

SMITH COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

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Yao Wu will join the staff of the Museum in September as the first Jane Chace Carroll Curator of Asian Art.

Yao Wu Named Jane Chace Carroll Curator of Asian Art, Smith College Museum of Art

NORTHAMPTON, MA – September 2, 2015: Smith College Museum of Art (SCMA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Yao Wu, a specialist in East Asia with a focus on modern and contemporary Chinese art, as the inaugural Jane Chace Carroll Curator of Asian Art. She will join the staff of the Museum in a fulltime position on September 21, just prior to the October 15 dedication of the Carol T. Christ Asian Art Gallery at the Museum.

Wu is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Art and Art History at Stanford University. She graduated from Fudan University, Shanghai, China with B.A. in English Language and Literature (2004), received her Masters in Art History from Williams College (2007), and subsequently served as the Inaugural Asian Art Curatorial Fellow and Curatorial Intern at the Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY (2007–2009). During her time at Stanford (2009–20015), Wu served as the Asian Art Curatorial Research Assistant at the Cantor Arts Center. She organized two shows featuring late imperial and early modern Chinese paintings and decorative arts and assisted with the research and organization of several other exhibitions, as well.

Yao Wu named first Jane Chace Carroll Curator of Asian Art at Smith College Museum of Art—Page 2.

Wu is fluent in Chinese and English and has completed numerous translations for the Chinese-English bilingual art journals, *Leap: The international Art Magazine of Contemporary China* and *Art Time*. Several fellowships and awards have helped to shape Yao Wu's early career including a Pre-Doctoral Fellowship from Stanford to study at Peking University (2015) and a Mellon Fellowship for Curatorial Research in Asian Art, Cantor Arts Center, Stanford (2014).

As curator of Asian art at SCMA, Yao Wu will play a key role in stewarding the growth and use of the Museum's collection of Asian Art, which includes some 1,700 objects from the Neolithic period to today. Wu will develop in-house and traveling exhibitions in collaboration with her colleagues; she will also contribute to research, publications, web projects, collection development and care, and the growth of a broad donor base for the gallery.

Referring to the Museum's commitment to displaying and collecting Asian art, Wu stated, "I envision the program's significance in the Five College Consortium and in a region where interest in Asia is fast growing." She continued, "I anticipate many opportunities for shaping the collection and designing exhibitions and programs that would best serve the interests of faculty, students, and the community beyond the campus." Wu will conceptualize and initiate teaching exhibitions and museum-based courses in collaboration with faculty, mentoring students, and supervising student curatorial interns.

The Carol T. Christ Asian Art Gallery, a major component of SCMA's two-year, two-phase Gallery Redesign Project, will be a state-of-the-art dedicated display space for the Museum's collection of Asian Art. The gallery was named in honor of Carol T. Christ, the tenth president of Smith College, who not only had a great love of art but also made significant developments in Smith's relationship with Asia.

For information about Museum exhibitions, programs, and more: smith.edu/artmuseum

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