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## Wu Hung of the University of Chicago Presents the 68th Annual A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts in 2019 at the National Gallery of Art, Washington



Wu Hung, Harrie A. Vanderstappen Distinguished Service Professor of Art History, University of Chicago, presents the 68th A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts on Sundays, March 31, April 7, April 14, April 28, May 5, and May 12, 2019, at the National Gallery of Art.

Washington, DC—The Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) at the National Gallery of Art has announced that Wu Hung, Harrie A. Vanderstappen Distinguished Service Professor of Art History, University of Chicago, will give the 68th annual A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts in 2019.

The lecture series, entitled *End as Beginning: Chinese Art and Dynastic Time*, will be held in the East Building Auditorium at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, on March 31, April 7, April 14, April 28, May 5, and May 12 at 2:00 p.m.

In his six-part series, Wu Hung will explore the relationship between Chinese art and patterns of repeated dynastic succession. From the third century BCE to 1911, nine major dynasties unified and reunified the country, each replacing the previous dynasty with a renewed mandate, yet destined to

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fall in due course. In what ways was artistic creation connected to such profound historical temporality? How did visual forms imbue and manifest the philosophy and psychology intrinsic to dynastic time? This framework will allow us to reexamine some of the key episodes in Chinese art history while discovering significant but understudied artistic phenomena.

### **About the A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts**

Since 1949, the preeminent A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts have presented the best in contemporary thought and scholarship on the subject of the fine arts to the people of the United States. The program itself is named for Andrew W. Mellon, founder of the National Gallery of Art, who gave the nation his art collection and funds to build the West Building, which opened to the public in 1941.

Past speakers have included Sir Kenneth Clark, T. J. Clark, Thomas Crow, E. H. Gombrich, Michael Fried, Mary Miller, Helen Vendler, Irene Winter, Alexander Nemerov, and, most recently, Hal Foster. For a full list, visit [www.nga.gov/research/casva/meetings/mellon-lectures-in-the-fine-arts.html](http://www.nga.gov/research/casva/meetings/mellon-lectures-in-the-fine-arts.html).

### **About Wu Hung**

Wu Hung is director of the Center for the Art of East Asia and consulting curator of the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago. His books and exhibitions on both traditional and contemporary Chinese art have explored ways to integrate these conventionally separate phases into new kinds of art-historical narratives. His award-winning publications include *Monumentality in Early Chinese Art and Architecture* (1995), *The Double Screen: Medium and Representation of Chinese Pictorial Art* (1996), *Remaking Beijing: Tiananmen Square and the Creation of a Political Space* (2005), *A Story of Ruins: Presence and Absence in Chinese Art and Visual Culture* (2012), and *Zooming In: Histories of Photography in China* (2016). He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship (1999) and Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching at the University of Chicago (2007). The College of Art Association has recognized his contributions to the profession with its Distinguished Teaching Award (2008) and Distinguished Scholar Award (2018). A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, Wu Hung sits on the boards and advisory committees of many research institutes and museums in the United States and China.

### **Press Contact**

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### **General Information**

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open

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Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or visit the Gallery's Web site at [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov). Follow the Gallery on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt](http://www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt), Twitter at [www.twitter.com/ngadc](http://www.twitter.com/ngadc), and Instagram at <http://instagram.com/ngadc>.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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