

Isamu Noguchi/ Qi Baishi/ Beijing 1930 (Michigan, 18 May 13)

University of Michigan Museum of Art, May 18, 2013

David Choberka, University of Michigan

Isamu Noguchi & Qi Baishi: And Other Inspiring Encounters In and Beyond Modern Asian Art

Symposium in conjunction with the exhibition

Isamu Noguchi/Qi Baishi/Beijing 1930

Saturday, May 18, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Helmut Stern Auditorium

University of Michigan Museum of Art

In conjunction with the opening of the exhibition Isamu Noguchi and Qi Baishi: Beijing 1930, UMMA presents a one-day symposium on the significance and legacy of the creative relationship between the Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi and the Chinese ink painter Qi Baishi. As Noguchi's Peking Drawings from this period dramatically demonstrate, this collaboration was far more complex and unpredictable than can be understood by the over-determined binary framework of Japonisme in Euro-America and the Westernization of culture in East Asia. The drawings are one striking manifestation of the broad range of encounters between different positions within and beyond modern Asian visual cultures that proliferated throughout the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This symposium will bring together an impressive group of scholars of Asian art history to explore a diverse range of the kinds of inventions catalyzed by modern encounters such as that between Isamu Noguchi and Qi Baishi in Beijing in 1930.

Program

9:00 – 9:30 Coffee/tea

9:30 – 9:45 Welcome remarks

Joseph Rosa (Director, UMMA)

Jenny Dixon (Director, The Noguchi Museum)

9:45-10:00 Introduction to the exhibition Isamu Noguchi/Qi Baishi/

Beijing 1930

Natsu Oyobe (UMMA)

10:00 – 11:15 Session 1

Artistic Encounters between China and the West from the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Century

David Clarke (University of Hong Kong)

Grabbism: 1930

Jo-Anne Birnie Danzker (Frye Art Museum)

Response by Celeste Brusati (University of Michigan)

11:15 – 11:30 break

11:30 – 12:45 Session 2

Untangling a "Hairy" Encounter: Making Sense of Ainu Representation at the World's Fair

Christina Spiker (University of California – Irvine)

Artists Abroad East and West: Some Early Twentieth Century Encounters

Jason Steuber (Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida)

Response by Kevin Carr (University of Michigan)

12:45 – 2:30 Lunch and exhibition viewing

2:30 – 3:45 Session 3

Isamu Noguchi: A Sculptor's Brush with Ink

Bert Winther-Tamaki (University of California – Irvine)

Invention of "Traditional" and "International" in Post-World War Two

Japanese Ceramics: the Picasso Boom and Koyama Fujio

Yasuko Tsuchikane (Parsons The New School for Design)

Response by Alex Potts (University of Michigan)

3:45 – 4:15 Coffee/tea break

4:15 – 5:00 Discussion moderated by Bert Winther-Tamaki

Reference:

CONF: Isamu Noguchi/ Qi Baishi/ Beijing 1930 (Michigan, 18 May 13). In: ArtHist.net, Apr 13, 2013 (accessed Jun 12, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/4854>>.