

Transmission and Transmutation of Literati Portraiture in the Sinosphere

This talk introduces the travel of literati portraiture in the Sinosphere (here specifically in China, Korea, and Vietnam). This artistic genre originated from ancestral portraits, but, benefiting from iconoclastic intellectual trends flourishing in late imperial China, this genre gradually evolved into one for literati self-expression. It combines visual images with textual inscriptions. The two form dynamic interactions and mutual reinforcement in presenting one's individual personality and characteristics. The tension between the images and the text exposes one's spirit and emotions beneath the physical resemblance. As this genre traveled to other countries in the Sinosphere, it quickly became embedded in the new environment and evolved into several new species of literary/artistic life that bear indigenous qualities and features of its adopted cultures.

Faculty Host: Nanxiu Qian



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CHANGED ROOM: Humanities Building, Room 117

Free and open to the public



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