

Asian Art at Princeton: Celebrating Collecting and Scholarship

In celebration of the Art Museum's new Asian art galleries, the Tang Center's 25th anniversary, and decades of scholarship on Asian art at Princeton University, the Tang Center for East Asian Art and the Princeton University Art Museum are hosting a conversation with world-renowned artist Xu Bing on Thursday evening and a two-day international symposium featuring twenty scholars who build upon and expand Princeton's tradition of scholarship in Asian art. Presentations will range from topics on calligraphy to art and the environment, cross-cultural resonances, and contemporary Asian art.

Thursday, 9 April 2026

Princeton University Art Museum Grand Hall
5:30 pm

Late Thursday at the Princeton University Art Museum

Conversation:

Xu Bing, artist, Beijing and New York

Zoe S. Kwok, Princeton University Art Museum

Friday and Saturday, 10–11 April 2026

International Symposium

Organized by the P.Y. and Kinmay W. Tang Center for East Asian Art

Cosponsored by the Princeton University Art Museum, the East Asian Studies Program, and the Department of Art and Archaeology

Friday, 10 April 2026

Princeton University, McCosh 50

8:30 am – 5:30 pm

Registration and Coffee

MORNING SESSION

Welcome

Remarks

Keynote Lecture

Shadow of a Shadow: In Search of Shimada Shūjirō
Yukio Lippit, Harvard University

Art Historical Pasts and Futures

Chinese Calligraphy at Princeton: The Collection and Research
Hui-Wen Lu, Graduate Institute of Art History, National Taiwan University

Diasporic Art: The History of Illustrated Handscrolls (Emaki) as Told Through American Collections
Akira Takagishi, University of Tokyo

The Yuan We Once Knew and the Many Faces of Ni Zan in the Princeton Collection
Shane McCausland, SOAS University of London

AFTERNOON SESSION

Welcome

Art and the Environment

The Environmental History of Étienne Trouvelot's Astronomical Drawings
Rachael Z. DeLue, Princeton University

Lone Wolves: Artistic Identity and the Solitary Wolf in 19th Century Japanese Painting
Kit Brooks, Princeton University Art Museum

On (Un)Representability: Disaster in Early Modern Japanese Visual Culture
Ewa Machotka, Universität Zürich

Contemporary Art in Asia

Sat Jyu and Temporal Displacement: Care Ethics in Contemporary Hong Kong Art
Yeewan Koon, The University of Hong Kong

Making Space: Contemporary Asian Art and Curatorial Practice
Lesley Ma, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Remarks

Saturday, 11 April 2026

Princeton University, McCosh 50

8:30 am – 5:30 pm

Registration and Coffee

MORNING SESSION

Welcome

Place and Context

Revisiting the “Empress Procession” Relief Sculpture from the Central Binyang Cave at Longmen

Wei-Cheng Lin, University of Chicago

Song Dynasty Place Painting: Textual Sources, Case Studies, Taxonomies

Julia Orell, University of British Columbia

Scribal Styles: Medieval Chancery Documents in the National Museum of Pakistan

Fatima Quraishi, Princeton University

Buddhist Space |Time

The Analogic Icon: Sacred Lives and Sacred Scrolls in Medieval Japan

Rachel Saunders, Princeton University

Where Gods and Buddhas Reside: Walking Through Shrine and Temple Mandalas

Satomi YAMAMOTO, Waseda University

AFTERNOON SESSION

Welcome

Threaded Arts

Gold Thread Textiles in the Mongol Period: Central Asian and Western Origins

Eiren Shea, Grinnell College

Textiles Painted with Dyes: The Art and Temporality of South Asian Kalamkari Cloths
Sylvia Houghteling, Bryn Mawr College

Mobility and Meaning in Ceramics

Mishima Ware: The Korean Aesthetics of Japanese Ceramics
Sol Jung, National Museum of Asian Art

Ceramics as Korean Collectibles: Contestations of Cultural Value and National Identity
Charlotte Horlyck, SOAS University of London

Cultural Intersections

Parallel Modernities: Nihonga Painting through Mexican Experience
Amaury A. García Rodríguez, El Colegio de México

European-Style Tapestries at the Qing Court: A Cross-Cultural New Medium
Mei Mei Rado, Bard Graduate Center

Closing Remarks