

Orientalisms

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Orientations

Our first issue of 2006 celebrates significant anniversaries in the lives of an institution and two individuals, all esteemed for their contribution to the fostering of cultural understanding between East and West. Adriana Proser describes how the passion for Asian art of John D. Rockefeller 3rd's mother and aunt inspired him to found the Asia Society fifty years ago.

James Cahill and Chu-tsing Li, pioneering scholars of Chinese painting, have had an enormous impact both on the field of art history and on countless individuals. Their friends and students honour them on their 80th and 85th birthdays.

Michael Knight discusses the cultured background of the Yeh family and their valuable gift of paintings and calligraphy to the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, and Huang Hsien Long introduces the work of Gu Jue whose exquisite bamboo brushpots created a stir at recent Hong Kong auctions. In a revealing interview, Deborah Klimburg-Salter discloses the difficulties faced by the Kabul Museum and its staff over the war-torn years.

Valerie C. Doran describes the relevance of traditional ink painting in the 21st century through the works of Arnold Chang, and Alonzo Emery gives an account of events during the biennale season in Beijing. We report on the busy round of autumn auctions in Hong Kong, London and Paris, and on upcoming gallery news. Our commentary examines recent renovations in Pagan and raises questions about history, conservation and authenticity.

Cover: Chang Da-chien with his wife and son, Fang Chao-ling and James Cahill on the steps of the Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, 1958 With a dedication by the artist

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