

Event Reports

**Research Programme for Lingnan Culture: Public Lecture Series 2019** 

# "The West' in the Eyes and in the Mind of a Magistrate of Guangdong's County in the Late Qing"

Speaker: Prof. Qiu Jie

Prof. Qiu Jie, former Head of the Department of History at the Sun Yat-Sen University, spoke on the topic "'The West' in the Eyes and in the Mind of a Magistrate of Guangdong's county in the Late Qing" for the Research Programme for Lingnan Culture: Public Lecture Series 2019 on 26 September. The lecture drew about 70 CUHK colleagues and students, alumni and members of the public. Professor Qiu talked about his recent research on the attitudes and responses of the Qing literati toward the West in the nineteenth century. The study focused on the diaries of Du Fengzhi 杜鳳治, a magistrate of Nanhai county of Guangdong in the late Qing, namely the Wang fu xingguan huan Yue riji 望鳧行館宦粵日記, which recorded Du's first-hand experience in living in and administering the county amid the power struggles between the Canton Governor-general and the foreign diplomats in the region. Professor Qiu reconstructed many exciting episodes of Guangdong-foreign exchanges based on Du's narratives and revealed the unique perspectives of the late Qing local official in his encounter with the Western civilisation and foreign affairs.

Du Fengzhi had served as magistrate of Guangning, Sihui and Nanhai counties during the Tongzhi 同治 and Guangxu 光緒 reigns. He was known as a member of the traditional Chinese literati and officialdom, while he was also open-minded towards Western knowledge. He read widely and frequently consulted foreign consuls, merchants and local compradors for the latest news. The three-million-word diaries left by such a personality are absolutely valuable primary sources for studying how the late Qing local literati responded to the Western culture. In this aspect, Professor Qiu reminded us that there is no simple answer. For example, Du recoded





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his purchase of imported products, such as analogue watches and wines, and had his family photographed at different stages of his life, but he never bought foreign-styled clothes or tried Western medical treatment. Du's diaries, thus, presented multiple facets of a traditional literatus' reception of western material culture.

Du Fengzhi's contacts with foreign consuls in official matters are also illuminating. In the diaries, he recorded and expressed opinions on the way foreign consuls handled things, which showed his views on the Western judicial and legal system. Since Guangdong's foreign affairs at that time were under the responsibility of the Governor of Guangdong and Guangxi, while there was no agency responsible, the magistrate of Nanhai County became an important assistant to the Governor in dealing with foreign affairs. Therefore, Du Fengzhi became the mediator between his superior, the foreigners and the local people. The attitudes and responses of Du Fengzhi toward foreigners are clearly shown in the diaries, and his attitude could be representative of Chinese officials dealing with foreign affairs in the late Qing.



In great detail, Prof. Qiu retold several lawsuits recorded in Du's diaries that involved expatriates in Guangdong. He pointed out that

although it was a common strategy of Du and his colleagues to avoid offending the foreign officials, the actual execution and consequences of such a strategy was very complicated; for example, the US consul intervened in the case involving official land, the British consular intervention in the Hualin Temple case, and disputes arose in the establishment of a joint venture between the foreigners and the Chinese. While the disputes of smuggling vessels across the border reflected that the Chinese officials dealt with foreign affairs from the perspective of traditional Chinese culture, especially from the rules and practices of Chinese officialdom, they also showed a discrepancy between the late Qing and the Western legal systems, which was not fully understood by Du and perhaps other officials of his time.

Synthesizing life episodes and personal reflections in Du's diaries, Prof. Qiu painted a complex picture of the attitudes of local literati and officials towards the West in the late Qing. His lecture, delivered in an engaging and accessible manner, was an inspiration to researchers as well as to the public. He had a fruitful discussion with the moderator, Prof. Lai Chi Tim, and also took questions from the audience. The lecture ended successfully in a round of applause.



