

March 1, 2021

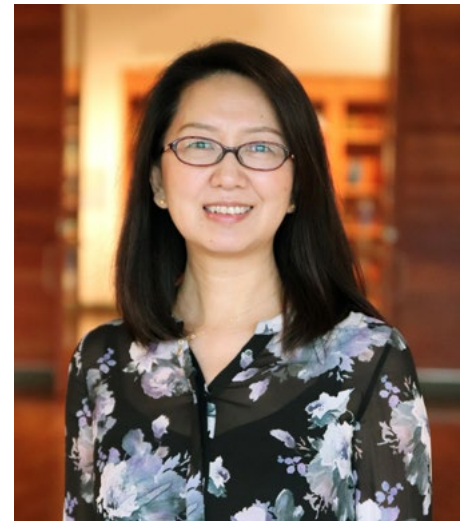
Media Contact:
Tami Wroath, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
Harn Museum of Art
352.294.7067
twroath@harn.ufl.edu

Harn Museum of Art Welcomes Cofrin Curator of Asian Art

GAINESVILLE, FL, March 1, 2021—The Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Tongyun Yin as Cofrin Curator of Asian Art. Dr. Yin assumed her new position on March 1, 2021. She joins the Harn with more than 10 years of experience in the field, including serving as Curator of Asian Art at the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art in Oak Brook, Illinois since June 2019, and Associate Curator of Asian Art at the MacLean Collection Asian Art Museum in Mettawa, Illinois from June 2014 to May 2019. Dr. Yin is also a seasoned educator, having served as Assistant Professor and then Associate Professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China from 2003 to 2009.

“Dr. Tongyun Yin’s background in higher education as a professor combined with her curatorial experience make her a perfect fit for the University of Florida and the Harn,” said Dr. Lee Anne Chesterfield, Harn Museum of Art Director. “As the Museum embarks on its next strategic plan, enhancing the student experience through art-centered contributions to academic life across disciplines is key. Dr. Yin will bring a fresh perspective on using our Asian art collections to reach students, bringing fascinating new exhibitions and collaborations across campus. We are so pleased to welcome her to the Harn.”

Dr. Yin specializes in the history, theory and criticism of modern and contemporary Chinese art and the institutionalization of Chinese art and cultural heritage. She holds a Ph.D. from University of California San Diego, a Master of Arts degree in Museum Studies from The George Washington University and Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts degrees from Renmin University of China, in Beijing.



As Curator of Asian Art at the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art, Dr. Yin has been responsible for re-installing permanent collection exhibitions, curating temporary exhibitions such as *Re-carving the Past: The Art of Chinese Bronzes and Jades* (2019-2020), producing publications and coordinating educational programs. During her five years as Associate Curator of Asian Art at the MacLean Collection Asian Art Museum, she oversaw the research, interpretation, preservation and growth of the collection and completed two research catalogues including “Early to Medieval Chinese Pottery” (2020) and “Highlights of Asian Art” (e-Book, 2015). A few examples of her four exhibitions curated for the MacLean include *Passion for Form: Southeast Asian Art from the MacLean Collection* (2019) and *Fire and Earth: Early Chinese Pottery* (upcoming).

Dr. Yin will direct the growth and development of the Harn’s Asian art collection, housed in the 26,000-square-foot David A. Cofrin Asian Art Wing. The collection includes more than 3,560 works from China, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Tibet, Vietnam, India, Thailand and Indonesia with strengths evident in ceramics, jades and metal works, and further augmented by stone sculptures, paintings and prints. The variety and quality of the works provide the opportunity for Dr. Yin to explore regional and transnational trends in Asian art, ranging from ceramic traditions to the spread of Buddhism, to the relationships between Asia and the West through artistic visions and creations.

“It’s both a thrill and a great honor to join the Harn Museum family as the Cofrin Curator of Asian Art,” said Dr. Yin. “The museum’s rich and diverse Asian art collections, its strong collaboration with the University of Florida’s academic departments, and its commitment to inspire and enrich the life of the community through art create incredible opportunities for me to contribute fresh perspectives on the collections for scholarly and general audiences. I look forward to working with my colleagues to delve into the collections and provide innovative and engaging ways for visitors to connect with Asian art.”

About the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art

Founded in 1990, the Harn Museum of Art is an integral part of the University of Florida. The Harn contributes to an interconnected, international community by integrating the arts and culture into curricula throughout the university’s system of colleges and centers. Its holdings include more than 13,000 works in five main collecting areas: Asian art, African art, photography, modern art of the Americas and Europe, and international contemporary art. The museum also has noteworthy collections of Oceanic, Ancient American Art and works on paper. In addition to rotating installations drawn from its permanent collection, the Harn organizes traveling exhibitions and virtual educational programs for adults, students, and children.

The Harn Museum of Art, at 3259 Hull Road in Gainesville, Florida, is part of the University of Florida’s Cultural Plaza, which is also home to the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Admission is free. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information visit harn.ufl.edu.

###