

Einladung zum Gastvortrag

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Envisioning an Ideal World: *The City of Great Peace* and Visual Politics in Early Nineteenth-Century Korea

Donnerstag, 07.07.2022, 18–20 Uhr ct.

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The City of Great Peace, currently in the National Museum of Korea, is a spectacular eight-panel screen presenting a peaceful, economically affluent environment with thriving commercial districts. It shows an auspicious image of good governance. Ironically, however, when this screen was painted, the Joseon court was in crisis during a period of social unrest and disorder. The severe famines of 1809 and 1810 and the Hong Gyeongnae Rebellion of 1811–12 led to the rapid decline of the dynasty. It is still a mystery why *The City of Great Peace* was commissioned and for what purpose the screen served at a time of political turmoil and social disruption. While examining the screen in detail, this talk explores how images of good governance functioned in East Asia and what inspired their production. The significance of these types of images will be discussed within the larger context of social and political transformations



Unidentified artist, *The City of Great Peace*, early nineteenth century.
Detail. National Museum of Korea

Chin-Sung CHANG is professor in the Department of Archaeology and Art History at Seoul National University. He received his bachelor's degree in art history from Seoul National University, an MA from Columbia, and a Ph.D. in Chinese art history from Yale. He has co-authored *Landscapes Clear and Radiant: The Art of Wang Hui (1632-1717)* and *Art of the Korean Renaissance, 1400-1600*, and *Diamond Mountains: Travel and Nostalgia in Korean Art*. He was both a Jane and Morgan Whitney Fellow in 2005–2006 and an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in 2013–2014 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He is currently working on monographs on the renowned Chinese artist Ni Zan (1301–1374), one of the “Four Great Masters of the Late Yuan Period,” and the eminent Korean painter Jeong Seon (1676-1759).