

Walter B. Davis
Associate Professor of East Asian Art History

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Academic Positions

- 2014-present Associate Professor, Department of Art and Design (2/3) and Department of East Asian Studies (1/3), University of Alberta
- 2018-2019 Associate Chair (Undergraduate Programs), Department of Art and Design
- 2016 Interim Chair, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta (1 January – 30 June 2016)
- 2015-2016 Acting Director, Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research, University of Alberta (1 September 2015 – 30 April 2016)
- 2007-2014 Assistant Professor, Department of Art and Design (2/3) and Department of East Asian Studies (1/3), University of Alberta
- 2006-2007 Visiting Instructor of Art History, Department of Art, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon
- 2004-2005 Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Art, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio

Education

- 2001-2008 Ph.D., The Ohio State University, Department of History of Art
Dissertation: “Wang Yiting and the Art of Sino-Japanese Exchange”
Committee: Julia F. Andrews (supervisor, History of Art), Andrew C. Shelton (History of Art), and Richard Torrance (East Asian Languages and Literatures)
Degree awarded August 2008
- 1995-1998 M.A., University of Kansas, Kress Foundation Department of Art History
Concentration in Asian art history
Degree awarded May 1998

1990-1994 B.A., University of Kansas
 Double major in Classical Languages (Honors) and Philosophy
 Degree awarded May 1994

Additional Training

2005-2006 Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan
 Visiting Researcher, supervised by Hiromitsu Kobayashi (Institute of Comparative Culture)

1998-1999 Nanjing University, Nanjing, China
 Direct exchange student studying Chinese history, language, and literature

1997 The Asian Cultural Council 1997 China On-site Graduate Seminar, China
 Participant in seminar on Shanghai school painting in Shanghai and Hangzhou, June and July

1996 Princeton in Beijing, China
 Student of Chinese at Princeton University's summer intensive language program at Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China

1994-1995 University of Texas at Austin, Austin, USA
 Graduate student in Classics

Peer Reviewed Publications

Culture in Common: Wang Yiting's Art of Exchange with Japan. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, 2020 (forthcoming).

"Modern Chinese Painting." In *Oxford Bibliographies in Chinese Studies*. Oxford University Press (forthcoming).

Croizier, Ralph, and Walter Davis. "Wu Changshi." In *Oxford Art Online*. Oxford University Press, 2003, revised 2019.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.article.T092373>.

"Art, Aesthetics, and Religion in Modern China." In *Modern Chinese Religion II: 1850-2015*, edited by Vincent Goossaert, Jan Kiely, and John Lagerwey, vol. 1, 197-257. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, 2015.

"Welcoming the Japanese Art World: Wang Yiting's Social and Artistic Exchanges with Japanese Sinophiles and Artists." In *The Role of Japan in Modern Chinese Art*, edited by Joshua W. Fogel, 84-112. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012.

“Art, History of: 1911-1949,” “Art, National Essence Movement in,” “Chinese Painting,” “Wang Zhen (Wang Yiting),” and “Wu Shujuan (Wu Xingfen).” In *The Encyclopedia of Modern China*, edited by David Pong, 4 vols., 1:103-6, 1:113-15, 1:261-65, 4:53-5, and 4:100-1. Detroit: Charles Scribner’s Sons / Gale, Cengage Learning, 2009.

Other Publications

“The Way is Mute 道行啞然 [Daoxing yaran],” “Album leaf from ‘Karma Illustrated’ 因果分明 [Yinguo fenming],” and “Album leaf from ‘Karma Illustrated’ 因果分明 [Yinguo fenming].” In the online photo essay “Picturing Science in Modern China,” curated by Lisa Claypool. *Cross Currents e-Journal* 14 (March 2015). <https://cross-currents.berkeley.edu/e-journal/issue-14/curatorstatement>

All under Heaven: The Chinese World in Maps, Pictures, and Texts from the Collection of Floyd Sully. Edmonton, Alberta: University of Alberta Libraries, 2013.

