



Connectedness and Cosmopolitanism in Modern Chinese Art

Professor Dr. Craig Clunas



Friday, 15th September 2017, 17:00–18:30
Aula, Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zurich (RAA-G-01)

The lecture will examine some of the problems around 'Chinese art' as a distinct category, and in particular the ways in which these problems intensify when we come to consider the early 20th century. One of these problems comes from the development of art historical 'Big Data', the kinds of databases and other digital resources which simply make so much more material available to us. Taking 1928 as a case study, the lecture will look at some of the forms of connectedness around the art of this single year, and the demands which that art makes on us for a more cosmopolitan approach to the subject. By dealing equally with artists who are part of the canon of 'modern Chinese art' and with those who are totally forgotten, the lecture will attempt to argue for a less narrow story of art in modern China.

Craig Clunas is Professor of the History of Art at the University of Oxford. He previously taught at the University of Sussex and the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He worked as a curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum for nearly fifteen years, and in 2014 he co-curated the British Museum exhibition *Ming: 50 Years that Changed China*. His publications include several monographs on the art of the Ming dynasty as well as Chinese art in the twentieth century. His most recent book, based on the 2012 Mellon lectures delivered at the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC, is entitled *Chinese Painting and its Audiences* (2017).

This lecture is open to the public and will be followed by a small reception. For questions, please contact the Section for East Asian Art History: kgoa@khist.uzh.ch