**ICS Luncheon 2019** 

# China and European Philosophers in 17th & 18th Centuries: China's Role in the Formation of Modern European Disenchanted World-view

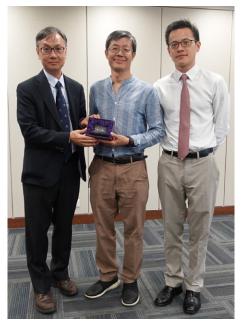
# Speaker: Prof. Lau Kwok Ying

On 21 October 2019, ICS Luncheon had invited Prof. Lau Kwok Ying from the Department of Philosophy, CUHK, to deliver a talk on "China and European Philosophers in 17th & 18th Centuries: China's Role in the Formation of Modern European Disenchanted World-view".

Prof. Lau graduated with a BA Philosophy from CUHK (1979) and a PhD Philosophy from the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne (1993). He specializes in phenomenology, contemporary French philosophy and intercultural phenomenology. He is currently Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, CUHK, and Programme Director of MA in Philosophy, CUHK, as well as Director of Edwin Cheng Foundation Asian Centre for Phenomenology and Associate Director of Institute for the Humanities, CUHK. He also serves as the founding editor-in-chief of Journal of Phenomenology and the Human Sciences (in Chinese), founding member of the research network P.E.A.CE (Phenomenology for East-Asian CirclE), and founder of the Master Class in Phenomenology for Asian Scholars. Prof. Lau received the 2017 CUHK Outstanding Research Award. His monograph, Phenomenology and Intercultural Understanding: Toward a New Cultural Flesh, had been awarded the 2019 Outstanding Phenomenological Works Prize from the Center for Advanced Research in Phenomenology, USA.

Prof. Lau shared how the impact of foreign cultures played a role in the formation of Modern European Disenchanted World-view and how it affected the Enlightenment in Europe and the Christian's worldview at the time. The talk specifically explained how the Chinese chronology and etiquette controversies have become the two major debates between the European philosophers and intellectuals during seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and how Chinese natural theology caused a great conflict and impact on the European society. Prof. Lau brought the audience to the same period of the history of both China and Europe, so that the context of history could be better understood.





#### Event Reports

# Art Museum

## **Opening Ceremony of "The Bei Shan Tang Legacy: Chinese Painting"**

The Opening Ceremony of "The Bei Shan Tang Legacy: Chinese Painting" was held on 20 September 2019. The officiating guests included Dr. Chien LEE (Chairman of the Bei Shan Tang Foundation), Prof. Rocky S. TUAN (Vice-Chancellor and President, CUHK), Prof. Harold MOK (Emeritus Professor, Department of Fine Arts, CUHK), Mr. Christopher MOK (Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Art Museum, CUHK), Prof. LAI Chi Tim (Acting Director of the Institute of Chinese Studies, CUHK), Prof. YIU Chun Chong Josh (Director of the Art Museum, CUHK) and Dr. HO Ka Yi (Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Fine Arts, CUHK, and curator of the exhibition).

### "The Bei Shan Tang Legacy: Chinese Painting" Symposium

The symposium, divided into a morning and an afternoon sessions, was held on 16 October at L1, Institute of Chinese Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Ten topics were presented by nine speakers, namely (in the order of presentation sequence): LEE Wun Sze Sylvia (Assistant Professor, Department of Chinese and History, CityU), NG Sau Wah Sarah (Research Assistant Professor, Academy of Visual Arts, HKBU), HO Ka Yi (Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Fine Arts, CUHK), JIANG Fangting (Postdoctoral Fellow, Art Museum, CUHK), CHAN Kwun

Nam Phil (Research-Assistant Curator (Painting & Calligraphy), Art Museum, CUHK), MOK Kar Leung Harold (Emeritus Professor, Department of Fine Arts, CUHK), CHEN Fong Fong (Senior Officer (Special Collections), Lee Shau Kee Library, UST), CHUI Lisa L. S. (Senior Tutor, Department of Chinese and History, CityU) and CHEUNG Ngai Yee (Director, Bei Shan Tang Foundation). The morning session attracted an attendance of 79 and the afternoon session attracted an attendance of 86.

### "Simplicity and Splendour: Chinese Furniture from 18th to 20th Century" Public Lecture and Special Tour

The guided tour and the public lecture, both held on 16 August (Friday), took place at Gallery IV, Art Museum, and at Activities Room, 2/F, East Wing, Art Museum, respectively. They were delivered and led by Mr. Daniel Chan, an expert of antique Chinese furniture. Examples of eighteenth- to twentieth-century Chinese furniture with Western design elements were introduced through the talk and the tour, which were attended by a total of 82 participants.



