

INTRECCI CINESI

ANTIQUE TEXTILE ART (XV – XIX CENTURIES)

OCTOBER 12 - DECEMBER 10 2011



*Ceremonial carpet
China, 1st half of the XVII century (Ming Dynasty)*

INFORMATION

Date: October 12 – December 10 2011
Place: GALLERY MOSHE TABIBNIA
Opening Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10.00 am – 7.00 pm
Works exhibited: 50
Information: Gallery Moshe Tabibnia
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AN EXHIBITION TO CONCLUDE 'CHINESE CULTURE YEAR IN ITALY'

in collaboration with:

- UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
Department of Inorganic, Metal-organic and Analytical Chemistry "Lamberto Malatesta"
- UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BERGAMO
Department of Arts, Fine Arts and Multi-media

under the patronage of:

- Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities
- Department of Landscape and Cultural Heritage of Lombardia
- Chinese Embassy in Rome

PRESS RELEASE – THE EXHIBITION

At the conclusion of "Chinese Culture Year in Italy", Gallery Moshe Tabibnia is to embark on a close examination of antique Chinese textile art through the display and study of some of the most important specimens of period Chinese carpets and textiles known today.

The exhibition **INTRECCI CINESI**, to be inaugurated to the public on October 12 in Via Brera 3 – Milano, Italy, is an important event for the appreciation of the history of textile art and awareness of the cultural intertwining of the East and the West.

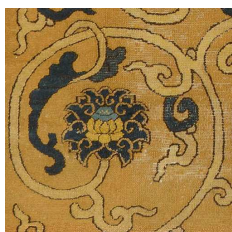
A stronger link than ever before can be detected in millennial Textile Art which includes artefacts that have forever acted as keepers of the history and culture of populations which produced them, representing great empires as well as ordinary life.

Last but not the least, the exhibition at Gallery Moshe Tabibnia, organized under the patronage of Italian institutions and Chinese institutions in Italy, adds a new and important link to the cultural twinning of Milan and Shanghai, two cities which have been connected since 1979 and brought closer together in 2010 with the passing of the baton for the organization of the forthcoming World Expo.

INTRECCI CINESI will present 50 works including carpets, tapestries and textiles dating between the XV and the XIX centuries, coming from China and East Turkestan, the first stop going West on the "Silk Road" and the first place where the two cultures intermingled.

Textile art, particularly that related to Oriental carpets, is intrinsically linked to ancient China because it is in this immense, remote and inaccessible territory that the most commonly found decorative motifs in textile artefacts originated. These motifs were successively found in Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

The exhibition will feature, among others, certain Chinese textiles from the Ming era which are absolute points of reference in their respective typologies:



Carpet with floral decoration, XVI century (Ming Dynasty), China
470x202 cm, MATAM Collection *

This sizable carpet with stylized lotus flowers, buds, leaves and branches, is one of the rarest currently known specimens made in the imperial style of the Ming dynasty. It was probably created expressly for one of the royal palaces.



Ceremonial carpet, 1st half of the XVII century (Ming Dynasty), China
111x111 cm, MATAM Collection *

The entire body of the carpet is covered by dragons which stand out high in the sky and tower above the primordial mountain. The dragons, a symbol of cosmic divinity which guarantee a balance between the forces of nature and the universe itself, has represented imperial sovereignty (to which divine qualities were attributed) for centuries.

** Always committed to the study and dissemination of antique textile art, Gallery Moshe Tabibnia has been active for some time in promoting the MATAM Project (Museum of Antique Textile Art) for the design and construction of a museum at the forefront of scientific research and study of textiles, using the same criteria and investigative methodologies traditionally applied to other arts.*

The event at Gallery Moshe Tabibnia, dedicated to period Chinese textiles, will consist of three interrelated parts: the exhibition, the presentation of a recent scientific study related to period Chinese textiles and a series of presentations.

On October 19, research conducted by scholars Silvia Bruni and Gianluca Poldi will be officially presented, focusing on the **scientific study of antique red and yellow Chinese textile dyes**.

Focused on the study of yellow (one of the symbolic colours par excellence of ancient China) and red and conducted using the most current research methodologies, this latest effort helps clarify the nature of the colours and the variations they have undergone over time. The laboratory results and the deductions in the light of historical, cultural and environmental knowledge, can answer many questions and reveal the reasons why period Chinese carpets have only been found in the colour yellow.

Was this an intentional and desired outcome or not?

This October event ushers in **a series of talks focused on antique Textile Art and correlated Applied Arts**, with an eye to the influence that Chinese culture had on Western society, especially during certain periods in the 16th century up until the 18th century when the whole of Europe was swept up by the fashion of *les chinoiseries*.

In keeping with the well-established tradition of Gallery Moshe Tabibnia, the presentations will be delivered by members of prestigious academic and private institutions who are deemed to be among the most important Italian and international scholars of textile art and Chinese textile art in all its important manifestations.

THE PRESENTATIONS

- **Chinese textile dyes: bibliographic sources and chemical analyses on classic carpets**
Silvia Bruni – *Associate Professor of Analytical Chemistry, Department of Inorganic, Metal-organic and Analytical Chemistry "Lamberto Malatesta", Università degli Studi di Milano*
Gianluca Poldi – *Physicist, PhD Department of Arts, Fine Arts and Multi-media, Università Degli Studi Di Bergamo*
Wednesday, October 19 2011, 5.00 pm
- **Classic Chinese carpet**
Hans Köning – *Chairman of the 'Sarre Club', advisory committee to the Islamic Museum in Berlin*
Wednesday, November 2 2011, 5.00 pm
- **Goodwill symbols in porcelain and carpets from the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) eras**
Sabrina Rastelli – *Associate Professor of Chinese art and archaeology at the Department of Asia and Mediterranean Africa at Università Cà Foscari di Venezia*
Wednesday, November 16 2011, 5.00 pm
- **The vision of Kathai in European textiles, from the XIV to the XVIII century**
Chiara Buss – *Director, Department of Applied Arts at ISAL (Istituto per la storia dell'arte lombarda) and member of the Executive Council of Centre International d'Etude des Textiles Anciens, Lyon*
Wednesday, November 30 2011, 5.00 pm

THE CATALOGUE

The exhibition catalogue to be published by Moshe Tabibnia will include various specimens with information and description and a section devoted to all scientific efforts and studies undertaken for this occasion.