

Press release

INK IN MOTION

A HISTORY OF CHINESE PAINTING IN THE 20th CENTURY

CURATORS:Eric Lefebvre, Director, Cernuschi Museum
Mael Bellec, Chief curator, Cernuschi Museum**CERNUSCHI MUSEUM**PARIS MUSEUM
OF ASIAN ART**EXHIBITION**OCTOBER 21, 2022
FEBRUARY 19, 2023**INFORMATION**www.cernuschi.paris.fr/en

Zao Wou-ki (1920-2013)
Untitled (Abstract Composition), 1989
Ink on paper
104 × 107.2 cm
M.C. 2016-31
Donated by Ms. Françoise Marquet-Zao, 2016
© Paris Musées / Musée Cernuschi
© Zao Wou-ki / Adagp, Paris 2022

Following on from the exhibition *Painting Apart from the World*, which invited visitors to explore China's imperial legacy through the work of literati painters, the Cernuschi Museum extends this journey through time, focusing on 20th century Chinese painting. For the first time, the museum, which has one of the largest collections of modern and contemporary Chinese paintings in Europe, is showing these masterpieces. The exhibition brings together more than seventy paintings created by thirty-four artists. The presentation of these fragile ink and paper treasures, which cannot be exposed to light for long periods, is a unique event.

PRESS CONTACTS**PIERRE LAPORTE COMMUNICATION**Laurence Vaugeois
laurence@pierre-laporte.com
Tel.: +33(0)1 45 23 14 14**CERNUSCHI MUSEUM**Laura Bailly
laura.bailly@paris.fr
Tel.: +33(0)1 53 96 21 73**PARIS MUSÉES**Andréa Longrais
andrea.longrais@paris.fr
Tel.: +33(0)1 80 05 40 68

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A HISTORY OF CHINESE PAINTING IN THE 20th CENTURY

From the end of the Empire to the Revolution of 1949, 20th century China underwent major changes, reflected in Chinese painting. Defined for centuries by the use of ink, it reinvented itself under the influence of oil painting and photography, but also through the rediscovery of its own history.

The **travels of artists** played a key role in this renewal. Although the destinations changed from one generation to the next, the exchanges extended from Europe to the United States, and of course Asia. **Ink painting was deeply impacted by this crosscultural dialogue.** Throughout the century, it was at the centre of theoretical debates, about the definition of national painting, the question of political commitment, of realism and abstraction.

The **Cernuschi Museum's collection of Chinese painting, gathered since the 1950s, comprises several hundred works.** It is one of the few collections in Europe to include both the paintings of masters active in China, such as **Qi Baishi, Fu Baoshi, Wu Guanzhong** and **Li Jin** alongside the works of the **most important figures of the artistic diaspora** including **Chang Dai-chien (Zhang Daqian), Zao Wou-ki (Zhao Wuji), Walasse Ting (Ding Xiongquan)** and **Ma Desheng.**

To better introduce this century of movement and creation, the exhibition includes **archival films** showing ink painting's gestural aspects, from virtuoso demonstrations by the masters, to happenings that radically challenge the link between the ink and the brush. **These very rare films feature the greatest creators of the 20th century, definitely showing ink in motion.**

THE EXHIBITION BRINGS TOGETHER THE WORK OF 34 ARTISTS:

CAI Liang (1932–1995)

CHANG Yu (1900–1966) known as **Sanyu**

CHEN Zhifo (1896–1962)

CHU Teh-chun (1920–2014)

CHUANG Che (born 1934)

DING Xiongquan (1929–2010) known as **Walasse TING**

DING Yanyong (1902–1978)

FU Baoshi (1904–1965)

HSIAO Chin (born 1935)

HUA Tianyou (1901–1986)

HUANG Binhong (1865–1955)

KANG Youwei (1858–1927)

LI Huasheng (1944–2018)

LI Jin (born 1958)

LIN Fengmian (1900–1991)

MA Desheng (born 1952)

PAN Yuliang (1894–1977)

PANG Xunqin (1906–1985)

PU Ru (1896–1963)

QI Baishi (1863–1957)

TANG Xiaohe (born 1941)

WANG Shenglie (1923–2003)

WANG Zhen (1867–1938)

WU Changshuo (1844–1927)

WU Guanzhong (1919–2010)

WU Zuoren (1908–1997)

XU Beihong (1895–1953)

YAO Hua (1876–1930)

YANG Jiechang (born 1956)

YU Fei'an (1889–1959)

ZAO Wou-ki (1920–2013)

ZHANG Bide (1921–1953)

Chang Dai-chien (ZHANG Daqian) (1899–1983)

ZHU Xiuli (born 1938)

An avant-garde collection

The exhibition *Ink in Motion* marks the culmination of 70 years of acquisitions. For the first time, paintings from the first half of the 20th century, **outstanding landscapes and eccentric figures that challenge tradition**, are shown alongside creations from recent decades: **revolutionary sketches, abstract and experimental inks** that have recently joined the museum's collections, thanks to major donations from Françoise Marquet-Zao and AXA.

