



A work of art, when given as a gift or offered during a tense moment of political uncertainty, could be an “instrument of diplomatic persuasion, even of seduction” and thus function effectively as a “mute diplomat,” replying upon shared codes of visual communication.

Nancy Um and Leah R. Clark, “Introduction. The Art of Embassy: Situating Objects and Images in the Early Modern Diplomatic Encounter.”



Museum für Asiatische Kunst

June 28 and 29, 2019
Takustraße 40
14195 Berlin
Small Lecture Hall

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The Art of Diplomacy: Material Culture and the Practice of Gift Exchanges in the Late Joseon Dynasty





About the workshop

The Art of Diplomacy: Material Culture and the Practice of Gift Exchange in the Late Joseon Dynasty is jointly supported by the Academy of Korean Studies and the division of East-Asian Art History at Freie Universität. The workshop explores the political significance of diplomatic gifts and the act of gift-giving and receiving as a social convention and ritual protocol, the role of art as a gift, the social networks built upon gift-exchange, and the multiple agents involved throughout the process. Focusing on the role played by gifts as a part of diplomatic and cultural encounters in Sino-Korean and Korean-Japanese relationships during the Joseon era, as well as exchanges with Western countries in the early twentieth century, this workshop examines gift-exchange practices and images of gift-exchanges in addition to the gifts themselves.

June 28, 2029

10:00-10:30

Welcome address: Jeong-hee Lee-Kalisch Introduction:
Yoonjung Seo

10:30-12:00 Panel I Korea and China

Chair: Burglind Jungmann

Eunjoo Jeong: The Documentary Paintings and Activities of Painters who Accompanied Tributary Embassies to China

Yoonjung Seo: Art, Science, and Exotica: Diplomatic Gifts from China to Korea in the 18th Century

Soojin Kim: Folded Messages to be sent Outside: A Study of Folding Screens of the Joseon Dynasty as Diplomatic Gifts to Foreign Countries

12:00-13:30 Lunch (on invitation)

13:30-15:45 Panel II Korea and Japan

Chair: Annegret Bergmann

Burglind Jungmann: Patterns of Shared Elite Identity: 'Literati' Exchange between Joseon Korea and Edo Japan

Eunsoon Park: The Visual Power of Gifts Exchanged between Korea and Japan in the 18th Century

14:30-14:45 Coffee Break

Koichi Igarashi: Diplomatic Message in the Folding Screen: Chinzei Hachirō Folding Screen (1711)

Miyeon Jung: Diplomacy with Screen Painting: Efforts to Break Down Prejudice against Japan

15:45-16:15 Coffee Break

6:15-17:45 Panel III Korea, Europe and America

Chair: Ching-ling Wang

Jeong-hee Lee-Kalisch: Lotus and Birds: Approaching a Rediscovered Embroidered Silk Screen Panel in Hamburg

Joohyun Lee: Gift from Joseon Court to Möllendorff: The Art Historical Meaning of the Möllendorff Collection in Grassi Museum Leipzig

Ji-Young Park: Joseon Diplomatic Gifts in Europe and America: Between Knowledge Source and Decorative Art

18:30 Dinner (on invitation)

June 29, 2019

10:00-11:30 Panel V East Asia and Europe

Chair: Yoonjung Seo

Ching-ling Wang: The Dutch Embassy to the Chinese Court in 1667 and the Kangxi Emperor

Yu-Chih Lai: Joining the Global Court Society: New "Art" of Diplomacy in the Qianlong Court

Ying-chen Peng: Medal, Boxes of Food and Her Majesty's Artworks: Imperial Gifts in Late Qing Diplomatic Encounters

11:30-12:30

Final Discussion

13:00-14:30 Lunch (on invitation)