

# America

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## STUDIES IN CONNOISSEURSHIP: CHINESE PAINTINGS FROM THE ARTHUR M. SACKLER COLLECTION

Dr. Arthur M. Sackler, a New York medical doctor, is a magnificent collector of Chinese art. His personal collection, as well as his benefactions to The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Columbia and Princeton Universities, is of a highly comprehensive and sensitive nature. The present exhibition which has been seen at Princeton, The Cleveland Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and will be seen in New York at The Metropolitan, concentrates on paintings and calligraphy dating from the 14th to the 20th century AD. The works were shown not only for their aesthetic and artistic quality, but also for their value for research.

For purposes of comparison, a modern forgery album of six landscape leaves in the style of Tao' chi, one of the leading 'individualist' painters of the early Ch'ing period, as well as two copies of his works, are shown. In four instances in the exhibition, copies are paired with originals. In all forty-one hanging scrolls, hand scrolls, albums and fans by twenty-four leading masters of the Yuan, Ming and Ch'ing periods are included. The particular strength of the collection, however, lies in a group of fifteen examples of painting and calligraphy by Tao-chi (1641-c. 1710). These works fully demonstrate the stylistic range of the painter's landscape, figure, flower and fruit paintings as well as his calligraphy. Thirty-five of the works included are from Princeton and six are on loan from The Metropolitan Museum.

Dr. Sackler began to collect Chinese art in the 1950's when many private masterpieces came on the market. In 1967 he met Wen C. Fong, Curator of The Art Museum, Princeton University, and over the next two years, with Professor Fong's guidance, he acquired most of the paintings in the collection. An extraordinary catalogue has been prepared by Marilyn and Shen Fu with introductions by Dr. Sackler and Professor Fong. In large format, this catalogue introduces the student or casual reader to problems inherent in the connoisseurship of Chinese paintings.

Below.

1. Album Leaf from 'Plum Branches',  
Tao-chi, ink on paper, c. 1705-1707.  
The Art Museum, Princeton University,  
The Arthur M. Sackler Collection.



2. Album Leaf from 'Flowers and Figures',  
Tao-chi, ink and occasional colour  
on paper, dated 1695.  
The Art Museum, Princeton University,  
The Arthur M. Sackler Collection.



3. Man Smelling Flowers, Album:  
Flowers and Figures,  
Tao-chi, ink on paper, c. 1695.  
The Art Museum, Princeton University,  
The Arthur M. Sackler Collection.