

# CURRICULUM VITAE

François Louis

Associate Professor, The Bard Graduate Center: Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design, and Culture

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Nationality: Swiss; U.S. resident alien  
Languages: German (mother tongue); French; Italian; Chinese; Latin

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. East Asian Art History, University of Zurich (1997)  
M.phil. European Art History (minors: East Asian Art History and Sinology), University of Zurich (1992)

## EMPLOYMENT

1999– Bard Graduate Center, New York (Assistant Professor until 2004)  
2002–2008 *ARTIBUS ASIAE*: Editor-in-Chief  
1992–1998 Museum Rietberg Zurich: Research Assistant; Assistant Curator; Research Associate  
1993–1996 University of Zurich: Lecturer in Art History

## COURSES OFFERED

### **Bard Graduate Center**

500/501. Survey of the Decorative Arts, Design History, and Material Culture  
526. Decorative Arts of Later Imperial China, 1100-1900  
563. Interiors in Early Modern China and Japan  
564. Design and Ritual in Imperial China  
567. Art and Material Culture of the Tang Period: Famensi  
572. Arts of Song Period China, 960-1279  
590. Bard Term Study Abroad: China  
598. Master's Thesis Seminar  
627. Western Luxuries and Chinese Taste  
646. Domestic Interiors in China  
648. Art and Ornament in Early China, 1500–1 BCE  
694. Landscape and Rusticity in the Chinese Living Environment  
702. A Cultural History of Gardens in China and Japan  
752. Antiquaries and Antiquarianism in Europe and China, 1000-1800  
761. Design and Material Culture of the Qing Period  
802. Arts of the Kitan Empire (907-1125)  
820. Chinese Ceramics  
817. Recent Archaeological Discoveries of Early China  
827. Issues in the Study of Ancient Art  
925. In Focus: *Sanli tu*

### **University of Zurich**

Famous Sites in Chinese Landscape Painting  
Goldsmithing in Ancient China  
Jean-Honoré Fragonard (1732–1806) and Painting in 18th-Century Paris and Rome

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Dynastic Possessions: The Material Culture of the Early Kitan Elite* (working title, in progress)

*Design by the Book: Chinese Ritual Objects and the Sanli tu*. New York: Bard Graduate Center, 2017.

*Die Goldschmiede der Tang- und Song-Zeit. Archäologische, sozial- und wirtschaftsgeschichtliche Materialien zur Goldschmiedekunst Chinas vor 1279*. Schweizer Asiatische Studien Monograph 32. Bern: Peter Lang, 1999. [Reviews: *Early Medieval China* 6 (2000), 146–152 (Victor Xiong); *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 151.2 (2001), 478–479 (Christoph Kaderas).]

*An Index of Gold and Silver Artifacts Unearthed in the People's Republic of China*. Co-author with Yeajen Liang-Lee. Zurich: Museum Rietberg Zürich, 1996.

### Articles

"Iconic Ancestors: Wire Mesh, Metal Masks, and Kitan Image Worship," *Journal of Sung-Yuan Studies* 43 (2013), pp. 91–115.

"Evolving Approaches to the Study of the Liao," co-authored with Valerie Hansen. Introduction for *Perspectives on the Liao*, Valerie Hansen, Daniel Kane, and François Louis eds., *Journal of Sung-Yuan Studies* 43 (2013), pp. 1–9.

"Review of *La steppe et l'empire: La formation de la dynastie Khitan*, by Pierre Marsone." *Journal of Sung-Yuan Studies* 43 (2013), pp. 369–373.

"The Cultured and Martial Prince: Notes on Li Zanhua's Biographical Record," *Tenth-Century China and Beyond: Art and Visual Culture in a Multi-Centered Age*. Wu Hung ed. (Chicago: forthcoming 2012).

"Helmut Brinker (1939–2012)," obituary in *Artibus Asiae* 72.1 (2012), pp. 193–195.

"Antiquarianism and Intellectual Life in Europe and China, 1500–1800: Introduction," Co-authored with Peter N. Miller, in *Antiquarianism and Intellectual Life in Europe and China*. Peter N. Miller and François Louis eds, (University of Michigan Press and Bard Graduate Center, forthcoming 2012).

"Review of *Sensuous Surfaces: The Decorative Object in Early Modern China*, by Jonathan Hay." *Orientations* (June 2012), p. 74.

Essays on "Gold and Silver" and "Bronze Mirrors," as well as 40 catalogue entries in *The Belitung Wreck: Sunken Treasures from Tang China* (Singapore: Singapore Tourism Board, forthcoming 2011).

