Made In China: Ming to Mass Market & Ming Ren: Mysterious Ink World

October 19–December 14*, 2012

Presenting ceramic ware primarily from the 18th century to the present, “Made in China: Ming to Mass Market” invites viewers to contemplate the porcelain tradition in high art and the mass market. Curator Ellen Huang, Ph.D., Kiriyama Teaching Fellow at USF’s Center for the Pacific Rim, explains that despite the prevalence of the popular pun connecting china dishware to China, the history of porcelain from China has always been a global phenomenon. Its extensive trade allowed for a sharing of techniques and aesthetics between China and Europe, Iran, Japan and elsewhere in Asia. This exhibition, showcasing a number of pieces from the Asian Art Museum alongside pieces from Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, the Instituto Nacional de Anthropologia y Historia and a private collector, highlights the importance of this phenomenon in the history of porcelain and ceramics in general.

The coinciding exhibit, “Ming Ren: Mysterious Ink World,” features large-scale abstract canvas paintings by Chinese-trained artist Ming Ren. Using ink and pigments, these paintings take traditional Chinese calligraphy and brush painting in new directions that “hover between a traditional Zen art form and Western art of the twentieth century.” Ming Ren is a professor and special assistant to the President for China Affairs for the San Francisco Art Institute and California College of Arts. His award-winning works have exhibited internationally, including at the Florence Biennial International Exhibition in Contemporary Art and the Huantie Time Art Museum in Beijing. The San Francisco Asian Art Museum has three of his works in its permanent collection.

Exhibition Resources

- Made In China & Ming Ren Brochure
- Aesthetic Journeys (A Study of Influence)

Please note that the Thacher Gallery will have slightly limited hours during this exhibition: Sun 12 noon–11 pm, Mon-Thurs 8 am–11 pm, Fri 8 am–8 pm, Sat 10 am–8 pm. The gallery will close at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 21 and will remain closed through Friday, November 23. On Thursday, December 13, the gallery will close at 9 p.m. On Friday, December 14, the gallery will close at 6 p.m.

*Lecture by Curator Dr. Ellen Huang & Artist Ming Ren
Tuesday, October 23 | 2:45–3:45 p.m. | 250 McLaren Hall, followed by a reception in Thacher Gallery.

*Tour and reception with Curator Dr. Ellen Huang
Monday, November 5 | 12–1 p.m. | Thacher Gallery. Presented by the USF Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History

*This is an earlier closing date than originally publicized.