

Quarter/Year

Fall 2015

Course Number

ART-HIST 480

Day/Time

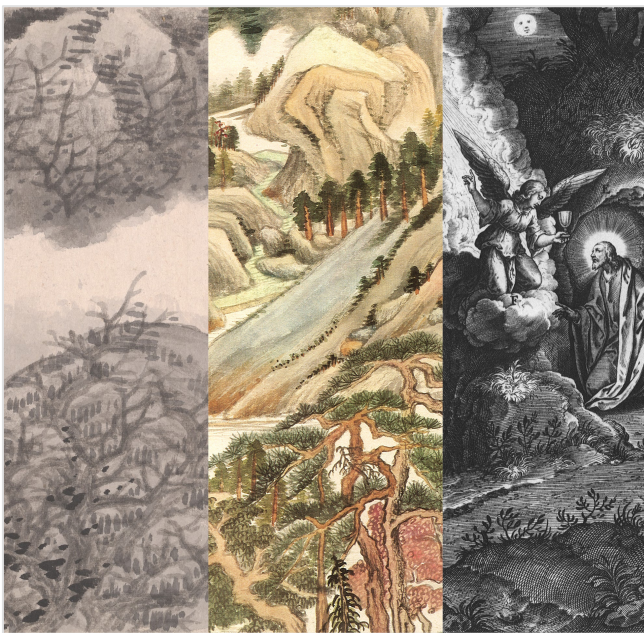
W 2:00-5:00

Instructor

Hu

Course Title

Studies in Asian Art: Currents: Painting in Seventeenth-Century China



This seminar examines one of the most vibrant episodes in the history of Chinese painting, a period that is diverse not only in stylistic expressions, but also in the social and discursive forces that came to bear on painting practice and theory. During this period in China, painting as an artistic practice came to acquire a status that mirrors its modern counterpart, both in its potentials and the problems it posed. Some of the questions we shall ask include: How do we understand stylistic choices when contact with Europe has tipped, once and for all, the balance between naturalism and abstraction for Chinese painters? What was “new” about intense efforts to engage with “old” master styles? What was “new” about painterly expressions that deliberately shunned such revivalist efforts? How do we account for artistic practice in a time of great upheaval? What is a political reading of painting, and what is a painted expression of politics? Finally, what

are the benefits and pitfalls of studying *la longue durée* of the Chinese seventeenth century vis-à-vis dynastic divisions or other historical schemes?

Knowledge of Chinese art is not required. We will begin with a brief historiographical survey of Chinese painting. Reading materials will be in European languages.

Required Textbooks

Assessments