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STELLINGEN

Writing Chinese Art History in Early Twentieth-Century China

Hui Guo

1. Unlike in Western countries, where nineteenth-century social progress contributed so much to art history's florescence, Chinese society in the first half of the twentieth century did not fully sustain the conditions necessary for the discipline's maturity.
2. Art's ancient past in China was reinvented by Chinese experts during the early twentieth century to transform the field of Chinese art history into a modern discipline.
3. In most art historical writing in late Qing and Republican China, the three forces of Western art historical scholarship, Japanese art studies on China, and traditional art historical treatises offered native and foreign dimensions with which to establish a modern Chinese field of art history.
4. Practices of exhibiting ancient art objects in the 1920s and '30s gained definition through the emergence of a new public concept of art, and they generated a new story of art in China.
5. Ideas of a thorough revolution in the realm of Chinese art emerged alongside the various social, political, and cultural activities of Westernization in the 1910s and '20s. As powerful as the achievements of Westernizers may have appeared to artists and critics, traditional rather than Western-style painting continued to dominate the art market of China.
6. Recent studies of contemporary Chinese art trace its roots to the Republican period. This period is crucial for art historians to understand how native and foreign elements were integrated in both the production and historiography of Chinese art.
7. The field of Chinese painting separated into Western-style painting and traditional painting at the turn of the twentieth century, and this separation endures even now.
8. Future scholarly enquiries into Chinese art history will observe more balance in their emphasis on the ancient, modern and contemporary periods.
9. Studying abroad provides distance and clearer view with which one can appreciate one's own culture.
10. To enjoy cooking benefits both one's friends and oneself.