Curated Exhibitions

All under Heaven: The Chinese World in Maps, Pictures, and Texts from the Collection of Floyd Sully. University of Alberta Libraries Bruce Peel Special Collections Library and Fine Arts Building Gallery. Edmonton. 17 June - 13 September 2013.

Conferences, Symposia, and Workshops

“Motoyama Hikoichi (1853-1932) and Japanese Sinophile Culture: Practices, Publications, and Social Contexts.” Ishibashi (Bridgestone) Foundation International Symposium “Modern Japanese Art and China,” University of California, San Diego, USA, November 2-4, 2018.

“For the Refined Perusal of the Master of the Pavilion of Moving Sentiment: Chinese Calligraphic Inscriptions at Japan’s Sun Yat-sen Memorial Museum.” Japan Studies Association of Canada Annual Conference, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, 14 October 2018.

“Wang Yiting’s Picturing of Tradition in the 1920s and 1930s.” Presentation for the graduate seminar of Prof. Kuiyi Shen, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, California, 9 October 2017.

“Accessories to Orthodoxy: Artifacts of Traditional Connoisseurship in the Mactaggart Art Collection and the Modern Conservation of Qing Aesthetic Order.” Visualizing China’s Imperial Order in Asia (1500-1800), organized by

University of Alberta Museums, Edmonton, Alberta, 22 July 2016.

“Cultural Expression and Ethnographic Representation in Chinese Maps of the Ming and Qing Dynasties,” Reimagining the Globe and Cultural Exchange: From the World Maps of Ricci and Verbiest to Google Earth, organized by the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History at the University of San Francisco, San Francisco, California, 22 April 2016.

“Between Friends: The Sino-Japanese Art of Wang Yiting,” University of California San Diego Chinese Studies Program Winter 2013 Lecture Series, San Diego, U.S.A., 20 February 2013.

“Art of the Rulers: The Kano and Tosa Schools,” Art Gallery of Alberta, 19 December 2012.

“Art and Aesthetics,” Modern Chinese Religion: Value Systems in Transformation, Part 2, 1850-Present, organized by the Chinese University of Hong Kong Centre for China Studies and the Section des Sciences Religieuses of the École Pratique des Hautes Études, Hong Kong, China, 14 December 2012.

“Politic Piety: Confucianism, Conservatism, and the Social Art of Wang Yiting,” College Art Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, February 13, 2010.

“Experiences of the Mactaggart Art Collection,” co-presented with Ted Bishop, Festival of Teaching, University of Alberta, 9 February 2010.

“Tradition, Modernity, and Artistic Exchange at the 1925 East Asian Buddhist Conference,” Universities Art Association of Canada Conference, Edmonton, Alberta, 23 October 2009.

“Common Culture for a Thousand Ages: Wang Yiting and Sino-Japanese Artistic Projects of the 1920s and 1930s,” presenter and panel organizer, Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, 28 March 2009.

Panel discussant for “Strong Alliances Build Strong Collections,” Alberta Museums Association Conference 2008, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, 26 September 2008.

Discussant for Hong Zaixin, “Art Collecting and Consumption,” Modern Chinese Art History: Present and Future, workshop sponsored by Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, 21 October 2007.

“Wang Yiting and Japanese Visitors to Shanghai,” The Role of Japan in the Institutional Development of Modern Chinese Art, symposium sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies, Taipei, Taiwan, 20 October 2007.

“Portraying Cultural Solidarity: Wang Yiting’s Portraits of Japanese Sinophiles,” First Heidelberg Colloquy on East Asian Art, Heidelberg, Germany, 16 September 2006.

“Wang Yiting and The Art of Sino-Japanese Exchange,” Japan Foundation Fellows Seminar, Tokyo, Japan, 25 July 2006. (revised and expanded version of the presentation below).

“Wang Yiting and The Art of Sino-Japanese Exchange,” Modern Japanese History Workshop, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, 7 July 2006.

