

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Spring 2018
Art on the Move Across Asia and Beyond – Part II
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Artists of the Canton Port

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Terms:

Guangzhou, capital city of Guangdong province in China. Known as “Canton” in several European languages and “Cantão” in Portuguese, meaning an administrative unit within a country.

The Canton Trade, the Canton Trade System, the China Trade, or the old China Trade: various American and English terms referring to the highly regulated trading system of the Qing empire, in which the city of Guangzhou served as the sole port of trade between China and Europe. The system was in practice by the 1730s and ended with the First Opium War of 1839-1842.

Thirteen Factories or Thirteen Hong 十三行 Terms used to describe the port area of Guangzhou during the period of the Canton Trade. It consisted of seventeen waterfront buildings owned by Chinese merchant firms, which for a short period was restricted to a guild of the thirteen top firms trading with the Europeans. European companies rented rooms and storage spaces in these waterfront buildings. After 1750, some European companies gradually became responsible for the renovation and operation of these buildings, leading to the distinctively European architectural style of their facades. Here the term “factory” does not denote a site of manufacture, but rather the offices or houses of a “factor,” or trading agent.

Trade Painting 行畫 A vernacular, contemporary term referring to painting made by professional painters for commercial purposes, usually at the request of buyers.

Chinese Export Art Paintings, drawings, ceramics, furniture, silver, wallpapers, silks, textiles, glass, enamels, sculpture, and other objects produced in China for markets in Europe, Americas, Southeast Asia and other regions of Chinese global trade. These objects were often produced in traditional European styles and media, while others were made in new and hybrid media developed for the trade. Current scholarship and collecting is primarily focused on Chinese export art produced in Guangzhou during the period of Canton Trade, though export art has been produced in China in many historical periods (including the present), for different nations, regions and empires.

Chinoiserie A fashion or style of gardening, landscape design, architecture, decorative arts, and dress in Europe, spurring the European production of Chinese-like ceramics, tapestries, and other goods, often imitating, derived from, or incorporating Chinese export art.

Gao 稿: a draft, a model, a manuscript copy (eg. the ‘original’ from which a text is published)

Suggested readings:

- Foucault, Michel. "What is an Author?" (1969), trans. Josué V. Harari, in *Textual Strategies: Perspectives in Post-Structuralist Criticism*, ed. Josué V. Harari (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1979)
- Krauss, Rosalind E. "You Irreplaceable You." In *Retaining the Original: Multiple Originals, Copies and Reproductions*, (National Gallery of Art 1989), 151-60.
- Conner, Patrick, "Lamqua: Western and Chinese Painter," *Arts of Asia* 29, no. 2 (1999): 46-64.
- Ghosh, Amitav. *River of Smoke*. 2011 (novel)