



Exhibition: **Collection of Painted Fans from Guangzhou Museum of Art**

IVAM, Institut Valencia d'Art Modern
17th September – 25th October 2009

Curator: Chen Wei An (Head Conservator of Guangzhou Museum of Art)

Organised by: Guangzhou Museum of Art)

IVAM (Institut Valencia d'Art Modern)

This exhibition is the result of the collaboration agreement between the IVAM and Guangzhou Museum of Art, which showed part of the collection of the IVAM last year in *The Blacksmiths' Alchemy* and now brings its collection of painted fans to Valencia, where it will be displayed in the Sala of the Muralla until 25th October.

The exhibition comprises 62 pieces from the Ming and Qing dynasties and the modern and contemporary eras that form part of the collection of the Guangzhou Museum of Art, including works by many prestigious painters such as Ju Lian, master of Gao Jianfu and Chen Shuren, founders of the Lignan school, which became very famous during the Qing dynasty; Ren Yi (alias Ren Bonian) and his follower Wu Changshuo, both important exponents of the Shanghai school at the end of the Qing dynasty, along with Zhang Daqian, whose fame spread all over the world in the 20th century. And although some of the other authors are less well known, their works represent to perfection the breadth and depth of Chinese calligraphy and painting. These pieces had never been exhibited outside China until now: this is the first time they have been shown abroad.

Originally calligraphy and painting on the cloth or vellum backing of fans was only considered an artistic way of writing or painting on ordinary everyday objects. It later began to be considered art and became a collector's item.

Two kinds of fans became popular in traditional China, rigid round palm fans and folding ones. The rigid ones are also known as *Gong* or *Wan* and in ancient times were an artefact only used by ladies belonging to high society as a status symbol. They were made of silk and precious materials. Folding fans were called *Jutou*, *Zhedie* or *Sa* and were popular among noblemen and intellectuals; the painted part was made of paper and the guards and sticks were made of plain materials like bamboo.

In time, the pieces that conserved their ribbing and therefore their functionality became known as "folding fans", and the ones that were mounted on leaves of albums or books were called "rigid fans" and were considered collectors' items.

Folding fans have a long history. After they appeared and began to be used in the Eastern Jin dynasty (317-429 AD), it became common practice to write and paint on them. Later, during the Song dynasty (960-1279 AD), rigid fans remained in the mainstream and their decorations dictated the painting style of the court.

Folding fans from Japan and Korea appeared during the Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279 AD). During the Ming dynasty (1368-1644 AD), folding fans made of paper on which functionaries and the nobility liked to write their ideas and thoughts grew in popularity.

During the Qing dynasty (1644-1911 AD, the last before the proclamation of the republic), folding fans began to be considered collectors' items. At the beginning of the 20th century, Chinese culture underwent drastic change and Chinese fans were used less and less frequently in daily life. Nevertheless, a considerable number of 20th century painters continued to apply traditional calligraphy and painting to fans. Their results show us that Chinese artists like to experiment by applying new techniques to an ancestral art form.

General information for visitors

Address: Guillem de Castro, 118
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Timetable: Tuesday – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Closed on Mondays

Telephone: +34 96 386 30 00
Fax: +34 96 392 10 94

Website: www.ivam.es
Email: ivam@ivam.es

Admission: General: €2.00
Students / Carnet Jove: €1,00
Senior citizens: free
Cultural or civil groups (by appointment): Free
Other groups: €1,05 per head
Disabled: free
Sundays: free

How to get there

Buses: No. 5 (others that leave you close by: 8, 28, 29, 79, 80, 81 & 95)

Underground: Lines 4 & 1

Shop & bookshop

Catalogues, books, posters, postcards and gifts
Telephone for further information: 96-3910596
Fax: 96-3153447
ivam@aldeasa.es

Café

Open from Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Telephone: 96 374 66 65

Restaurant La Sucursal

Open from Monday to Friday from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. and 8.30 to 11.30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays at midday and Sundays
Telephone for bookings: 96 374 66 65