

MEDIA RELEASE

August 5, 2015

Treasures of the Chinese Scholar's Studio

August 14 to November 15, 2015

Curated by Barry Till
Founders Gallery

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

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AGGV Exhibition Showcases Chinese artifacts

Traditional Chinese culture treasures all things related to the scholar's studio, where most of the nation's art and literature were created. The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria invites you to appreciate the scholar's studio for yourself during the exhibition *Treasures of the Chinese Scholar's Studio*, running August 14 to November 15, 2015.

"Chinese scholars were the educated and privileged elite—officials, academics, poets, calligraphers, painters and connoisseurs," says AGGV's Asian Arts curator Barry Till. "They were highly esteemed, and their tastes and artwork had tremendous influence on their country's culture."

The AGGV's stunning collection of 200 treasures gives Gallery visitors a glimpse into the life of a Chinese scholar. The exhibition includes pieces from the Shang dynasty (16 to 11 century BCE), to the later Ming dynasty (17 century ADE) and Qing dynasty (early 19 century ADE) and includes many recently donated pieces, which have never been previously exhibited. The artifacts include the scholar's studio materials, their antiques and their works of art.

"A Chinese scholar's studio would have been strewn with brushes, inkstones, paper, seals, paper weights, teapots, wine cups, incense burners and antiques," says Till, who curated the exhibition. "The most important were known as the four treasures, and they were the essentials, brush, ink, inkstone, and paper."

The exhibition will include 20 important ancient inkstones recently donated to the AGGV. Inkstones are the stones used for the grinding and containment of ink, and because the stone affects the texture of the ink, for serious calligraphers and painters, a good inkstone is as important as good ink.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Dr. Jordan Paper will present a lecture that highlights the relevance of sealstones, inkstones and rocks as they pertain to Daoist aesthetics upheld by Chinese scholars. The *Rocks, Stones and Seals: An Excursion into Daoist Aesthetics* lecture is September 9 at 2:00 p.m. Barry Till will lead a Curator's Tour on Wednesday September 30 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. and both events are included with Gallery admission or membership.

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