

Center for Chinese Art at William Paterson University

William Paterson University has sought funding to support the first phase in the advancement of a Center for Chinese Art at William Paterson University. These funds will provide support for the first two years of operational costs for the activities described below. Operational costs will include a graduate assistant, visiting artist expenses, exhibition expenses, stipends for students participating in *Summer Art in China Program*, and publicity.

Overview

The University seeks to establish a Center for Chinese Art. The proposed program endeavors to:

- Integrate the richness of Chinese art into our curriculum
- Provide students with opportunities to view Chinese art and learn techniques that are incorporated into Chinese art
- Create a location dedicated to the appreciation of Chinese art in northern New Jersey
- Cultivate a deeper understanding between United States and Chinese residents

Background

Summer Art in China

The Summer Art in China program, offered by the Department of Art at William Paterson University, provides students with the opportunity to participate in a carefully organized study tour focused on viewing and investigating the complexities of China using the visual arts as the lens through which the experience is focused. This tour gives students the opportunity to study with actual Chinese artists and lecturers and to learn about new and old characteristics of Chinese culture, in general and art, in particular. Course credit is earned along with an invaluable cultural immersion experience. The Summer Art in China program has been in existence since summer 2001. This study abroad program offers five weeks of intensive classes (two weeks prior to departure at the WPU campus) with faculty both American and Chinese universities.

During three trips between 2001 and 2008, the tour explored cultural locations in Beijing, Xian, Luoyang, Kaifeng, Hefei, Yellow Mountain, Nanjing, Yangzhou, Nantong, Suzhou, and Shanghai. The program established study and educational bases with National Art Museum of China in Beijing, Xian Province Fine Arts museum, Anhui University in Hefei, Nanjing Arts Institute in Nanjing, Yangzhou University in Yangzhou, Nantong Chinese Art Institute in Nantong, Suzhou University in Suzhou. The tours has included different lectures and demonstrations from artists in China and enabled students to view Asian culture with new perspectives. Students were able to absorb elements from different cultural traditions and different period of Chinese history. At the conclusion of the tours, the faculty and students produced a book in each trip, Summer

Art in China 2001, 2005, 2008, featuring essays and photographs focusing on the art, culture, education, and the history and content of China's cultural institutions, including museums.

Chinese Ink-Painting Course

William Paterson's course in traditional Chinese ink painting is the only one its kind in the United States, for undergraduate and graduate students. It is not a course of Chinese art history, but a course of application of Chinese artistic theories in artistic practice. Emphasis is placed on painting materials, techniques, and a cultivation of specific artistic tastes in the appreciation of the Chinese painting. This course provides students the opportunity to study various characteristics of the Chinese painting. In the future, the program could expand to include courses in Chinese Drawing, Chinese Color Painting, Chinese Calligraphy, Chinese Woodblock Printing and Chinese Art History.

Professor Cong

William Paterson is fortunate to have Professor Zhiyuan Cong to lead this effort. Professor Cong was born in Nantong, China and worked in the local rice fields during the Cultural Revolution. He was educated at the Nanjing Arts Institute where he became a professor of art and later assumed the same role at William Paterson University. Cong is a painter, printmaker, historian and teacher. Professor Cong's work is highly-sought by art collectors.

Activities Proposed for the Center for China Art

Courses in Chinese Art

The academic curriculum will be scheduled by Department of Art by offering courses in Chinese art techniques such as ink painting and calligraphy. It is planned that new courses will be developed that demonstrate various traditional and contemporary Chinese Art techniques.

Chinese Art Exhibits

Exhibition will be one of the important activities in the Center. Exhibitions will be arranged and organized to provide more opportunities for students to learn about both art and culture. They will showcase the high-quality and unique production of William Paterson faculty and student artists. The center will curate Chinese art exhibitions from various artists and display them in the Ben Shahn Art Center Galleries of William Paterson University in New Jersey and perhaps arrange for tour the other universities in America. Subsequently, an exhibition catalogue with an introduction to the exhibition themes and interpretive essays on the history, culture, and arts of the period or region, will be published in both English and Chinese. Conferences or lectures will be presented and receptions will be hosted during these exhibitions.

Visiting Artist Exchange/Adjunct Faculty

Visiting artists will be invited to participate in exhibitions, lectures and demonstrations. Such an exchange will establish reciprocity with artists and other universities to promote future intellectual and artistic exchange in Chinese art and culture.

