

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2013  
The Culture and Arts of China: From the Song Dynasty to Contemporary  
*Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art*  
**Refinement Perfected: The Arts of the Song Dynasty (960–1279)**  
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The Song dynasty (960–1279) witnessed the perfection of many traditional arts, including calligraphy; naturalistic painting; subtly hued, monochrome-glazed ceramics; and brown and black lacquers; among many others. Such Song works of art represent the culmination of a millennium of experimentation and development. This illustrated slide lecture will introduce Song-dynasty painting and ceramics, focusing both on aesthetic concerns and on the technical challenges that Song-dynasty artists faced and mastered in achieving their virtually unparalleled artistic triumphs.

In discussing Song paintings, the lecture will focus on the emergence of the landscape as the preëminent subject matter of Chinese painting, beginning in the Five Dynasties period (907–960) and culminating in the monumental landscapes painted during the Northern Song period (960–1127) and in the evocative, mist-enshrouded landscapes of the Southern Song period (1127–1279). The lecture will discuss the essential characteristics of Chinese landscape paintings, explaining reasons for the choice of that subject and reasons that Chinese painted landscapes appear very different from European landscape paintings. In discussing the aesthetics of Song ceramics, the lecture also will explore the recurring interplay between indigenous intellectual trends and foreign tastes, the latter typically introduced through goods carried over the Silk Route, particularly during the Tang dynasty (618–907). By contrast, the Song dynasty saw a marked shift away from the foreign and toward a revival of tradition. With the discovery of archaic bronzes and jades during the Northern Song period (960–1127), Chinese intellectuals began to eschew the foreign aesthetic that had become so pronounced during the Tang dynasty in favor of a native Chinese taste with antique references—that is, with references to the Great Bronze Age. This turn to the past for inspiration also influenced painting at the end of the Northern Song period and during the Southern Song, the turn being to paintings of the Tang dynasty rather than to those of earlier periods. By exploring interrelationships between Song decorative arts and intellectual outlook, the talk will also offer insight into the origins of artistic forms and motifs and into cultural values, showing that, despite their very different functions and materials, paintings and ceramics share some common aesthetic values.

If the Tang Dynasty was an age of military splendor, the Song was one of scholarly refinement. The powers of the military had been curbed, so that the imperial court and the bureaucracy were dominated by civil officials who had gained entry into government ranks through the civil service examinations, preparation for which required years of patient, assiduous study in the Confucian classics—history, literature, philosophy; those who passed them naturally constituted the nation's cultured élite.

Song history divides itself neatly into three distinct periods: the Northern Song (960–1127), the Southern Song (1127–1279), and the Jin (1115–1234). During the Northern Song period, the emperors ruled the whole of China from Bianjing (modern Kaifeng), then the capital. In 1127, Jin Tartars overran Bianjing, toppling the government and causing the legitimate Chinese rulers to take refuge in the south, where they established a new capital at Hangzhou, then called Linan. From 1127 onward, China was partitioned into two states: the north under the rule of the Jin Tartars and the south under the Song emperors. Invading Mongols overthrew the Jin in 1234, taking control of north China, and in 1279, they deposed the Song emperor, uniting China under foreign rule—the Yuan, or Mongol, Dynasty (1279–1368). Although the paintings and ceramics of these periods are closely related, distinct styles are associated with each.

In general, patrons of the Song kilns preferred monochrome glazed stonewares to the often rather brightly colored wares that had appealed to their forebears in the Tang. The more aristocratic of the Song wares—the expensive ones favored by the imperial court and upper classes—exhibit elegant shapes and subtly colored glazes that range from ivory and pale bluish green to robin's-egg blue. They may have delicately incised floral decoration or they may rely solely upon purity of line and beauty of glaze for their aesthetic appeal. The more humble wares—those used by people of lesser means—typically exhibit exuberant designs and boldly conceived decoration, often in black or brown.

#### Painters

##### **Tang Dynasty (唐代 618–907)**

Zhang Xuan (Chang Hsuan 張萱 ; 713–755)  
Zhou Fang (Chou Fang 周昉 ; c. 730–800)  
Han Gan (Han Kan 韓幹 ; c. 706–783)  
Li Sixun (Li Ssu-hsün 李思訓 ; 653–718)  
Li Zhaodao (Li Chao-tao 李昭道 ; fl. early 8<sup>th</sup> century)  
Wang Wei (Wang Wei 王維 ; 699–759)

##### **Five Dynasties Period (五代 907–960)**

Juran (Chü-jan 巨然 ; 10<sup>th</sup> century)  
Dong Yuan (Tung Yuan 董源 ; fl. 934–962)

##### **Northern Song Period (北宋 960–1127)**

Huang Jucai (Huang Chü-ts'ai 黃居采 ; 933–after 993)  
Li Cheng (Li Ch'eng 李成 ; 919–967)  
Fan Kuan (Fan K'uan 范寬 ; fl. 990–1020)  
Xu Daoning (Hsü Tao-ning 許道寧 ; 970–1052)