(From left) Mr. Zach Lee; Dr. HO Ka Yi, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Fine Arts, CUHK and curator of the exhibition; Prof. LAI Chi Tim, Acting Director of the Institute of Chinese Studies, CUHK; Mr. Harold Wong, Director of the Bei Shan Tang Foundation; Mr. Christopher MOK, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Art Museum, CUHK; Dr. Chien LEE, Chairman of the Bei Shan Tang Foundation; Prof. Rocky S. TUAN, Vice-Chancellor and President, CUHK; Prof. Harold MOK, Emeritus Professor, Department of Fine Arts, CUHK; Prof. Kao Mayching, Director of the Bei Shan Tang Foundation; Mrs. Nancy Lee, Chairman of Friends of HKMoA; and Prof. YIU Chun Chong, Josh, Director of the Art Museum, CUHK





## **Xuanhuitang Lecture Series**

The August lecture series was held on 16 August (Friday) at L1, Institute of Chinese Studies, in two parts. The first lecture, titled "Figure Paintings of Ren Bonian", was delivered by ZHOU Jin (Associate Professor, Department of Fine Arts, CUHK). The second lecture, titled "Xu Beihong's Portrait of Ren Bonian", was delivered by Chan Fong Fong (PhD, Department of Fine Arts, CUHK). A total of 74 participants attended the first talk and 61 participants joined the second.

# "Learn.Play.Fun" Workshop

"Learn.Play.Fun" workshops were held by the Art Museum on Saturdays from June to August at Gallery II & III, as well as Foyer and Activities Room at the East Wing of the Art Museum. By means of guided tours, handicraft and games, the workshops aim at deepening the participants' understanding of the Shanghai school master, Ren Bonian, whose works were featured in the exhibition, "Strokes of Wonder: Figure Painting by Ren Bonian

from the National Art Museum of China". The two public sessions on 29 June (Saturday) and 6 July (Saturday) had attracted 57 participants in total; while the 7 sessions by group reservation boasted a total attendance of 167.

# **Art Hit**

Two bite-size "Art Hit" guided tours were led by Prof. Josh Yiu, Director of the Art Museum, at Gallery II & III, Art Museum on 5 July (Friday) and 16 August (Friday). They attracted 43 participants in total. During one of the tours, one participant presented her paintings which imitate Ren Bonaian's art pieces. Her enthusiasm for Chinese painting is remarkable.

**Ancient Chain Making Workshop** 

Chinese ancient chains made of precious metals are beautifully produced, but researches on their techniques are rare. "Ancient Chinese Gold Techniques" is a collaborative research project of the Art Museum of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Master Studio of Chow Tai Fook and other institutions. This pioneering multidisciplinary approach has helped recover several major ancient techniques.

The workshop, which was one of the deliverables of the research project, was divided into two sections. It began with a brief lecture by Dr. Sam Tong, Postdoctoral Fellow of the Art Museum, on the techniques of precious metal chain making in ancient China and how they reflect China's cultural exchanges

with other Eurasian regions. It was followed by a demonstration by Mr. Andy Tsang, an expert of jewelry production at Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Co., Ltd. Participants made silver bracelets using the recovered ancient method under the instruction of Mr. Tsang. With the 20 quotas filled in no time upon release, the two workshops were held on 14 July and 20 July at LOUPE, PMQ.

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### **Autumn Guqin Concert**

The Art Museum and Deyin Qin Society co-organised the "Autumn Guqin Concert" on 4 October (Friday) at Gallery I, attracting an audience of over 100. The ground floor and the stairs leading to the 1/F of the gallery were filled with members of audience. Everyone enjoyed the concert very much. Before the concert, a special guided tour was led by Dr. Ho Ka Yi, curator of the "The Bei Shan Tang Legacy: Chinese Painting" exhibition, offering visitors a deeper look into the art and the historical background of Chinese painting.



