



**BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY, IN COLLABORATION WITH LAURIE ANDERSON,
LAUNCHES INAUGURAL**

INTERNATIONAL LOU REED TAI CHI DAY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Featuring demonstrations, classes, and meditations with practitioners from multiple Tai Chi disciplines, the celebration will include the first-ever public display of Lou Reed's personal collection of Tai Chi literature, weapons, films, and more

July 1, 2019 – **Brooklyn Public Library (BPL)** announced today the launch of **International Lou Reed Tai Chi Day**, taking place on **Saturday, August 3** at BPL's Central Library. In partnership with musician and performance artist Laurie Anderson and her late husband's estate, the event is inspired by Reed, a Brooklyn native, and his decades-long practice of tai chi and its principles. Brooklyn Public Library serves as the flagship event for International Lou Reed Tai Chi Day, with simultaneous celebrations slated to take place in Paris, Warsaw, Berlin, San Francisco, and Washington D.C. to share Reed's love of the martial art form.

BPL's day-long event will feature demonstrations, classes, and meditations celebrating the many disciplines of tai chi. Events are open to all levels and backgrounds, with the main demonstration led by Master Ren GuangYi, Reed's teacher for over 12 years and Anderson's teacher to this day. The day will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a 30-minute meditation exercise inside the Central Branch lobby. Demonstrations and discussions on the art of tai chi will follow from 9 to 11 a.m. on the Central Library Plaza.

At BPL's Central Library, beginning on Monday, July 29, prior to International Lou Reed Tai Chi Day, selections chosen by Anderson from Reed's comprehensive collection of tai chi-related books, films, and weapons will be on display for the first time ever. The display will feature materials and research used in a forthcoming project dedicated to Reed's passion for the martial arts form. Reed, a tai chi master, was an avid practitioner of the art form for more than 30 years and believed deeply in its power to change one's life physically and spiritually.

International Lou Reed Tai Chi Day expands BPL's commitment to redefining libraries as centers for ideas and exploration by connecting leading authors, scholars, and artists to Brooklyn and the greater New York Community. BPL is dedicated to providing high-quality educational, economic, and artistic enrichment to the 2.6 million individuals who make Brooklyn home, through programs like these combined with essential library services like English classes, tech workshops, and citizenship groups.

International Lou Reed Tai Chi Day will culminate in the evening at the Prospect Park Bandshell as part of BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn! Festival. Beginning at 6 p.m., Master Ren GuangYi and tai chi practitioners will demonstrate Chen style forms accompanied by Lou Reed DRONES, an immersive sonic work featuring Reed's guitar feedback, and special guests Laurie Anderson, John Zorn, Sarth Calhoun, Stewart Hurwood, and others. The demonstration will be followed by a screening of the 2000 Academy Award-winning film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

ABOUT BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) is an independent library system for the 2.5 million residents of Brooklyn. It is the sixth largest library system in the United States with 60 neighborhood libraries located throughout the borough. BPL offers free programs and services for all ages and stages of life, including a large selection of books in more than 30 languages, author talks, literacy programs and public computers. BPL's eResources, such as eBooks and eVideos, catalog information and free homework help, are available to customers of all ages 24 hours a day at our website.

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