

Attrib. to Huang Ding, 'Landscape.'



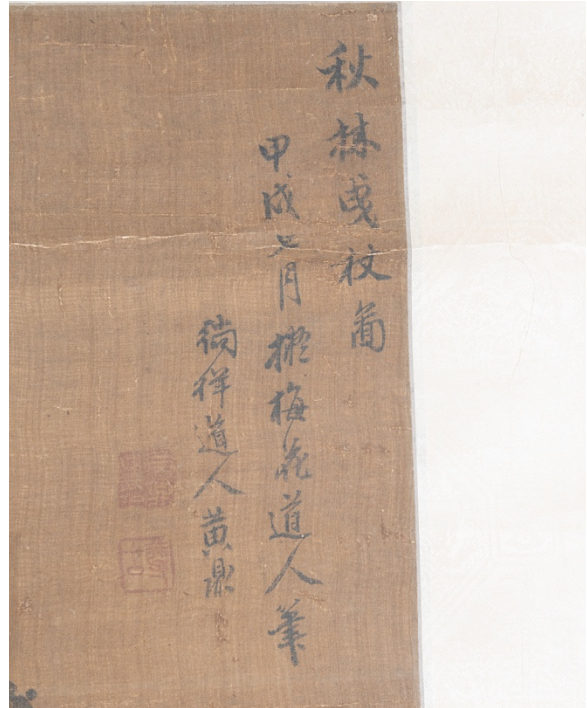
Born immediately following a tumultuous period of Chinese history, as the Ming dynasty which had ruled since 1348 fell to a northern invasion in 1645, Huang Ding created work that straddled the currents of his time. With one foot deeply rooted in the long tradition of Chinese painting, he was equally influenced by new waves of thought and an imperial promotion of the arts which made his work a modernizing element in a changing Chinese culture. Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer **Attrib. to Huang Ding (1660-1730): 'Landscape'** (\$5/8,000) for sale in our April Gallery Auction, held on Friday, April 19th.

This landscape painting is a work of ink on silk featuring a series of hills,

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rising from a body of water surrounded by trees. The work is monochromatic, including the text in the upper right-hand corner, except for two red seals, also in the top right. In the center of the frame are a series of rising hills that extend into the distance, whose tops are covered in plant life. On either side of this outcrop are more distant hills, only loosely rendered, two on the left and one on the right. In front of this series of hills is a body of water, surrounded by steep banks to the left and right, with trees evident in the distant left. This body of water extends almost to the bottom of the frame, where a small peninsula extends into the water, upon which four tall trees are located in the right foreground. At their feet lie a series of bushes, which open towards the center of the frame to reveal a robbed man walking with a cane. He moves from right to left, towards a small bridge



that crosses the water towards a bank located out of frame.

In this work, Huang Ding references several prior masters of Chinese ink painting, including the “one-corner” compositional techniques of Ni Zan, as well as the orthodox Dong Qichang. Born only sixteen years after the fall of the Ming Dynasty, Huang Ding’s work is interestingly positioned in the appropriation of Han Chinese culture by the Manchu-led Qing Dynasty. Born just outside Shanghai,

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many artists born nearby only a few years before Huang Ding came to represent the “yimin” or leftover, art movement which continued to valorize the fallen regime. Huang Ding’s work features some elements of this movement, especially his use of solitary subjects amidst vast landscapes, and generally pulls elements from the traditions of Chinese ink painting, while also including the abstracted landscapes of the Loudong School which he was part of. This reference to prior works was permitted as part of a wider acceptance by the Manchu-led Qing of Han Chinese culture and traditions, a policy decision consciously made by the new regime to integrate itself within its new empire.

Huang Ding was born to a common family in 1660 in Changsu, Jiangsu, a small city about 50 miles outside of Shanghai positioned between

the Yangtze River and the coast. He quickly gained prominence within the Loudong School, where he was a favored disciple of one of the founders, Wang Yuanqui. He showed early skill in reproducing classical works and especially favored Wang Meng of the Yuan dynasty. Huang Ding combined the works of his teacher with another founder of the school, Wang Hui, creating a unique style that earned him praise in multiple publications regarding early Qing dynasty painting written in the 18th century. He was an active member of the artistic community within the cities of the Yangtze Estuary and painted prolifically until his death in 1730.

Attrib. to Huang Ding (1660-1730): 'Landscape' (\$5/8,000) will be offered in Michaan’s Auctions April Gallery Auction on Friday, April 19th. The sale features excellent furniture

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pieces from the Asian Art Department, in addition to important works from notable artists, and a number of fine jewelry pieces. The auction is led by the Fine Art Department, which will be offering oil paintings by George Demont Otis and Gideon Jacques Denny, while the Asian Art Department offers a 12-panel folding screen and a hanging rug.

Also included in the sale are platinum, diamond, and gold items from the Jewelry Department.

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