#### Art Museum Ambassador Scheme 2019–2020

At the orientation held on 15 October (Tuesday) at Activities Room, 2/F, East Wing, Art Museum, twenty-five university students selected as the new Art Museum Ambassadors were warmly welcomed by Prof. Josh Yiu, Director of the Art Museum. The students engaged in a lively and enthusiastic conversation with Prof. Yiu about the future development of the Art Museum and exchanged their ideas on the Art Museum Ambassador Scheme.



### 123 Learn.Play.Fun (Chinese Painting) Workshop

The "Learn.Play.Fun (Chinese Painting)" workshop was developed alongside the exhibition "The Bei Shan Tang Legacy: Chinese Painting" to educate the public about Chinese paintings through tours, games and handicraft work. The series of workshops are running from October to December, with two public sessions and five for group reservation held so far, serving 36 and 166 participants respectively. A total of 202 people from different walks of life participated in the workshops as of October 2019.



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Events of the Research Programme for Chinese Archaeology & Art

# **"Fire Gilding and Gold Inlay in Bronze Age" Public Lecture**

The Research Programme for Chinese Archaeology and Art of the Art Museum invited Prof. Yao Zhihui (School of History, Zhengzhou University) to offer a public lecture titled "Fire Gilding and Gold Inlay in Bronze Age". The lecture was held on 11 October (Friday) at L1, Institute of Chinese Studies of CUHK attracting an audience of 60.



## "China and the Wider World: Art and Material Culture of the Qin and Han Dynasties" public lecture

The Research Programme for Chinese Archaeology and Art of the Art Museum organised a public lecture titled "China and the Wider World: Art and Material Culture of the Qin and Han Dynasties" delivered by Dr. Sun Zhixin, Jason, Brooke Russell Astor Curator of Chinese Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The lecture was held on 28 October 14 (Monday) at LT2, Esther Lee Building, with an audience of around 40.



**Research Centre for Translation** 

## Stephen C. Soong Translation Studies Memorial Awards 2018–2019

Special Mention:

CUI Wendong (Department of Chinese and History, City University of Hong Kong)

"Translation, Nation, and Gender: Cultural Adaptations in Short Stories Translated by the Late-Qing Writer Tang Hongfu", *Bulletin of the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy*, No. 50 (March 2017, published in March 2018), pp. 1–35.

There are no winners for the standard awards.

# Universities Service Centre for China Studies

#### 1. Academic Seminars

Between July and October 2019, the Universities Service Centre for China Studies (USC) organised 7 luncheon seminars on topics of minorities, health care reform, urbanization, rural development, cross-strait relations, and labour rights, etc. The seminars attracted almost 200 participants, including local, Mainland and overseas undergraduates and postgraduates, scholars from various academic institutions, journalists, staff of non-governmental organizations, and members of the general public. Many insightful comments and questions were raised during the discussion sessions.

On 31 October, the centre and the Department of Government and Public Administration jointly organised a public lecture entitled "The Alienation of Enlightenment: The May 4th Centennial Festival", which was delivered by the renowned scholar, Professor Qin Hui.

### 2. International Symposium

Since the reform and opening up, China's economy has boomed along with social progress, achievements which have drawn the world's attention. However, the transformation of the economy and social structure has created all kinds of conflicts and problems. Since 2013, the Chinese government has repeatedly stressed the will to eradicate poverty, to improve people's livelihood, and to gradually achieve common prosperity. This involves the implementation of related policies to promote social development. China's decision-making policy is a collaborative effort among government, academia, think tanks, and the target group, in which academics and think tanks play an essential and irreplaceable role.

To promote academic exchanges and policy researches, the Universities Service Centre for China Studies of the Chinese University of Hong Kong has organized a series of seminars on Chinese Society and Policy. The theme of the fifth meeting is **"Retrospective and Prospective of China's Education System"**, which was held on 23 July 2019. We invited eight speakers from Mainland China and overseas, as well as Hong Kong–based scholars, who brought a more global and comparative dimension to discuss the current situation and future of Chinese society. They engaged in a dialogues with experts and general public on how to improve China's education system and policy with respect to the coverage of vulnerable groups, such as rural students, etc.