AN EXHIBITION ORGANIZED AROUND EIGHT THEMES:

1: Primal sources of the brushstroke: Painting and Calligraphy

Key artists: Kang Youwei, Wu Changshuo, Yao Hua, Wang Zhen, Qi Baishi

2: Travels to Japan and the Modernization of Painting

Key artists: Chen Zhifo, Chang Dai-chien (Zhang Daqian), Xu Beihong, Ding Yanyong

Chang Dai-chien (Zhang Daqian) (1899-1983)

Two Tibetan women with mastiffs, 1944

Ink and colors on paper

109.5 × 75.3 cm

M.C. 8709

Donated by Guo Youshou, 1953

© Paris Musées / Musée Cernuschi

© The Estate of Chang Dai-chien (Zhang Daqian)



Ding Yanyong (1902-1978)

After the rain, 1940s

Ink and colors on paper

134.8 × 45.4 cm

M.C. 9791

Purchase, 1987

© Paris Musées / Musée Cernuschi

© Ding Yanyong

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3: Visions of the Landscape in Republican China

Key artists: Huang Binhong, Chang Dai-chien (Zhang Daqian), Fu Baoshi, Pu Ru

4: Discovering China from inside: People and Landscapes

Key artists: Pang Xunqin, Wu Zuoren, Xu Beihong, Lin Fengmian

Chang Dai-chien (Zhang Daqian) (1899-1983)
Lotus in the wind, dated 1955
Ink and colors on paper
184.4 × 96.2 cm
M.C. 8768
Donated by the artist, 1956
© Paris Musées / Musée Cernuschi
© The Estate of Chang Dai-chien (Zhang Daqian)



Pan Yuliang (1894-1977)
Seated nude with red robe, 1955
Ink and colors on paper
91.6 × 64.8 cm
M.C. 9699
Donated by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in France, 1981
© Paris Musées / Musée Cernuschi
© Pan Yuliang



Wang Shenglie (1923-2003)
Sketch for "Eight women throwing themselves into the river", 1957
Charcoal on paper
46.5 × 98.5 cm
M.C. 2018-28
Donated by AXA, 2018
© Paris Musées / Musée Cernuschi

5: Temptation of the West: Facing the model

Key artists: Pan Yuliang, Hua Tianyou, Chang Yu, Lin Fengmian

6: The "Red painting": Revolutionary sketches

Key artists: Wang Shenglie, Tang Xiaohe, Cai Liang

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Fu Baoshi (1904-1965)
Storm, dated 1944
Ink and colors on paper
116.1 x 79.3 cm
M.C. 8662
Donated by Guo Youshou, 1953
© Paris Musées / Musée
Cernuschi
© Fu Baoshi



Wu Guanzhong (1919-2010)
Bamboos forest and irrigated fields, 1992
Ink and colours on paper
67.8 x 137 cm
M.C. 9911
Donated by the artist, 1993
© Paris Musées / Musée Cernuschi
© Wu Guanzhong

7: Towards Abstraction

Key artists: Zao Wou-ki, Chu Teh-chun, Wu Guanzhong,
Hsiao-Chin, Chuang Che

8: New avant-gardes and new literati

Key artists: Ma Desheng, Li Huasheng, Li Jin, Yang Jiechang



Ma Desheng (born 1952)
Untitled, 1991
Ink on paper
121 x 198 cm
M.C. 2013-12
Donated by the artist, 2013
© Paris Musées / Musée Cernuschi
© Ma Desheng



Chang Dai-chien (Zhang Daqian) drawing
the lotus leaves of the penultimate left-hand panel
(*Giant Lotus*, 1961)

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

Under the direction of Eric Lefebvre and Mael Bellec

Authors:

Julia Andrews - Mael Bellec - Sarah Fraser - Martina Köppel-Yang - Francesca dal Lago -
Eric Lefebvre - Michaela Pejřochová - Shen Kuiyi - Stéphanie Su
Paris Musées Editions.

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Practical information

CERNUSCHI MUSEUM

Paris Museum of Asian Art
7, avenue Vélasquez
75008 Paris
Tel.: +33(0)1 53 96 21 50
www.cernuschi.paris.fr/en

Opening Hours

Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 6pm,
except for public holidays
(ticket office closes at 5:30 pm).

Admission

Full rate: €10
Reduced rate: €8

Free for holders of the Paris
Musées pass, for under 18s,
for the disabled and their carers.

