



THE FREER HOUSE

An International Landmark... A World Class Lecture Series



71 East Ferry, Detroit, MI 48202
313-664-2500



Charles Lang Freer and his Adventures in Chinese Art Collecting

Sunday, Dec 2, 2018, 2:00 PM

LECTURE BY

Daisy Yiyou Wang, PhD
The Robert N. Shapiro Curator
of Chinese and East Asian Art,
Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA



at the
Detroit Institute of Arts
Marvin and Betty Danto Lecture Hall
Lecture is FREE with DIA admission

3:30-5 PM RECEPTION & TOURS
at the
Charles Lang Freer House
71 East Ferry St., Detroit MI

\$10 General Admission
\$5 Students
\$5 FAAC and Freer House Members
No RSVP required, please pay at the door

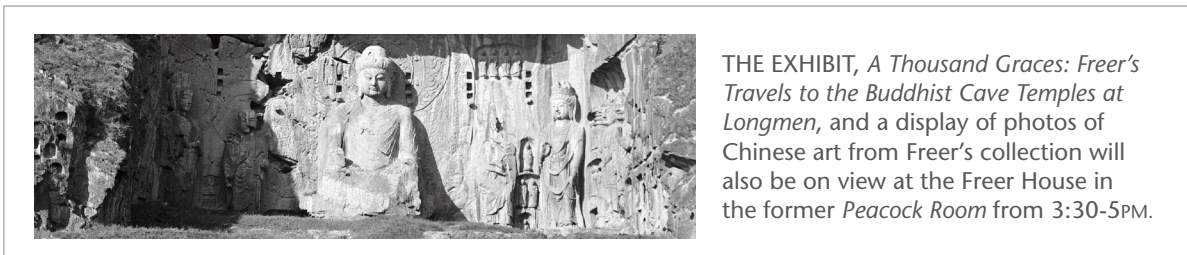
This community partner event is part of the year long celebration of the Nov. 4, 2018 opening of the DIA's new Robert and Katherine Jacobs Asian Wing. For more info contact Rose Foster at 313-664-2509



Charles Lang Freer poses with Claire Dallam, wife of US Army Captain Samuel Field Dallam, and young man (unidentified), at Gushan, Hangzhou, China, 1911.

The Detroit-based industrialist, Charles Lang Freer (1854-1919), was a pioneering collector of Chinese art in America. His collection laid the foundation of the world-class Chinese holdings at the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art, the national museum of Asian art. Why Chinese art? Delving into his diary, his purchasing records, and spectacular art collection, Dr. Daisy Yiyou Wang tells stories of Freer as a savvy collector, a fearless adventurer, and a visionary philanthropist. Dr. Wang also shares her new research on Freer's collecting strategies and the international art market conditions in the early years of the twentieth century. Dr. Wang's upcoming book, *Charles Lang Freer and Collecting Chinese Art* 美美与共：佛利尔与中国艺术收藏, is the first monograph on the formation of Freer's Chinese art collection (published by the Shanghai Fine Arts Press 上海书画出版社, 2018).

LECTURE AT DIA | FREER HOUSE RECEPTION, EXHIBIT & TOURS



THE EXHIBIT, *A Thousand Graces: Freer's Travels to the Buddhist Cave Temples at Longmen*, and a display of photos of Chinese art from Freer's collection will also be on view at the Freer House in the former Peacock Room from 3:30-5PM.

Program Hosts: Ed and Jeanette Sui

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- DETAILS AND MAP ON BACK -

Charles Lang Freer and Chinese Art

From 1909-11, Freer focused his travels and acquisitions on China, further expanding his collection of Asian art to include an outstanding assembly of Chinese art. Ranging from Neolithic era jades to bronzes, paintings, ceramics and Buddhist sculpture, Freer assembled America's first comprehensive collection of Chinese art, and to this day, one of its most important.

Dr. Wang notes that Freer's collection was shaped by his aesthetics, scholarship and a spiritual approach, as well as by market conditions and international relations. Through self-education and consultation with scholars, collectors and dealers, Freer became one of the world's leading authorities on Chinese art in his day. His home in Detroit held Freer's collection of Chinese art until his death in 1919, when the collection was transferred to the Smithsonian.



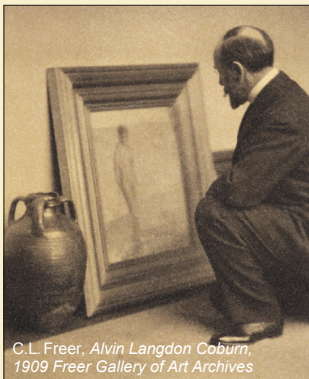
Flowerpot with impressed number *yi* (one), China, Henan Province, Yuxian, Juntai, Ming, dynasty, early 15th century Stoneware with Jun glaze, Gift of Charles Lang Freer. F1907.38



ABOUT THE SPEAKER, Daisy Yiyou Wang, PhD

Dr. Wang leads the Peabody Essex Museum's Chinese, Japanese, and Korean art exhibition programs, collection-based installations, research, and acquisitions. She is co-curator with Jan Stuart of a major exhibition currently on view at the PEM, *Empresses of China's Forbidden City*, that sheds new light on the role of empresses in shaping Qing court art and history. A specialist in later Chinese art, Chinese contemporary art, and the history of collecting, Wang has served at the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, where she contributed to a number of exhibitions, including *Echoes of the Past: The Buddhist Cave Temples of Xiangtangshan* and the artist *Cai Guo-Qiang's Explosion Event on the National Mall*. Her publications cover topics ranging from Buddhist art to contemporary art and the history of collecting Chinese and Korean art. Her new book is the first monograph on Charles Lang Freer and the formation of his Chinese art collection, which became the foundational gift to the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art.

THE FREER HOUSE, MERRILL PALMER SKILLMAN INSTITUTE



C.L. Freer, Alvin Langdon Coburn, 1909 Freer Gallery of Art Archives



photo by ALEXANDER VERTIKOFF

Charles Lang Freer (1854-1919) made his fortune in railroad freight car manufacturing in Detroit. His remarkable shingle style residence on East Ferry Ave. was designed in 1892 by Wilson Eyre, Jr. Freer's home contained one of the world's greatest collections of Asian and American art, that include paintings by Whistler and his famed Peacock Room. Freer bequeathed his collection to the Smithsonian where it is housed today at the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

The Freer House (1892) is ranked as one of the most important historic buildings in Michigan. Its fine architectural detail and rich cultural history are both locally and internationally significant. The Freer House is also recognized for its role in child and family development as the home of the renowned Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute since 1920.

The Freer House membership organization works to preserve this landmark through public events, tours and fundraising for restoration. Recent accomplishments include 14 reproductions of original paintings throughout the house, the completion of the courtyard garden project, and acquisition of the original painting, "Flapjacks," by Frederick Stuart Church. Current goals include a future visitors and exhibit room and the restoration of the Whistler gallery.

Join Us! For more info contact: William Colburn at william.colburn@wayne.edu or 313-664-2500

RECEPTION & TOUR LOCATION

THE FREER HOUSE

71 East Ferry St., Detroit, MI 48202
(One block north of the DIA)



Parking is available behind the Freer House. Travel south on John R. to access WSU Lot 35. Pay \$8.00 at the gate with credit or debit card.