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Public lecture

Research of East Asian Collections in Slovene Museums

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Thursday, 23 May 2019, 17:00–18:00

UZH, Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zürich

Room RAA-G-15

The lecture will be held in English and is open to the public.

For questions, please contact the Section for East Asian Art History:

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Abstract

During the last few decades, numerous studies of collections and individual objects have been carried out across Europe, but studies in this field within the Eastern European and Balkan region are still quite rare. In June 2018, a three-year research project began in Slovenia. Entitled *East Asian Collections in Slovenia: Integration of the Slovene Territory in the Global Exchange of Objects and Ideas with East Asia*, it is based on the exploration and reconstruction of intercultural contacts between Slovenia and East Asia through research of the collections of East Asian art and other materials located and kept in various Slovenian museums and institutions.

According to current research, there are nineteen different Slovene East Asian collections, housing various individual objects of East Asian origin. During research on East Asian art collections and their collectors, including their collecting practices and general attitudes towards East Asia, many problems arose concerning the identification and treatment of East Asian objects in the absence of specific knowledge, insufficient or incorrect museum documentation, and lack of general basic information on the topic.

One of the biggest collections of East Asian art in Slovenia will be the focus of the presentation, namely, the collection of East Asian ceramics at the National Museum of Slovenia. This collection consists of more than 250 ceramics of great variety in types and origins. It is part of a greater collection of ceramics held at the National Museum of Slovenia, and its acquisition touches on a delicate matter of the so-called "Federal Collection Centers" and the post-World War II confiscation of property by the army and government forces. The greater part of the collection came to the museum via these channels and the provenances of many objects are still labeled as "unknown" due to this sensitive aspect of Slovenia's history.