“*Su Wu Herding Sheep: A Tally of Pictorial Lyricism in the Art of Huang Shen*,” Edward F. Hayes Graduate Research Forum, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 17 April 2004.

“Modern Chinese Art and *The Young Companion*,” Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs 51st Annual Meeting, Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio, 28 September 2002.

“For Fate, Faith, and Charity: Wang Yiting’s Paintings of Street People,” The Challenge of Modernity: Chinese Painting in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York, 22 May 1998.

Awards

2013 Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab American Book Prices Current Exhibition Catalogue Award (Association of College and Research Libraries, American Library Association), Category 1 (Expensive) winner, for Walter Davis, *All under Heaven: The Chinese World in Maps, Pictures, and Texts from the Collection of Floyd Sully* (Edmonton: University of Alberta Libraries, 2013)

Fellowships and Grants

2018 President’s Grant for the Creative and Performing Arts, Killam Research Fund, University of Alberta. \$7,000.

2018 China Institute Faculty Research Grant, University of Alberta. \$5,000.

2017 Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research Event Grant. \$1,000.

2017 President’s Grant for the Creative and Performing Arts, Killam Research Fund, University of Alberta. \$6,022.

2014 President’s Grant for the Creative and Performing Arts, Killam Research Fund, University of Alberta. \$3,016.

- 2011 President's Grant for the Creative and Performing Arts, Killam Research Fund, University of Alberta. \$5,000.
- 2009 Killam Research Fund Cornerstones Conference Travel Grant, University of Alberta. \$1,1600.
- 2009 Endowment Fund for the Future Support for the Advancement of Scholarship Research Fund Travel Grant, University of Alberta. \$1,720.
- 2008-2009 China Institute New Faculty Grant, University of Alberta.
- 2008 Endowment Fund for the Future Capital Recruitment Fund Special Capital Equipment, University of Alberta
- 2006-2007 Presidential Fellowship, The Ohio State University Graduate School (declined)
- 2005-2006 The Japan Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, The Japan Foundation. ¥4,318,988 (approx. CAD \$47,660).
- 2004 The Ohio State University Office of International Affairs Graduate Student Dissertation/M.A. Thesis Research Travel Grant, Summer

Courses Taught at the University of Alberta

EASIA 101 Understanding East Asia

HADVC 100 Introduction to the History of Art, Design, and Visual Culture

ART H 103 Asian Art

HADVC 217/ARTH 211 Japanese Art, Design, and Visual Culture

ART H 212 History of Asian Art

EASIA 232 Overview of Chinese Culture (formerly CHINA 240 Chinese Literature and the Arts)

EASIA 240 Overview of Japanese Culture (formerly JAPAN 240 Japanese Literature and the Arts)

INT D 225 Theme Studies in Japan (on-site course at Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan)

ART H 301 Painting of Imperial China

ART H 306 Modernism and Modernity in Twentieth-Century Chinese Art

EASIA 323 History of Buddhist Art

ART H 412/512 East Asian Art and the Modern West

ART H 412/512 Orthodoxy and Eccentricity in Seventeenth and Eighteenth-Century Chinese Painting

ART H 412/512 History and Topography in Chinese Paintings and Prints

HADVC 412/512 Traditionalist Modernities of China and Japan

HADVC 412/512 Traditionalism in Modern Japanese Art and Design

EASIA 598 Topics in East Asian Research: Theory and Methods in East Asian Studies

