

Friday, March 28, 2014



Trees, Mountains and Streams, Chinese Landscape Paintings of the 20th Century

April 12-June 15, 2014

Founders Galleries
Curated by Barry Till

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
1040 Moss Street
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 4P1

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Experience Nature through the Eyes of Chinese Landscape Painters at the AGGV

Landscapes have been the most popular object of Chinese painting during the last fifteen hundred years, and you can see a stunning collection at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria beginning this April.

Trees, Mountains and Streams, Chinese Landscape Paintings of the 20th Century runs from April 12 to June 15 in the AGGV Founders Gallery. The exhibition features more than 30 pieces from the Gallery's renowned Asian collection.

"The exhibition contains works from the most famous Chinese landscape artists of the 20th century, including renowned painters C.C. Wang and Zhang Daqian," said AGGV Curator of Asian Art, Barry Till.

Chinese landscape works vary greatly from Western realist landscape pieces. They portray an inner poetic reality rather than an outward likeness, and seek to realize, rather than to copy, nature. Unlike Western painters, Chinese artists were not interested in volume, light, shadow, perspective, or in producing a photo-likeness of their subject.

The traditional Chinese landscape painters of the past were impressionists—they felt free to omit objects that were not essential to their thought and to paint using the fewest possible brushstrokes. Often their landscapes have large blank areas.

Twentieth-century Chinese painters continue these age-old traditions and combine Western art ideas and techniques with Eastern ones.

The exhibition will feature work from twenty different Chinese painters of the 20th century. The paintings are mainly from the extensive donations of Brian S. McElney, a retired lawyer who practiced in Hong Kong and has dedicated much of his life to collecting and sharing Chinese art.

For more information, visit aggv.ca or call 250-384-4171.

***Related Events at the AGGV:
Included with Admission or membership***

Thursday May 1, 7p.m.

**Public Talk: Changes in Chinese Landscape Art
with Ellen Manning, Director, Victoria Emerging Art Gallery**

Manning will trace the trajectory of Chinese landscape art from early dynasties through the Cultural Revolution as a background to the radical work being made in China's contemporary studios today. Manning's experience managing the largest Chinese contemporary art gallery in China, *Art Scene China* (Shanghai) during an unprecedented art market boom brings a unique angle to this event.

Manning obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree from UVIC with a Major in English Literature and a Minor in Art History. Her interest in contemporary art led her to China in 2006 and later Koh Samui, Thailand. Manning is the creator of a new platform for up and coming local artists, the Victoria Emerging Art Awards. <http://www.victoriaemergingart.com/>

Wednesday May 7, 2pm

Curator's Tour – Trees, Mountains, Streams: Chinese Landscape Paintings of the 20th Century with Barry Till

Join Curator of Asian Art Barry Till for an informative insider's look at Trees, Mountains, Streams: Chinese Landscape Paintings of the 20th Century.