“Multiculturalism and Modernism: An Italian Artist-Collector Carlo Zanon’s Adventure in China (1928-1937)”

a lecture by

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Monday, March 24, 2014
3:00 pm
Jennings Hall, Room 060
(1735 Neil Avenue)

Bio

Zaixin Hong received his Ph.D. from China Art Academy, Hangzhou, China, and is Professor of Chinese Art History at the University of Puget Sound. His research interest focuses on Song-Yüan (960-1368) and modern Chinese painting, modern Sino-Japanese relationship, and the global market for Chinese art. He has published widely on these subjects. In addition, he authored an award-winning Chinese college textbook, The History of Chinese Art (in Chinese, Hangzhou, 2000, 2013 revised and enlarged edition). A 2005-06 ACLS and NEH fellow, he is working on a new book, Shaking Hands with the Future: The Transformation of Chinese Painting through Overseas Collecting.

In the early twentieth century America and Europe, avant-garde artists showed their diverse interest in multiculturalism. Among them, Carlo Zanon (1889-1972) from Italy exemplified such a trend. A modern painter and a collector of antique Chinese painting, Zanon played an intriguing role in the art circles of Paris, Shanghai and Tokyo between 1928 and 1937. He painstakingly sought to develop a new painting style in Europe through collecting and studying Oriental art, doing art experimentations in China, and exchanging views on world art with his Chinese counterparts such as Huang Binhong (1865-1955). This important yet long-forgotten Italian artist not only helped Chinese artists to consolidate self-confidence in their national painting style but also inspired them to see a promising future of world art. The lecture will focus on the relationship between multiculturalism and modernity by rediscovering the artistic experimentations that Carlo Zanon and his Chinese friends had executed in the Golden Age of the Republic of China.