



Why Bother with Museums: Teaching East Asian Art History in Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Hans B. Thomsen

Farewell Lecture



Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 18:15–19:15
University of Zurich, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich
Aula Magna KOL-G-201

The lecture will be held in English and is open to the public (no registration is necessary). The lecture will be followed by an Apéro.

Please note that the lecture will be recorded and published online at a later date.

For questions, please contact the Section for East Asian Art: kgoa@khist.uzh.ch

Abstract:

Professor Thomsen is retiring after having taught for over sixteen years as the professor in charge of teaching East Asian art history at the University of Zurich. During this time, surveys of European museums and collections have been an integral part of research and the teaching of a large number of students. The talk will cast a look back at the history of the KGOA during this time and argue for the importance of developing close connections between academia and the museum world.

Prof. Dr. Hans B. Thomsen's 16-year tenure at the University of Zurich was marked by many highlights, ranging from innovative teaching moments both inside and outside the classroom, countless conferences, symposia, workshops, and exciting excursions, to groundbreaking publications. Since 2007, Professor Thomsen has been working tirelessly to strengthen, to expand, and to make the discipline of East Asian art history more visible in Switzerland. Especially of note is Prof. Thomsen's continuous work in the discovery and scientific development of East Asian Art collections in Switzerland. In 2019, Professor Thomsen was honored by the Japanese government with The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette for his "contribution to the exchange and promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Switzerland in the field of art". Currently, Prof. Thomsen is a professor under private law at the University of Zurich and continues to undertake numerous surveys of East Asian art collections in collaboration with various museums.