Lecture Abstract

This lecture examines the little-known writings and photographs of members of the Beijing Guangshe (The Beijing Light Society), the first fine-art photographic society established at Beijing University during the late 1920s. It then considers subsequent developments in Shanghai among participants of fine-art photographic societies such as the Zhonghua shying xueshe or Huashe (The China Photographic Study Society) and the Heibai yingshe (The Black & White Photography Society) active there in the 1930s.

Richard Kent

Dr. Richard K. Kent is Professor of Art History at Franklin & Marshall College, where he teaches courses in East Asian archaeology and art history and in the history of photography. He received his B.A. in English literature from Oberlin College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Chinese art and archaeology from Princeton University. He has published articles on facets of medieval Chinese painting history, especially the Buddhist subject of lohans (senior disciples of the Buddha) from the Song to the Ming dynasties. His current area of research concerns early 20th-century Chinese photography; the first of a series of articles on this topic, "Fine-Art Amateur Photography in Republican-Period Shanghai: From Pictorialism to Modernism," is forthcoming in Bridges to Heaven: Essays on East Asian Art in Honor of Professor Wen C. Fong (Princeton University Press). Most recently he co-edited (with Christopher Zhu) the catalogue, Embracing the Uncarved Wood: Sculptural Reliefs from Shandong, China (2009), to accompany an exhibition at Franklin & Marshall's Phillips Museum of Art; the exhibition, supported by a grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, will also be shown at Drexel University's Leonard Pealstein Gallery in the fall of 2009.

Contact

For more information contact Jeffrey Chan or call (614) 247-6893.