

The Making of Masterpieces: Art Collecting in Dynastic and Modern China

Dr Jiang Fangting, Associate Curator, Hong Kong Palace Museum

Dr Raphael Wong, Associate Curator, Hong Kong Palace Museum



Image: Zhao Ji (Emperor Huizong, 1082–1135, r. 1100–1126), *Returning Boats on a Snowy River* (*Xuejiang guizhao tu*), handscroll, ink and colour on silk, 30.3 x 191.2 cm, Palace Museum.

Art collecting played and continues to play a significant role in the making of masterpieces, the subject of a new exhibition co-curated by Dr Raphael Wong and Dr Jiang Fangting at the Hong Kong Palace Museum. Dr Jiang Fangting's talk traces the transmission history of the only extant landscape painting, *Returning Boats on a Snowy River*, associated with Emperor Huizong of the Northern Song dynasty. Her research examines how the activities of connoisseur-collectors in the Ming dynasty influenced the elevation of artworks to the status of masterpieces. Dr Raphael Wong visualises the contributions of the Hong Kong Acquisition Team to the formation of the Palace Museum's world-class collection of Chinese painting and calligraphy during the early years of the People's Republic of China. He also explores the symbiotic relationship between people, institutions, and masterpieces of art.

Dr Jiang Fangting's scholarly interests include Chinese Painting and Calligraphy as well as connoisseurship and history of collecting. She received her Ph. D. in History of Chinese Art from the Chinese University of Hong Kong prior to embarking on a curatorial career as a postdoctoral fellow at the university's Art Museum, where she made contribution to the exhibition "Transcending Transience: Art and Culture of Late-Ming Jiangnan" and its accompanying publication and programming. She has co-taught a seminar for doctoral students and the course "Special Topics in Art History" in the University's Department of Fine Arts.

Dr Raphael Wong is a Bei Shan Tang Scholar with a DPhil in archaeology from the University of Oxford, focusing on China and the Eurasian Steppes of the 1st millennium BCE. He worked previously at the Art Museum and in the Department of Fine Arts of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he was involved in exhibitions and catalogue projects, including "Radiant Legacy: Ancient Chinese Gold from the Mengdiexuan Collection" and Chinese scholar's objects from a private collection.

Friday 5th August 2022

6pm Drinks

6:30pm Talk (English)

7:45pm Dinner

101 Grosvenor House, 118 MacDonnell Road, Hong Kong

