

Einladung zum Gastvortrag

Ricarda Brosch

Assistant Curator, China | Victoria & Albert Museum

The Art of Imperial Afterlife: The Western Qing Tombs (*Xiling*)

Donnerstag, 18.01.2024, 16–18 Uhr ct.

Raum Hörsaal B, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Koserstr. 20, 14195 Berlin



Emperors and empresses are known to have spent a significant amount of time and resource designing their mausoleums. Elaborate burials sought to establish a realm in which death approximated life. Final resting places often rivalled and even surpassed the palaces the imperial families lived in. The Qing rulers were no exception, with three tomb complexes – one in Shenyang and two on the outskirts of Beijing – evidencing these grand endeavours.

This presentation will explore the patronage of architecture, art, and material culture made possible by emperors, empresses, and other members of the

imperial family who traced their imperial lineage through the Aisin Gioro clan. As these individuals and their entourages ventured in pilgrimage to their ancestral burial sites, they left a stream of imperial gifts and sacrifices in their wake. Focusing primarily on the site of the most recent of the Qing tombs – those built west of the Forbidden City named *Xiling* (lit. Western Tombs) – this talk details the ways in which the Western Qing Tombs have been altered and adapted across time as a way of bringing together the living and the dead.

Ricarda Brosch

Ricarda is currently pursuing a part-time PhD on the architecture, art, and material culture of the western Qing tombs, Xiling. Her research is generously funded by CHASE (AHRC).