### **3. Documentary Screenings**

USC has been organising the documentary screening series "Reminiscence" since January 2016. The series aims at promoting documentaries on contemporary China, with a focus on folk history and real personages. On 20 September 2019, USC held a film screening event, *China Gate*, under Reminiscence Documentary Screening Series. Around 70 viewers joined this event.

Since October 2019, USC and the Hong Kong-America Center co-organised a film screening series, Assignment China, which was produced by the U.S.-China Institute at the University of Southern California on the history of American correspondents in China from 1945 to the present day. Written and narrated by former CNN Beijing Bureau Chief and Senior Asia Correspondent Mike Chinoy, Assignment China is a vivid introduction to 70 years of political, economic and social changes through the eyes of the reporters who covered the country.

The first screening, *China Watching*, was held on 23 October and the second screening, *The Week That Changed the World*, was held on 6 November. The event also included a very productive dialogue with director Mike Chinoy.

# Journals

#### Journal of Chinese Studies, no.69

Number 69 (July 2019) of the *Journal of Chinese Studies* has just been published. It contains 5 articles, 8 book reviews and spans 240 pages.

#### Articles

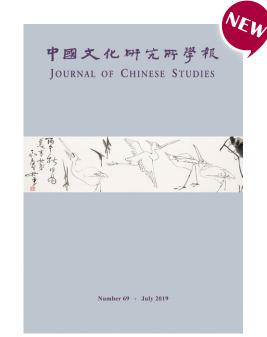
- 1. Son Kizen, "Seeking the Roots of Early Guaqi Thoughts"
- 2. Lu Chia Hui, 'The Construction of Cultural Fluorescence: Zhang Yue's "Huangdi zai Luzhou xiangrui song shijiu shou" and Discourse on the Sage King'
- 3. Uganda Sze Pui Kwan, "From Print to Spin: The Portraitures of Robert Morrison (1782–1834)"
- 4. Tam Ka-chai, "A Biographical Study on Tan Xueheng, the Last Naval Minister of the Qing Empire"
- 5. Connie Ho-yee Kwong, "The Left-wing Internationalism in the Context of European and Asian Wars: Barbusse's *Le Feu* and Its Chinese Translation by Ye Lingfeng"

#### **Book Reviews**

- 1. Matthew W. Mosca, "Forging the Golden Urn: The Qing Empire and the Politics of Reincarnation in Tibet. By Max Oidtmann"
- 2. Thomas Michael, "Dao' and Sign in History: Daoist Arche-Semiotics in Ancient and Medieval China. By Daniel Fried"
- 3. Edward Rhoads, "Inside the World of the Eunuch: A Social History of the Emperor's Servants in Qing China. By Melissa S. Dale"
- 4. Johan Elverskog, "Morality and Monastic Revival in Post-Mao Tibet. By Jane E. Caple"
- 5. Daniel L. Overmyer, "In the Wake of the Mongols: The Making of a New Social Order in North China, 1200–1600. By Jinping Wang"
- 6. Tobie Meyer-Fong, "Ink and Tears: Memory, Mourning, and Writing in the Yu Family. By Rania Huntington"
- 7. Dorothy C. Wong, "Authentic Replicas: Buddhist Art in Medieval China. By Hsueh-man Shen"
- 8. Ho Hon Wai, "A Companion to Chinese History. Edited by Michael Szonyi"

For more details, please visit the *Journal of Chinese Studies* website: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/journal/eng/journal.html





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#### *Twenty-First Century* Bimonthly (Issue 174, August 2019), Research Centre for Contemporary Chinese Culture

The topic for the *Twenty-First Century Review* (issue 174) is The Challenges and Opportunities of China's Demographic Deficit. Two scholars contribute their articles to explore the topic:

"Demographic Deficit and China's Economic Growth" by Su Jian and Kang Jian "The Aging Population in China: Current Situation, Challenges, and Solutions" by Yang Ju-hua

Four research articles are published in this issue:

"Men's Emotional and Behavioral Reactions to the Practice of China's Marriage Law: A Case Study of Henan Province (1950–1953)" by Ren Yao-xing

"Reflections on the Regional Variance of Industrial Transformation in Jiangsu Province, 1952–2003 (Part I)" by You Wu-yue, Li Fei-yue, Zhang Qi, and Liu Ming-xing