Free access to the permanent
collections.

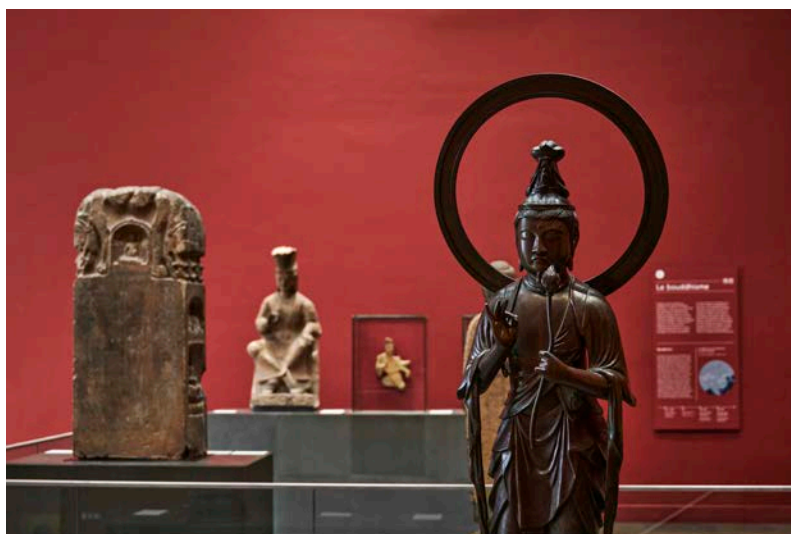
Access

Subway: Line no. 2, Villiers
or Monceau stop / Line no. 3,
Villiers stops
Bus: 30, 84, 93

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Cernuschi Museum © Pierre Antoine

CERNUSCHI MUSEUM

PARIS MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART

Since its opening to the public in 1898, the Cernuschi Museum, Paris Museum of Asian Art, has brought together nearly 15,000 Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese artworks. Inviting the visitors to a journey through Henri Cernuschi's 19th century hôtel particulier, the redesigned tour of the collections inaugurated in 2020 presents an enhanced panorama of 5,000 years of Asian art.

PARIS MUSÉES

THE MUSEUMS' NETWORK OF THE CITY OF PARIS

Paris Musées is a public institution grouping together the 12 museums of the City of Paris and 2 heritage sites.

First museums' network in Europe, Paris Musées brings together museums of fine arts (Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris, Petit Palais – Musée des Beaux-arts de la Ville de Paris); of history (Musée Carnavalet – Histoire de Paris, Musée de la Libération de Paris – Musée du Général Leclerc – Musée Jean Moulin); former artists' studios (Musée Bourdelle, Musée Zadkine, Musée de la Vie Romantique); writers' homes (Maison de Balzac, Maisons de Victor Hugo in Paris and Guernesey); Palais Galliera, City of Paris Fashion Museum; of major collectors (Cernuschi Museum – Paris Museum of Asian Art, Musée Cognacq-Jay); as well as heritage sites: the Paris Catacombs and the Archaeological Crypt of the Île de la Cité. Founded in 2013, the institution's mission is to promote, preserve and share with the public for free the collections of the museums of the City of Paris, including one million artworks. Paris Musées also offers Open content: an unrestricted, free access to 350,000 high-definition digital reproductions of works in the collections in the City of Paris's museums.

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Laurence Vaugeois
laurence@pierre-laporte.com
Tel.: +33(0)1 45 23 14 14 -
+33(0)6 81 81 83 47

CERNUSCHI MUSEUM

Laura Bailly
laura.bailly@paris.fr
Tel.: +33(0)1 53 96 21 73

PARIS MUSÉES

Andréa Longrais
andrea.longrais@paris.fr
Tel.: +33(0)1 80 05 40 68

Considerable attention is paid to research and the conservation of the collections, as well as to their enrichment through donations and acquisitions. The museums and sites of Paris Musées organize an ambitious programme of exhibitions, along with a series of cultural programme and mediation for all audiences, particularly for those with limited access to culture. Over recent years most of the museums have been renovated, and now offer services and visitor activities adapted to the needs of all, thanks in particular to an innovative digital strategy, both in the museums and online. Paris Musées publishes rigorous scholarly catalogues and offers art history courses presented by the curators of the museums of the City of Paris, which are also available online.

PARIS MUSÉES PASS

UNLIMITED ACCESS TO EXHIBITIONS



The Paris Musées pass, valid for one year, provides unlimited access to temporary exhibitions organized by the museums of the City of Paris, as well as preferential rates for activities (guided visits, workshops, performances, art history courses, etc.), discounts in the museums network's bookstores and café-restaurants, and priority access to all museums news.