

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Spring 2016
Patronage in Asian Art: Monarchs, Merchants, and Devotees
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

*Exchange, Indebtedness, and Artistic Production:
Artists and Collectors in the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644)*

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Part One Imperial Patronage

Part Two Xiang Yuanbian and His Circle

Key Ming Emperors

Reign Title	Reign period	Family Name	Temple Name
Hongwu	1368–1398	Zhu Yuanzhang	Taizu
Yongle	1403–1424	Zhu Di	Chengzu or Taizong
Xuande	1426–1435	Zhu Zhanji	Xuanzong
Chenghua	1465–1487	Zhu Jianshen	Xianzong
Hongzhi	1488–1505	Zhou Youtang	Xiaozong
Jiajing	1522–1566	Zhu Houcong	Shizong
Wanli	1573–1620	Zhu Yijun	Shenzong

Selected Artists, Collectors, Works (in alphabetical order by surname)

Chen Hongshou (1598–1652). Artist and scholar; earned a living through painting and making designs for playing cards and woodblock illustrations. From Zhuji, Zhejiang province.

- *Hermit in a Landscape*. Asian Art Museum (B79D8)
- *Artist Inebriated*, 1627. The Metropolitan Museum of Art (1999.521)

Dong Qichang (1555–1636). Scholar, painter, calligrapher, statesman and art theorist. From Huating (modern Songjiang).

- *Wanluan Thatched Cottage*, 1597. Private collection, Taipei.
- *Landscape after Old Masters*, 1621–1624. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (86-3)

Qiu Ying (d. 1552). One of the Four Masters of the Ming (with Shen Zhou, Wen Zhengming, and Tang Yin).

- *Garden for Self-Enjoyment*. The Cleveland Museum of Art (1978.67)

Shang Xi (active ca. 1426–1435). Court artist during the Xuande period (1426–1435).

- *Xuande Emperor on an Outing* (*Ming Xuanzong xingle tu*)
- *Guan Yu Capturing Pang De* (*Guan Yu qinjiang tu*)

Shen Zhou (1427–1509). Scholar, artist, and teacher of many artists. From Suzhou. He is known as the founder of the Wu school, named after the region Wu (modern Suzhou).

- *Walking with a Staff*, ca. 1485. National Palace Museum.
- *Poet on a Mountain Top*, 1496. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (46-51/3, 2)

Tang Yin (1470–1525). Friend of Wen Zhengming and protégé of Wen Zhengming’s father, Wen Lin. Scholar, artist, literatus who navigated between being a scholar-amateur artist and a professional painter.

Wen Jia (1501–1583). Calligrapher, painter, and Wen Zhengming’s second son.

- *Landscape Dedicated to Xiang Yuanbian*, dated 1578. The Metropolitan Museum of Art (1981.285.9)

Wen Zhengming (1470–1559). Calligrapher, painter, literatus. Shen Zhou’s most famous student.

Xiang Yuanbian (1525–1590). Collector and patron of many artists.

Xie Huan (1377–1452). Court artist during the Xuande period (1426–1435)

- After Xie Huan. *Elegant Gathering in the Apricot Garden*, ca. 1437. The Metropolitan Museum of Art (1989.141.3)

Xuande emperor (r. 1426–1435)

- *Two Saluki Hounds*, dated 1427. Harvard Art Museums (1931.20)
- *Gibbons at Play*, dated 1427. National Palace Museum, Taipei

Unknown artists and artisans

- *Miracles of the Mass of Universal Salvation Conducted by the Fifth Karmapa for the Yongle Emperor*, 1407. The Tibet Museum.
- Imperial Portraits
- Palace “Pleasures” paintings
- Works in media other than paintings and calligraphy, such as ceramics, bronzes, etc.

Suggested Reading

Clunas, Craig. *Screen of Kings: Royal Art and Power in Ming China*. London: Reaktion Books, 2013.

*Especially Chapter 3, “The Painting of the King of Zhou,” 101–37.

_____. *Empire of Great Brightness*. London: Reaktion Books, 2007. Browse.

_____ and Jessica Harrison-Hall, eds. *Ming: 50 Years that Changed China*. London: The British Museum Press; and Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2014.

*Especially: Clunas, “A Second Founding: Ming China 1400–1450,” 18–43.

Yang Xin, “The Ming Dynasty (1368–1644).” In *Three Thousand Years of Chinese Painting*, by Yang Xin, Richard M. Barnhart, James Cahill, et al., 198–249. New Haven: Yale University Press; Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 1997.