



University at Buffalo
Asian Studies
College of Arts and Sciences



Asian @ Noon

December 9, 2022

12-1pm

532 Park Hall

“SRS (Silk Road Songbook)”

Professor Millie Chen

*Professor of Art, University at
Buffalo*



SRS (Silk Road Songbook) is an audio-video project made in collaboration with Arzu Ozkal, artist and Associate Professor in the School of Art & Design at San Diego State University. SRS weaves songs of dissent into the land, broadcasting women’s distinct, unruly voices on an ancient Eurasian migration route between Istanbul, Tehran, Tashkent, Almaty, and Xi’an. By conveying the complex stories emerging from each place and person we work with, we challenge

Orientalist exoticism, cultural tourism, and censorship, disrupting the grand, tidy narrative of the popular perception of “Silk Road.” The songs are generated with collaborators in communities along the route; it is they who control selection of landscapes, musical genres, lyrical content. For each place, their voices are the dynamic driving force; the land is the visual anchor.

Event is free and open to all.

Professor Millie Chen studied piano at the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, received her BFA Honours from York University, Toronto, and her MFA in Studio Arts from Concordia University, Montreal.

Chen’s artwork has been shown across North and South America, East Asia and Europe at venues and festivals. Her work is in several public collections and she has produced a number of permanent public art commissions. Her writing has appeared in publications in the U.K., Canada, the U.S. and China.

Chen’s most recent awards are two media arts grants, from Canada Council for the Arts and Ontario Arts Council, and a University at Buffalo Humanities Institute Faculty Research Fellowship.