

# Museum displays Chinese paintings

An exhibition of Chinese paintings recently opened at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"Studies in Connoisseurship: Chinese Paintings from the Arthur M. Sackler Collection" is an important loan presenting traditional brush paintings and calligraphy by 24 outstanding artists active in China from the 14th to the 20th centuries—173 paintings in the form of album leaves, hand scrolls and hanging scrolls.

Suzanne Mitchell, assistant curator in charge of Asian Art, said the Sackler collection, formerly housed for many years at Princeton University, is one of the finest of its kind in the Western world.

Heart of the exhibition is more than 40 paintings by Tao-chi (ca. 161-170), an individualistic and very popular painter of the early Ch'ing dynasty.

"His work is wildly expressive," said Ms. Mitchell. "A single brushstroke conceives amazing vitality."

The Tao-chi paintings in the show demonstrate the full range of his skill in landscapes, figures, bamboo, flower or vegetable subjects as well as in the art of calligraphy.

A number of tracings and freehand copies as well as identified forgeries were purposely acquired for the Sackler collection to enable comparison and, by contrast, to define the inimitable and genuinely personal quality of Tao-chi.

Throughout the show, viewers will be challenged by forgeries and legitimate copies as well as original works. Copying or imitating earlier masterpieces as part of a painter's training is a time-honored Chinese practice, as well as a traditional expression of reverence for

past masters.

Amazing variety can be discovered in all the artists' work through the physical handling of the brushstroke itself in terms of dryness, wetness, and whether the line is flowing, halting, angular, rounded, flat or oblique.

The large format exhibition catalogue contains 386 illustrations and is available from the Museum Shops at \$2.50. This scholarly work was written by Marilyn and Shen Fu Shen Fu was a member of the research staff of the National Palace Museum, Taipei.

Professor Fu is now on the faculty of the Department of the History of Art, Yale University. Marilyn Fu, his wife, is former assistant curator in the Far Eastern art department of the Metropolitan Museum. The catalogue, published in 1973 by Princeton University

Press, is now in a second, revised edition.

"Chinese Treasures from the Arthur M. Sackler Collection" was selected for a lengthy tour of U.S. museums and galleries under the auspices of the International Exhibitions Foundation, Washington, D.C.

"Chinese Treasures" will be open to the public without charge, through Sunday, July 30. Regular hours at the Detroit Institute of Arts are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Mondays and holidays.

To introduce visitors to the fine points of Chinese painting, free public tours will be offered each day noon and 2 p.m., meeting at the exhibition entrance. Group tours for 10 or more persons may be arranged at 1 p.m. daily by advance appointment. Write

(Continued on page 16C)

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