



CHINA
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LITERATI MUSING: INSCRIPTIONS ON CHINESE PAINTINGS AND SCHOLAR OBJECTS

EXHIBITION DATES: SEPTEMBER 10 - 17, 2010

GALLERY HOURS: MONDAY – FRIDAY, 11 – 5 or BY APPOINTMENT

China 2000 Fine Art takes great pleasure in presenting “Literati Musing: Inscriptions on Chinese Paintings and Scholar Objects” which will be shown in the gallery at 434A East 75th Street in Manhattan and in an online exhibition on our website at China2000FineArt.com.

Like the contemporary twitter, ancient inscriptions on Chinese art were the momentary (and now art historically monumental) thoughts about society, relationships, politics, and aesthetics of the literati. For our exhibition, we have gathered together objects for the scholar’s desk and Chinese paintings that bear inscriptions by eminent scholars and calligraphers of Chinese history. Their words literally etched in stone or wood or written with indelible ink on paper provide clues to where they were at particular times in their lives and offer their knowledge about the object or the painting upon which they inscribe their thoughts.

Just to illustrate a few of the exhibits, Deng Shiru, a very important calligrapher and seal carver from the 18th century, has carved a Ming dynasty poem on a soapstone seal-paste box, Ding Jing, another important 18th century calligrapher, has carved a Tang dynasty poem on an Anhui inkstone, Chang Dai-chien, the great 20th century painter, has inscribed a painting by a wonderful artist whose works are not generally known but who was with him in Dunhuang in 1941, Lu Yanshao, another famous name in 20th century Chinese art, has inscribed his thoughts on a western style painting of his contemporary, Wu Hufan has given authentication to a painting by Xiao Junxian, and Pu Ru, a great artist and member of the Manchu imperial family, has inscribed a poem on a masterpiece painting by his student, An Ho.

Thankfully, these inscriptions are not, like twitter, momentary flights into cyberspace but have been handed down with the artwork from generation to generation for our education and appreciation.



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WANG DAIZHI 王代之 (early 20th century)
Rainstorm, 1927

Colophon by Qi Baishi 齐白石 (1864-1957),
signed with two seals

Hanging scroll; ink and color on paper.

Painting: 59.75 x 17.5 inches
(151.8 x 44.5 cm)

Calligraphy: 59.75 x 2 inches
(151.8 x 5.1 cm)

Signed with one artist's seal



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XIAO JUNXIAN 蕭俊賢 (1865-1949)

Orchid, Bamboo and Rock

Colophon by Wu Hufan 吳湖帆 (1894-1968), signed with seal

Ink and color on paper

29.5 x 16 inches (74.9 x 40.6 cm)



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FAN ZHENXU 范振绪 (1872-1960)

Landscape with Waterfall, 1941

Inscription by Zhang Daqian 张大千 (1899-1983),
signed with two seals

Hanging scroll; ink and color on paper.
46.75 x 18.25 inches (118.7 x 46.4 cm)

Signed with two artist's seals



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SUN ZUBO 孫祖白 (1919-1978)

Path to the Mountain

Inscription by Lu Yanshao 陆俨少 (1909-1993), signed with two seals

Hanging scroll; ink and color on paper.

27 x 15.5 inches (68.6 x 39.4 cm)



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AN HO 安和 (b. 1927)

Birds and Tree, 1956

Inscription by Pu Ru 溥儒 (1896-1963), signed with two seals

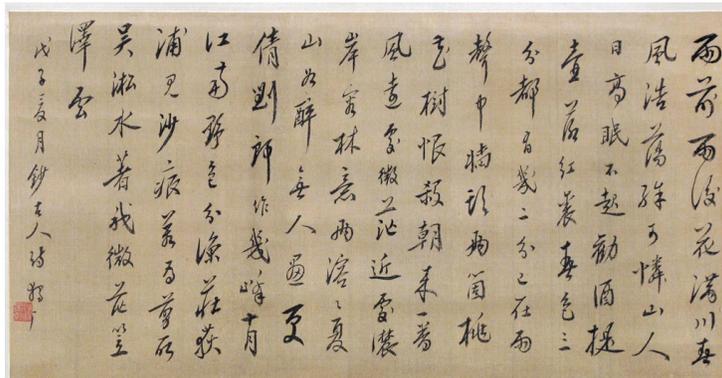
Ink and color on paper

66 x 31 inches (167.6 x 78.7 cm)