"The Cultural Cold War in Hong Kong: *Chinese Student Weekly* and the Asia Foundation, 1950-1970 (Part II)" by Poshek Fu

"The Shanghai Association of Counter-Restoration: A Case Study of Left-Wing Extremists during the Chinese Cultural Revolution (Part II)" by Dong Guo-qiang and Fan Jian-zheng



#### *Twenty-First Century* Bimonthly (Issue 175, October 2019), Research Centre for Contemporary Chinese Culture

The topic for the *Twenty-First Century Review* (issue 175) is Seventy Years of the People's Republic of China. Three essays provide in-depth studies on the topic:

"Constitutional Issues under the Party-State of the People's Republic of China" by He Bao-gang

"The Looming Party-State and the Fading Virtuous Globalization" by James Guan-zhong Wen

"The Rise of China and the Prospect of Global Comparative Politics" by Wang Zheng-xu

Four research articles are published in this issue:

"'To Be a Good Party Member': The Everyday Politics of the Party Member Training Class in Beijing Suburbs in 1950" by An Shao-fan

"From 'Participatory Mobilization' to 'Command Mobilization': On the Anti-Concealment Campaign in Baise District of Guangxi" by Wang Li-jian

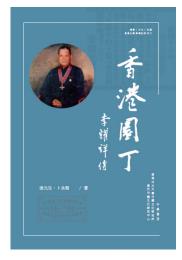
"The Construction of Class Struggle in the Four Cleanups Movement: A Study on the 'Taoyuan Experience'" by Wang Hai-guang

"Reflections on the Regional Variance of Industrial Transformation in Jiangsu Province, 1952–2003 (Part II)" by You Wu-yue, Li Fei-yue, Zhang Qi, and Liu Ming-xing

For the issues' content, please visit the *Twenty-First Century* Bimonthly website: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/21c/.

#### NEW PUBLICATIONS

# Books



#### *Lee Iu Cheong: A Gardener of Hong Kong,* Research Centre for Contemporary Chinese Culture

Our research project "Commerce, Culture, and Community: A Biographical Series" published its eighth book of the series. Centre Director Professor Leung Yuen Sang and our Research Associate by Courtesy, Professor Puk Wing Kin, co-authored the book. Since the 1920s, Lee Yu Kee, founded by Lee Iu Cheong, has been one of Hong Kong's major water closet and sanitary ware engineering companies, making a significant contribution to the improvement of urban hygiene in Hong Kong. This book describes the life of Lee Iu Cheong, how he built and operated his business kingdom, and how he reformed the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and committed himself to other community services, such as the Hong Kong Anti-Tuberculosis Association.

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#### The Bei Shan Tang Legacy: Chinese Painting, Art Museum

This three-volume exhibition catalogue features 120 ancient Chinese paintings donated or loaned to the Art Museum, CUHK, by the Bei Shan Tang. It includes entries and 10 essays written by the faculty, alumni and graduate students of the Department of Fine Arts, CUHK. This bilingual catalogue also comes with plates in full colour and the transcription of all inscriptions, colophons and seals of the exhibited paintings.







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- 2. From Mysticism to Verisimilitude: The Development of Travel Landscape in Early to Mid-Ming Dynasty Jiang Fang-ting
- 3. Modelling on Spirit over Form: Chinese Paintings in the Bei Shan Tang Collection Phil Chan
- 4. Bird-and-flower Paintings in the Bei Shan Tang Collection and Chinese Literati Philosophy Sarah Ng

- 5. Paintings of Deities for Observing Birthdays in the Ming Dynasty Ho Ka-yi
- Depicting Likeness and Picturing Trueness: Two Paintings in the Bei Shan Tang Collection Harold Mok
- 7. Caressing Flowers Steeped My Clothes in Fragrance: "Fragrant Shadows at Luofu" in Female Figure Paintings Chen Fong-fong
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- 10. Wen Chu's Art Agents and Their Creation of Her Artistic Persona Sylvia Lee
- II. Catalogue Entries
- III. Texts, Colophons and Seals

#### **Editorial Board Committee**

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