

Exhibition: *Wu Bin's Ten Views of a Lingbi Stone*
On View: December 10, 2017–June 24, 2018
Location: Resnick Pavilion



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The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is pleased to present *Wu Bin's Ten Views of a Lingbi Stone*, featuring one of the most extraordinary paintings of a stone ever created. In ancient China, strange and marvelous stones were valued for their beauty and as reflections of the hidden structures underlying the universe. Stones were seen as fluid and dynamic, constantly changing, and capable of magical transformations. Wu Bin's Ming dynasty handscroll, painted in 1610, comprises 10 separate views of a single stone from the famous site of Lingbi, Anhui Province. Each view is rendered with exceedingly complex brushwork as fine lines twist, waver, and unravel, describing the shifting shapes of the stone's peaks, vales, crevices, and caverns. These lines combine with subtle washes of ink to convey the sense that one is looking not at stone, but at pure energy.

LACMA's presentation marks the first time that all 10 sections of this rare handscroll painting will be displayed in an American museum. The exhibition features several superb examples of actual Chinese stones and contemporary Chinese ink paintings depicting stones; and explores the history of collecting strange stones in China and the relationship between stones, Daoist cosmology, and classical Chinese poetry. *Wu Bin* is organized by Stephen Little, the Florence and Harry Sloan Curator of Chinese Art and Head of Chinese and Korean, and South and Southeast Asian Art at LACMA.

"This exhibition is an exciting opportunity to examine the 2,000-year practice of collecting strange stones (*guai shi*) in China," says Little. "It will be the first exhibition of its kind in Los Angeles to explore the significance of stones in China and their centrality in Chinese culture."

Credit

This exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

All exhibitions at LACMA are underwritten by the LACMA Exhibition Fund. Major annual support is provided by Kitzia and Richard Goodman, with generous annual funding from Lauren Beck and Kimberly Steward, the Judy and Bernard Briskin Family Foundation, Louise and Brad Edgerton, Edgerton Foundation, Emily and Teddy Greenspan, Jenna and Jason Grosfeld, The Jerry and Kathleen Grundhofer Foundation, David Schwartz Foundation, Inc., Taslimi Foundation, and Lenore and Richard Wayne.

About LACMA

Since its inception in 1965, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography, mirroring Los Angeles's rich cultural heritage and uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of over 135,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of art history from new and unexpected points of view. A museum of international stature as well as a vital cultural center for Southern California, LACMA shares its vast collection with the Greater Los Angeles County and beyond through exhibitions, public programs, and research facilities that attract over 1.5 million visitors annually, in addition to serving millions more through community partnerships, school outreach programs, and creative digital initiatives. LACMA's main campus is located halfway between the ocean and downtown, adjacent to the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum and the future home of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. Dedicated to serving all of Los Angeles, LACMA collaborates with a range of curators, educators, and artists on exhibitions and programs at various sites throughout the County.

Location: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. lacma.org

Image captions:

(Left) Wu Bin, *Ten Views of a Lingbi Stone*, China, Ming dynasty, Wanli reign, 1610, private collection, photo © Ornan Rotam, courtesy Slyph Editions

(Right) Taihu Stone, China, Limestone from Lake Tai in Jiangsu Province, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of the 2017 Collectors Committee

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