



The Orchid Pavilion gathering: Chinese painting from the University of Michigan Museum of Art

Marshall Pei-sheng Wu

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The Chinese painting collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Art includes works ranging from the twelfth century to the present, representing the rich tradition and evolution of painting in China. "The Orchid Pavilion Gathering" focuses on 60 selected works, including relevant historical data, vital biographical material on the artists, and thorough stylistic analyses of the paintings. It addresses the complex questions of authentication and connoisseurship in Chinese painting, and includes transcripts and translations of all colophons, inscriptions, and seals. Each painting is reproduced in color. Extensive and detailed footnotes, often including original sources and translations, are located in the second volume. The title, "Orchid Pavilion Gathering", is taken from a famous episode in Chinese history, which documents an early spring celebration by a group of scholars during the Tsin dynasty (317-419). One of the most enduring themes in Chinese painting, this legendary literary gathering is the subject of one of one of the Museum's finest works, an elegant scroll by the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) painter Sheng Mao-yeh. The book includes rare works from the Ming and Ch'ing dynasties, and detailed entries explore the complex developments and inter-relationships of the major schools and styles of these periods.

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