Signed with two artist's seals



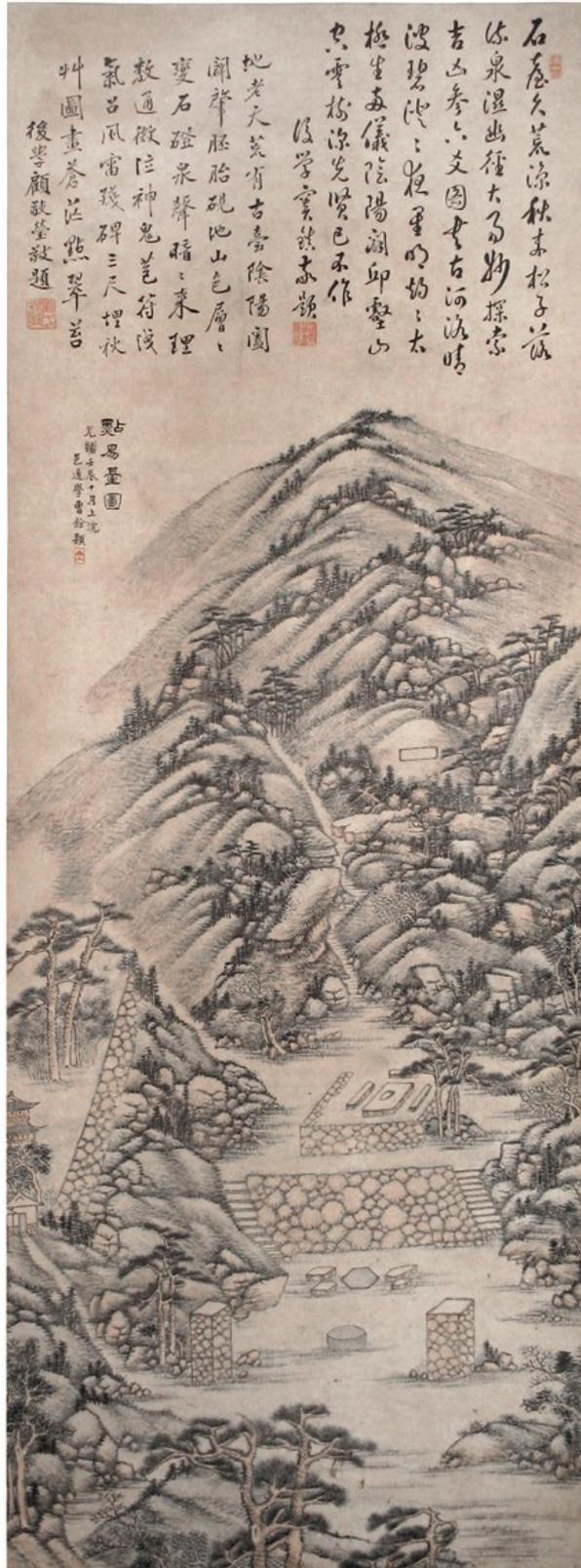
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ZHANG NAIQI 张迺奇 (late 18th century-19th century)
Tamed Crane under the Paulownia Trees 桐陰調鶴
Calligraphy by Shen Jingqian 沈景乾 (late Qing dynasty early
 Minguo era), Signed with one artist seal: Du An 獨盒
 Hanging scroll, Ink on paper
 39 X 18.5 inches (99.1 x 47 cm)
 Titled with one artist seal: Shoumin 寿民



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ANONYMOUS
Punctuating Yi Jing

(the Book of Changes) 點易臺圖

Entitled by Zeng Quan (Qing dynasty) 曾銓 (清)
in the year of Guangxu *Renchen* year 光緒壬辰十月
(1892)