Cui Bo (also pronounced Cui Bai; Ts'ui Po / Ts'ui Pai 崔白; fl. 1050–1080)

Guo Xi (Kuo Hsi 郭熙; c. 1020–1090)

Mi Fu (Mi Fu 米黻; also known as Mi Fei 米芾; 1051–1107)

Mi Youren (Mi Yu-jen 米友仁; 1086–1165)

Li Gonglin (Li Kung-lin 李公麟; 1049–1106)

Emperor Huizong (Hui-tsung 徽宗; born Zhao Ji / Chao Chi 趙佶; 1082–1135; r. 1100–1126)

Zhang Zeduan (Chang Tse-tuan 張擇端; 1085–1145)

Su Shi (Su Shih 蘇軾; 1037–1101)

Wang Ximeng (Wang Hsi-meng 王希孟; 1096–1119)

#### Jin Dynasty (金 1115–1234)

Wu Yuanzhi (Wu Yüan-chih 武元直; fl. 1190–1195)

#### Southern Song Period (南宋 1127–1279)

Li Tang (Li T'ang 李唐; c. 1050–1130)

Ma Yuan (Ma Yüan 馬遠; c. 1160/65–1220)

Ma Lin (Ma Lin 馬麟; early–mid-13<sup>th</sup> century)

Xia Gui (Hsia Kuei 夏圭 or 夏珪; fl. 1195–1224)

Liang Kai (Liang K'ai 梁楷; c. 1140–c. 1210)

Liu Songnian (Liu Sung-nian 劉松年; c. 1155–1224)

Zhao Boju (Chao Po-chü 趙伯駒; 1220–1280)

#### Yuan Dynasty (元 1279–1368)

Qian Xuan (Ch'ien Hsüan 錢選; 1235–1305)

Zhao Mengfu (Chao Meng-fu 趙孟頫; 1254–1322)

#### Four Masters of the Late Yuan (元四大家)

Wu Zhen (Wu Chen 吳鎮; 1280–1354)

Huang Gongwang (Huang Kung-wang 黃公望; 1269 - 1354)

Wang Meng (Wang Meng 王蒙; c. 1308–1385)

Ni Zan (Ni Tsan 倪瓚; 1301–1374)

#### Ceramics

#### Tang Dynasty (唐代 618–907)

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Yue (Yüeh) ware 越窯 also 越州窯                | From Zhejiang province 浙江省         |
| Xing (Hsing) ware 邢窯                       | From Hebei province 河北省            |
| Ding (Ting) ware 定窯                        | From Hebei province 河北省            |
| <i>Sancai</i> ( <i>San-ts'ai</i> ) ware 三彩 | From Henan 河南省 and other provinces |

#### Five Dynasties Period (五代 907–960)

|                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Yue (Yüeh) ware 越窯 also 越州窯 | From Zhejiang province 浙江省 |
| Ding (Ting) ware 定窯         | From Hebei province 河北省    |

#### Northern Song and Jin Periods (北宋 960–1127; 金 1115–1234)

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Yue (Yüeh) ware 越窯 also 越州窯       | From Zhejiang province 浙江省                     |
| Ding (Ting) ware 定窯               | From Hebei province 河北省                        |
| Yaozhou (Yao-chou) ware 耀州窯       | From Shaanxi province 陝西省                      |
| Jun (Chün) ware 鈞窯                | From Henan 河南省 province                        |
| Ru (Ju) ware 汝窯                   | From Henan 河南省 province                        |
| Cizhou (Tz'u-chou) ware 磁州窯       | From Hebei 河北省, Henan 河南省, and other provinces |
| Cizhou-type (Tz'u-chou) ware 磁州窯系 | From Hebei 河北省, Henan 河南省, and other provinces |
| Jian (Chien) ware 建窯              | From Fujian province 福建省                       |

#### Southern Song Period (南宋 1127–1279)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Guan (Kuan ["Official"]) ware 官窯                             | From Zhejiang province 浙江省               |
| Ge ware 哥窯   | From Zhejiang province 浙江省               |
| Longquan (Lung-ch'üan) ware 龍泉窯                              | From Zhejiang province 浙江省               |
| Qingbai / Yingqing (Ch'ing-pai) 青白窯 / (Ying-ch'ing) ware 影青窯 | From Jingdezhen, Jiangxi province 江西省景德鎮 |
| Jian (Chien) ware 建窯   | From Fujian province 福建省                 |
| Jizhou (Chi-chou) ware 吉州窯                                   | From Jiangxi province 江西省                |

