



# THE FREER HOUSE

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## Charles Lang Freer, Chinese Art, and the Making of Global Detroit

Join us **FREE** on ZOOM  
Thurs., Feb. 23, 2023  
6:00 - 7:15 pm (ET)

A virtual lecture presented by:



**Ian Shin, PhD**

**Assistant Professor**

Departments of History and  
American Culture  
University of Michigan

Co-sponsored by

Friends of Asian Arts & Cultures,  
Detroit Institute of Arts



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Charles L. Freer with Mrs. Dallam in Hangzhou, China, February 1911. Photograph by Yütai. Charles Lang Freer Papers, Freer Gallery of Art Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

In the first decades of the 20th century, art collector and philanthropist Charles Lang Freer helped make Michigan—especially Detroit and Ann Arbor—into a global hub for the collecting and study of Chinese art. How did Freer, founder of the Freer Gallery of Art (now part of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Asian Art), connect Detroit with people, institutions, and artworks across both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans? And how did these cultural networks relate to and amplify the rising political and economic power of the United States in the early 20th century?

Ian Shin, Assistant Professor of History and American Culture, University of Michigan, will discuss how Freer’s genuine desire to learn about and care for Chinese art and antiquities positioned Michigan in the vanguard of what foreign policymakers today call “America’s Pacific Century.” There will be a Q&A with Dr. Shin after his lecture.

*This lecture will be recorded and made available to all registrants.*



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## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Ian Shin** is assistant professor of History and American Culture, University of Michigan, teaching the history of U.S. foreign relations and Asian Pacific Islander American studies. He's currently completing his first book, *Imperial Stewards: Chinese Art and the Cultural Origins of America's Pacific Century*. Dr. Shin's writings have appeared in the *Journal of American-East Asian Relations*, *Journal of Asian American Studies*, *The Public Historian*, and *Connecticut Historical Review*. He has also contributed commentary to the BBC World Service, Los Angeles Times, and The History Channel. He serves as vice president of the board of directors of the Association of Chinese Americans, a nonprofit organization providing social services, cultural programs, and advocacy for the Asian American community in southeast Michigan. He received his PhD from Columbia University.



Built by industrialist and art collector, Charles Lang Freer in 1892, Wayne State University's Freer House is a masterpiece of American shingle-style architecture, and the birthplace of the Freer Gallery of Art (National Museum of Asian Art, Smithsonian) in Washington D.C. As an early champion of American, Asian, and Middle Eastern art, Freer's legacy of multiculturalism is celebrated in the house's mission and programming today. These bonds to our nation's Capitol and much of the world make the Freer House an ambassador of Detroit's unique cultural heritage.



**THE FREER HOUSE**

### Join or Renew your Freer House Membership Today

Our mission is to assist Wayne State's commitment to preserve and restore the Freer House, and raise awareness of Freer's legacy in the cultural history of Detroit, the nation and globally. Membership includes reduced admission to lectures and events.

For more information contact Rose Foster at 313-664-2509 or [rmfoster@wayne.edu](mailto:rmfoster@wayne.edu)

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FAAC members enjoy special receptions following lectures and other events, visits to museums and other collections, and invitations to travel nationally and internationally on exclusive DIA tours. To join FAAC, please contact Azzah Smith ([asmith@dia.org](mailto:asmith@dia.org))