Dedicated Chinese Art and Culture Web Pages

It is planned to establish a strong web presence as a cost-effective method of sharing the activities of the Chinese Arts program with the University community and beyond to an international audience. Images and recordings can be displayed and events can be advertised and reviewed. Additionally, a Web presence will help establish credibility and attract interest and participation from new audiences who seek an appreciation of the art of China.

Planning

It is proposed that the Center for Chinese Art will be developed over six years during which there will be three planning phases

Phase 1: Fall 2009 – Summer 2011

- Establish a Center for Chinese Art (09/09/09)
- To review and strengthen the existing Chinese art courses/programs at WPUNJ
- Develop additional Chinese Art course to the curriculum
- Establish an Advisory Committee
- Determine the full scope of the Center and plan for future development
- In Spring 2011, review the outcome of the Center's development to date and write the proposal for second period

Phase 2: Fall 2011 – Summer 2013

- Celebrate the accomplishments of Center for Chinese Art
- Implement programmatic aspects planned for Phase 2
- Develop proposals for an endowment and other donations to support longevity of the Center
- In Spring 2013, review the outcome of the Center's development to date and write the proposal for third period

Phase 3: Fall 2013 – Summer 2017

- Implement programmatic aspects planned for Phase 3
- Develop proposals for grants and donations to support longevity of the Center
- In Spring 2017, review the outcome of the Center's development to date and write the proposal for future periods

Proposed activities for Phase 1

Fall 2009 – Summer 2010

1. Develop dedicated Center for Chinese Art web page within WPUNJ web site

2. Offer ARTS 323/ARTS 423/ARTS 523 Chinese Ink Painting

Mon/Wed 2:00 p.m.- 4:30 p.m., Fall 2009.

3. Visiting Artist Lecture and Demonstration at Power Art

November 11, 2009 – Master Painter, SHEN Guangyao

Jiangsu Province Painting and Sculpture Institute, Nanjing, China

- Demonstration: Monotype of drawing and color painting by Chinese artist
 - 11:00am – 1:00pm
Presentation: The influence of Western traditional drawing and color in modern Chinese art
 - 2:30pm – 4:30pm, November 11, 2009.

4. Visiting Artist Demonstrations and Lectures at Power Art

March 8, 2010

- CHENG Dali, Chef editor of National Chinese Art, Beijing
- FAN Yang, Dean of Art College, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing
- TIAN Liming, Chair of Chinese Painting Department, China Central Art Academy, Beijing
- WANG Huangsheng, Director of Guangzhou Art Museum, Guangdong
March 8, 2010
 - Demonstration: Chinese ink painting – landscape painting; birds of flowers
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 - Lecture and Presentation: The Unity and Opposition to Tradition in Today's Chinese Art
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

5. Write, edit and publish a Chinese ink painting textbook

Summer 2010

Qi Baishi: The Soul of the Chinese Ink Painting by Cong Zhiyuan

With encouragement and support from our donors, Prof. Cong will compile an album of selected paintings of Qi Baishi with a study of his life and art. With his thirty-year teaching experience in Chinese painting, both in China and in the United States, Professor Cong has prepared an analysis and study of Qi Baishi, with emphasis on his place in the history of Chinese freehand flower and bird painting, on the process of his maturity as an artistic master, and on the technical and aesthetic characteristics of his art. To provide a focus and guide for readers who are interested in learning Chinese painting, Professor Cong has selected only paintings of flowers and birds. Within this selection,

significant attention will be given to various subjects and styles. It is hoped that this volume will be a reference book and textbook for scholars and students to enjoy and study Chinese ink painting.

Fall 2010 - Summer 2011

1. Chinese Art Exhibition from the Nantong Chinese Art Institute

October 25- November 24, 2010. South Gallery at Ben Shaun.

- Chinese Scroll Ink Painting Exhibition in Ben Shaun Art Gallery
 - Artists: KANG Rong, Flower painter, HOU Dejian, figurative painter
ZHU Jiangzhong, landscape painter, DONG Chenwei, calligrapher
- Prepare exhibition catalog
- Lectures and presentation; to be developed

2. Offer ARTS 399: A special topic on Chinese ink Painting

An intensive Chinese ink painting workshop for graduate and undergraduate students by visiting artists from Nantong Arts Institute.

October 10, 2010 - November 10, 2010

3. Offer Chinese Ink Painting ARTS 323/423/523

Mon/Wed 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Spring 2011.

4. WPUNJ Summer Art in China, Summer 2011

- Study Abroad Program, May 27 – June 18, 2011 (6 credits)
- Catalogue-journal: *Summer Art in China* – 2011, August 2011