Graduate Thesis Supervision

- 2019-present M.A. thesis supervisor for Yuzhi Zhou, Department of East Asian Studies. In progress.
- 2018-present M.A. thesis supervisor for Nuohang “Tia” Tian, Department of East Asian Studies. In progress.
- 2015-2019 M.A. thesis supervisor for Meining Wang, Department of Art and Design. “Seeing and Transcending Tradition in Chen Shuren’s Guilin Landscape Album.” Successfully defended on 15 May 2019.
- 2017-2019 M.A. thesis supervisor for Lin Li, Department of East Asian Studies. “Traditionalism, Transnationalism, and Modernism in Fu Baoshi’s 1943 Paintings of the Red Cliff.” Successfully defended on 24 April 2019.
- 2016-2019 M.A. thesis co-supervisor for Peng Wang, Department of East Asian Studies. “Konbini as Microcosms: How Japanese Convenience Stores Both Shape and Are Shaped by Their Society.” Successfully defended on 12 April 2019.
- 2016-2017 M.A. thesis supervisor for Mikwi Cho, Department of East Asian Studies. “Inventing a Language: Translation Words in Meiji Japan.” Successfully defended on 22 March 2017.
- 2015-2017 M.A. thesis supervisor for Yifan Li, Department of Art and Design. “Making the Qianlong Emperor’s Private Garden: Imperialization of the Lion Grove in Eighteenth-Century China.” Successfully defended on 13 January 2017.

- 2015-2017 M.A. thesis supervisor for Yingduo Cui, Department of East Asian Studies.
- 2011-2012 M.A. thesis supervisor for Bingqing Wei, Department of Art and Design. “Strange and Illusory: The Aesthetics of Distortion in *Scenery of Shanbei* by Shi Lu.” Successfully defended on 9 March 2012.
- 2009-2010 M.A. thesis supervisor for Li Yang, Department of East Asian Studies. “Mirroring the Wu School: Ma Shouzhen’s Orchid Painting.” Successfully defended on 16 September 2010.

Graduate Examination

- 2019 Examiner for Xin Chen, Ph.D. Final Oral Exam, Department of History, University of Alberta, 16 September 2019.
- 2018 Examiner for Yuan Zhang, M.A. Final Oral Exam, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta, 2 May 2018.
- Examiner for Anran Tu, M.A. Final Oral Exam, Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta, 1 May 2018
- Committee Chair (non-voting) for Vicki Kwon, Ph.D. Candidacy Exam, Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta, 30 March 2018.
- 2017 Examiner for Sarah Eggert, M.A. Final Oral Exam, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta, 21 August.
- Examiner for Jane Traynor, M.A. Final Oral Exam, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta, 21 March.
- 2016 Examiner for Lulu Yu, M.A. Final Oral Exam, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta, 27 April.
- Examiner for Yijing Hou, M.A. Final Oral Exam, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta, 26 April.
- Committee Chair (non-voting) for Brandi Goddard, M.A. Thesis Defense, Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta, 5 January.
- 2015 Examiner for Marie Leduc, Ph.D. Final Oral Exam, Department of Sociology and Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta, 9 December.
- Committee Chair (non-voting) for Luciana Erregue, M.A. Thesis Defense, Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta, 17 November.
- 2014 Examiner for Liangchi Chen, M.A. Final Oral Exam, Department of East Asian

Studies, University of Alberta, 10 September.

Examiner for Kristina Nand, M.A. Final Oral Exam, Department of Psychology, University of Alberta, 16 June.

Examiner for Aly Koskela, M.A. Final Oral Exam, Department of English and Film Studies, University of Alberta, 28 March.

2013 Examiner for Lisa Tang, M.A. Final Oral Exam, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta, 16 October.

Examiner for Zijuan Guo, M.A. Final Oral Exam, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta, 29 July.

2011 Committee Chair (non-voting) for Lora Slobodian, M.A. Thesis Defense, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta, 27 May.

2010 Examiner for Leilei Chen, Ph.D. Final Oral Exam, Department of English and Film Studies, University of Alberta, 26 April.

Examiner for Jingjing Zheng, M.A. Final Oral Exam, Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta, 6 April.

Examiner for Ruiling Song, M.Des. Final Oral Exam, Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta, 1 March.

B.A. Honors Thesis Supervision

2018-2019 Supervisor for Deanna Ahmad-Assad, Department of Art and Design. “Accessing the Imperial Courtesan: Unusual Eroticisms in the Art of Uemura Shoen.” Successfully completed on 17 April 2019.

