, wrought-iron ones; and adding a deacon's bench or fresh topiaries to the porch and walkway areas, she says. Decorative wreaths and window boxes also add bursts of color and create a welcoming feel.

Last but not least? Wash windows and screens, advises Compass Real Estate's Maggie Currier.

"This is highest on my list of to-dos. Wash them, open them, and let the light in. It can make a home so much lighter and brighter," she says—no makeover required.

~ KARA BASKIN



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