## Yuan Dynasty (元 1279–1368)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Guan (Kuan [“Official”] ware 官窯                                 | From Zhejiang province 浙江省                  |
| Ge ware 哥窯  | From Zhejiang province 浙江省                  |
| Longquan (Lung-ch’üan) ware 龍泉窯                                 | From Zhejiang province 浙江省                  |
| Qingbai / Yingqing (Ch’ing-pai) 青白窯 /<br>(Ying-ch’ing) ware 影青窯 | From Jingdezhen, Jiangxi province<br>江西省景德鎮 |
| Shufu (Shu-fu) ware 樞府瓷   | From Jingdezhen, Jiangxi province<br>江西省景德鎮 |
| Blue-and-white ware 青花瓷   | From Jingdezhen, Jiangxi province<br>江西省景德鎮 |
| Red-and-white ware 釉裡紅瓷   | From Jingdezhen, Jiangxi province<br>江西省景德鎮 |

## Chinese Chronology and List of Dynasties

### Prehistoric Period

Neolithic period c. 6000 B.C.-c. 1600 B.C.

### Great Bronze Age of China = Beginning of Dynastic Period

(Xia), Shang, Zhou, Qin, and Han dynasties (see below); c. 1600 B.C.-A.D. 220

### Dynastic Period

Xia Dynasty: The existence of a Xia dynasty at the head of Chinese history is still disputable, but it is becoming clear that the Xia state is represented archaeologically by the evidence continuously unearthed at the type site Erlitou in Henan province. The remains of the Erlitou Culture are now found scattered throughout southern Shanxi and northwestern Henan provinces and are dated to 1900-1350 B.C., coinciding in time and location with the Xia dynasty as described in ancient texts. If Erlitou one day can be identified with Xia with certitude, then it will have been proven that there was a Xia dynasty. However, further evidence is needed before Xia can be established with absolute certainty as an historical dynasty (rather than as a state or culture).

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Shang   | c. 16 <sup>th</sup> century B.C -1028 B.C. |
| Zhou  | 1027-221 B.C.                              |
| Western Zhou  | 1027-771 B.C.                              |
| Eastern Zhou  | 771-221 B.C.                               |
| Spring and Autumn period                              | 722-481 B.C.                               |
| Warring States period                                 | 481-221 B.C.                               |
| Qin   | 221-206 B.C.                               |
| Han   | 206 B.C.-A.D. 221                          |
| Western Han   | 206 B.C.-A.D. 9                            |
| Xin dynasty (Wang Mang interregnum)                   | A.D. 9- 25                                 |
| Eastern Han   | A.D. 25-221                                |
| Six Dynasties period                                  | 221-589                                    |
| Three Kingdoms period                                 | 220-265                                    |
| Jin dynasty   | 265-420                                    |
| Northern and<br>Southern Dynasties period             | 420-589                                    |
| (including Northern Wei<br>and Northern Qi dynasties) | 386-534<br>550-577                         |
| Sui   | 581-618                                    |
| Tang  | 618-907                                    |

## Chinese Chronology and List of Dynasties

### Page Two

### Dynastic Period (continued)

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Five Dynasties period | 907- 960 |
| Liao                  | 916-1125 |
| Song                  | 960-1279 |

|       |                                  |           |                 |           |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
|       | Northern Song period             | 960-1127  |                 |           |
|       | Southern Song period             | 1127-1279 |                 |           |
| Xixia |                                  | 1038-1227 |                 |           |
| Jin   |                                  | 1115-1234 |                 |           |
| Yuan  |                                  | 1279-1368 |                 |           |
| Ming  |                                  | 1368-1644 |                 |           |
|       | <b><u>Ming Reign Periods</u></b> |           |                 |           |
|       | Hongwu reign                     | 1368-1398 | Chenghua reign  | 1465-1487 |
|       | Jianwen reign                    | 1399-1402 | Hongzhi reign   | 1488-1505 |
|       | Yongle reign                     | 1403-1424 | Zhengde reign   | 1506-1521 |
|       | Hongxi reign                     | 1425      | Jiajing reign   | 1522-1566 |
|       | Xuande reign                     | 1426-1435 | Longqing reign  | 1567-1572 |
|       | Zhengtong reign                  | 1436-1449 | Wanli reign     | 1573-1620 |
|       | Jingtai reign                    | 1450-1456 | Taichang reign  | 1620      |
|       | Tianshun reign                   | 1457-1464 | Tianqi reign    | 1621-1627 |
|       |                                  |           | Chongzhen reign | 1628-1644 |
| Qing  |                                  | 1644-1911 |                 |           |
|       | <b><u>Qing Reign Periods</u></b> |           |                 |           |
|       | Shunzhi reign                    | 1644-1661 | Daoguang reign  | 1821-1850 |
|       | Kangxi reign                     | 1662-1722 | Xianfeng reign  | 1851-1861 |
|       | Yongzheng reign                  | 1723-1735 | Tongzhi reign   | 1862-1874 |
|       | Qianlong reign                   | 1736-1795 | Guangxu reign   | 1875-1908 |
|       | Jiaqing reign                    | 1796-1820 | Xuantong reign  | 1909-1911 |