2013-2014 Supervisor for Manon Gaudet, Department of Art and Design. “Re-Presenting Isabella Stewart Gardner: The Feminine East and Gendered Collecting.” Successfully completed April 2014.

2010-2011 Supervisor for Emily Dymock, Department of Art and Design. “Enabling Tradition: the Role of Qi Baishi’s Autobiography in the People’s Republic of China.” Successfully completed April 2011.

2008-2009 Supervisor for Alvina Mardhani, Department of Art and Design. “Ukiyo-e and the West: Differences in Reception.” Successfully completed April 2009.

2007-2008 Supervisor for Angela Wun, Department of Art and Design. “The Art of Contradictions: Tensions in Okakura Kakuzo’s Philosophies Represented Through the Art of Artists He Advocated.” Successfully completed April 2008.

Service

Faculty and University

- 2019-present Dean's Advisory Search Committee Member, Department of Music search for Assistant Professor of Musicology
- 2018-present Faculty of Arts Research Committee, Elected Member (Interdisciplinary)
- 2018-2019 Academic Teach Staff Evaluation Committee Member, as Associate Chair (Undergraduate) for the Department of Art and Design
- 2018-2019 Arts Teaching and Learning Engagement Committee Member, as Associate Chair (Undergraduate) for the Department of Art and Design
- 2016-2019 Faculty of Arts Faculty Evaluation Committee, Elected Member (representing the Department of Art and Design)
- 2017 Mactaggart Art Collection Curator Search Committee, Museums and Collections Services
- 2016 Prince Takamado Japan Centre Review Committee, Faculty of Arts
- 2009-2014 Faculty of Arts Honors Committee
- 2013-2014 Mactaggart Art Collection Curator Search Committee, Museums and Collections Services
- 2012 Dean's Advisory Chair Selection Committee, Department of Art and Design
- 2009-2010 Mactaggart Art Collection Curator Search Committee, Museums and Collections Services

Department

- 2016-present & 2008-2013 B.A. Honors Advisor, Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta
- 2018 Dean's Advisory Search Committee for Assistant Professor of East Asian Music and Culture, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta (spring)
- 2018 Assisted Chair of East Asian Studies with evaluation of Faculty Annual Reports.
- 2017 Assisted Chair of East Asian Studies with evaluation of Faculty Annual Reports.

- 2016 Website Redesign Committee, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta (spring)
- 2015 Dean's Advisory Search Committee for Assistant Professor of Korean Studies, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta (fall)
- 2007-2014 Library Liaison, Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta
- 2008-2012 Co-coordinator of the Department of East Asian Studies, China Institute, and Prince Takamado Japan Centre's East Asia Speaker Series, University of Alberta
- 2012 Department of Art and Design Selection Committee for President's Grant for the Creative and Performing Arts, Killam Research Fund, University of Alberta (winter)
- 2011 Search Committee for Instructor of Chinese, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta (winter)

Other University

- 2011-2013 Proctor, Japanese Language Proficiency Exam, administered by the Prince
& 2009 Takamado Japan Center for Teaching and Research (December)

Professional

External reader for *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*; *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review*; *Asian Studies Review*; *Artibus Asiae*; McGraw-Hill; *Re:Locations: Journal of the Asia-Pacific World*; *History of Humanities*

Community

- 2019 Instructor for U School (University of Alberta Senate) (2 March)
- 2018 Instructor for the Edmonton Lifelong Learner's Association course EL40 A Brief History of Asian Art (spring)
- 2016 Judge, Alberta High School Japanese Language Contest, Harry Ainlay Composite High School, Edmonton, 12 March
- Judge, Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum, Embassy of Canada, Tokyo, Japan, 19 February

Languages

Mandarin Chinese	(reading and speaking)
Modern Japanese	(reading and speaking)
Classical Chinese	(reading)
French	(reading)
Classical Greek	(basic reading)
Latin	(basic reading)

Professional Affiliations

College Art Association
Association for Asian Studies