Inscription by Dou Zhen (Qing dynasty) 竇鎮 (清)
and **Gu Jingying** 顧敬瑩

Hanging scroll, Ink on paper
48.25 x 18.25 inches (122.6 x 46.4 cm)



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IMPORTANT SCHOLAR ROCK

Anhui Inkstone with Calligraphy by Ding Jing 丁敬 (1695-1765)

6.25 (w) 4 (d) 5.25 (h) inches [15.9 (w) 10.2 (d) 13.3 (h) cm]

Hongmu stand height: 3.375 inches

Dated: 1750

Seal: Yanlin Yishi 砚林亦石



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DUAN INKSTONE AND GOOD HONGMU COVER

Zhu Yizun 朱彝尊 (1629-1709)

1685, Kangxi period.

Inkstone: 5 (l) 3 (w) 0.875 (h) inches [12.7 (l) 7.6 (w) 2.4 (h) cm]

Cover: 5.25 (l) 3.125 (w) 1.625 (h) inches [13.3 (l) 7.9 (w) 4.1 (h) cm]



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A SOAPSTONE SEAL-PASTE BOX WITH OFFICIAL SCRIPT CALLIGRAPHY BY DENG SHIRU 鄧石如
(1743-1805)
Dated 1802
2.75 (w) 2.125 (d) 1.625 (h) inches (including a wood base) [7 (w) 5.4 (d) 4.1 (h) cm]



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Dream Stone (Dali Marble), Late Ming dynasty

Huanghuali Frame: 26 x 28.5 x 9 inches [66 x 72.4 x 22.9 cm]

Marble: 16 x 20.5 inches [40.6 x 52.1 cm]

Collector's Seal: Shi-xian (Bai Enyou) 石仙 (白恩佑)



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HUANGHUALI BRUSHPOT WITH SILVER INLAY, 16th /17th century

Calligraphy by Sun Kehong 孫克弘 (1533-1611)

6.875 (d) 6.375 (h) inches [17.6 (d) 16.2 (h) cm]



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BRUSHPOT (Engraved with prunus and calligraphy)
Possibly carved by Chen Tan 陈曇 (1784-1851)
Huanghuali, 18th century
4.75 (d) 5(h) inches [12.1(d) 12.7 (h) cm]



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MARBLE SEAL, 19th Century

1-15/16 (w) 1-1/8 (d) 2-15/16 (h) inches [4.9 (w) 2.9 (d) 7.5 (h) cm]



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PAPERWEIGHT

Ebony with Silver Inlay, 18th century
1.25 (w) 7.75 (h) inches [3.2 (w) 19.7 (h) cm]
Literati: Pian Shi 片石



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WRISTREST

Engraved by *Yin you shan ren*

吟幽山人

Bamboo, Qing dynasty

17/18th century

9.875 (l) 2.75 (w) 0.75 (h) inches

[25.1 (l) 7 (w) 1.9 (h) cm]



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WRISTREST

Calligraphy by *O sheng si ma* (? 生司馬)

Bamboo, 18th century

9.5 (l) 2.25 (w) 0.75 (h) inches

[24.1 (l) 5.9 (w) 1.9 (h) cm]



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WRISTREST

Calligraphy by Wang Zi 王梓

Bamboo, 18th century

10.875 (l) 2.5 (w) 0.75 (h) inches
[27.6 (l) 6.4 (w) 1.9 (h) cm]



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CARVED BOX OF BAMBOO SKIN 19th Century

6.5 (d) 2.875 (h) inches [16.5 (d) 7.3 (h) cm]

The inscription on the cover of the box is an excerpt from the engraving on the Han stone stele, *Yin zhou bei* 尹宙碑 which is dated 177 during Eastern Han dynasty



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COSMETIC BOX.

Bronze & silver inlay 1824.

2.25 (d) 0.5 (h) inches [5.7 (d) 1.3 (h) cm]

The poem is a variation of the one written by *Yun Man He Shang*, Monk Yun Man 云门和尚 in Song dynasty. It describes the scenery of the four seasons.