

SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

For immediate release

***Images of the Journey* exhibition travels Asia's highways and byways through art**

Opens June 4, 2005

Asian Gallery

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Lawrence, KS— Travel is adventure. Not just the destination, but also the journey itself, invites new, enriching experiences. This summer, the Spencer Museum of Art presents *Images of the Journey*, a selection of works from the museum's Asian collection highlighting depictions of travel, explorations of places unfamiliar to the artists and representations of artists' journeys. The works portray traveling figures, evoke well-known tourist destinations and routes, record artists' experiences of travel, and invite the viewer to experience "virtual" travel through interaction with the images.

Through experiences of travel, we become aware of geography and of the change in our surroundings. *Images of the Journey* features depictions of the diverse natural features of Asia, including China's northwestern desert and high mountain areas, the rolling, watery landscape of southern China, and the seascapes and inland highways of Japan. The vast landscape paintings invite the viewer to travel through the various compositional elements, while the closer vignettes help the viewer to associate more directly with the travelers within their different environments.

The exhibition crosses temporal and geographic boundaries, moving from seventh-century China to nineteenth-century Japan and then to modern-day China, while depicting different aspects of travel. The camel as valued in seventh-century China is seen again as an important vehicle in twentieth-century northwestern China. Well-established painting traditions from eighteenth-century China are revisited a generation later in Japan. Different nineteenth-century artists' interpretations of the well-known Japanese highway, the Tōkaidō, speak to the significance of this road as a valuable cultural symbol. Many of the paintings draw upon the Spencer Museum's rich collection of twentieth-century Chinese paintings; it is during this period that Chinese art comes to be recognized on a global level and the concept of art as a world language that obliterates boundaries gains momentum.

Travel can encourage new perspectives, cultivate appreciation of new, unexplored places, and can foster awareness of how one is shaped by those familiar places and experiences that are left behind. This exhibition of works from the Spencer's permanent collection is intended to inspire the joy of adventure that comes with experiences of the journey.

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- On the Web: www.spencerart.ku.edu
- E-mail: spencerart@ku.edu

Gallery hours

Tues., Wed., Fri., & Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Thurs. 10a.m.–9 p.m.

Sun. Noon–5 p.m.

Closed Monday

- Free parking in Lot 91 after 5 p.m. on weekdays and all day weekends, excepting home football games.
- Parking garage adjacent to Kansas Union is \$1 per hour weekdays, free on Saturdays and Sundays (but unavailable on home football games).