"Bronze Mirrors", in *Shipwrecked: Tang Treasures and Monsoon Winds* (Washington, DC: Sackler Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, 2010), 208–215. Online at <https://www.asia.si.edu/Shipwrecked/catalogue.asp>

- "Metal Objects on the Belitung Shipwreck," in *Shipwrecked: Tang Treasures and Monsoon Winds* (Washington, DC: Sackler Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, 2010), 81–87. Online at <https://www.asia.si.edu/Shipwrecked/catalogue.asp>
- "Review of *Dragons of Silk, Flowers of Gold: A Group of Liao-Dynasty Textiles at the Abegg-Stiftung*. Regula Schorta ed. Riggisberg: Abegg-Stiftung, 2007," *Journal of Sung-Yuan Studies* 39 (2009), pp. 237–242.
- "The Yuan Synthesis: Material Culture in Yuan China," in *Genghis Khan and the Mongol Empire*, William Fitzhugh, Morris Rossabi, William Honeychurch eds. (Santa Barbara: Perpetua Press/University of Washington Press, 2009), 222–231.
- "Cauldrons and Mirrors of Yore: Tang Perceptions of Archaic Bronzes," *Zurich Studies in the History of Art* 13/14 (2006/2007), pp. 202–236 (published May 2009).
- "The Hejiacun Rhyton and the Chinese Wine Horn (*Gong*): Intoxicating Rarities and their Antiquarian History," *Artibus Asiae* 67, 2 (2007), pp. 201–242.
- "Han Lacquer Ware and the Wine Cups of Noin Ula," *The Silk Road* 4, 2 (2006), pp. 48–53 ([http://silkroadfoundation.org/newsletter/vol4num2/srnewsletter\\_v4n2.pdf](http://silkroadfoundation.org/newsletter/vol4num2/srnewsletter_v4n2.pdf)).
- Catalogue entries in Hsueh-man Shen ed., *Gilded Splendor: Treasures of China's Liao Empire (907-1125)*. Asia Society, New York, 2006, pp. 294–325. Also published in German as *Schätze der Liao: Chinas vergessene Dynastie*. Cologne and Zurich, 2006.
- "The *Palace Concert* and Tang Material Culture," *Source. Notes in the History of Art* 24, 2 (Winter 2005), pp. 42–49.
- "Written Ornament – Ornamental Writing: Birdscript of the Early Han Dynasty and the Art of Enchanting," *Ars Orientalis* 33 (2003), pp. 10–32.
- "Shaping Symbols of Privilege: Precious Metals and the Early Liao Aristocracy," *Journal of Sung-Yuan Studies* 33 (2003), pp. 71–109.
- "L'or au Sichuan à l'âge du bronze," in Alain Thote ed., *Chine: L'énigme de l'homme de bronze* (Paris: Paris musées, 2003), pp. 157–165, 174.
- "The Genesis of an Icon: The *Taiji* Diagram's Early History," *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 63, 1 (2003), pp. 145–196.
- "Granulierter Goldschmuck und Magie in der Han-Zeit," *Asiatische Studien* 51, 4 (1997), pp. 943–951.
- "Beijing yishu bowuguan de yingxiang" [Impressions of the Beijing Art Museum], in *Zhongguo jiaoyu bao*, December 31, 1995, p. 4.
- "Gold und Silber im Alten China," co-author with Helmut Brinker, in Museum Rietberg Zürich ed., *Chinesisches Gold und Silber. Die Sammlung Pierre Uldry*. Zurich: Museum Rietberg Zürich, 1994, pp. 13–65.
- "'L'ame de l'homme de génie' – Fragonards Rinaldo-Pendants im literarischen Kontext," *Georges-Bloch-Jahrbuch des Kunstgeschichtlichen Seminars der Universität Zürich*, vol. 1 (1994), pp. 191–202.

“Von Juwelenblüten und Blütezeiten. Zur chinesischen Goldschmiedekunst der Tang-Dynastie und der vorausgehenden Jahrhunderte,” *Mitteilungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Ostasiatische Kunst*, No. 9 (October 1994), pp. 3–9.

“Gold and Silver in Ancient China. The Pierre Uldry Collection,” *Arts of Asia* (September/October 1994), pp. 88–96.

Catalogue entry in *China – eine Wiege der Weltkultur. 5000 Jahre Erfindungen und Entdeckungen*. Mainz: von Zabern, 1994, no. 14.

Catalogue entries in Helmut Brinker and Hiroshi Kanazawa, *Zen – Meister der Meditation in Bildern und Schriften*. Zürich: Museum Rietberg Zürich, 1993. Cat. nos. 61, 62. Revised English edition: *ZEN – Masters of Meditation in Images and Writings*. Zurich: Artibus Asiae Publishers, 1996.

### **Editing**

*Perspectives on the Liao*. Volume 43 of the *Journal of Sung-Yuan Studies* (2013). Co-editor with Valerie Hansen and Daniel Kane.

*Antiquarianism and Intellectual Life in Europe and China, 1500-1800* (working title). Co-editor with Peter N. Miller (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2012).

*Artibus Asiae*, Volume 68.1 (2008), in collaboration with Anne McGannon.

*Artibus Asiae*, Volume 67.2 (2007), in collaboration with Anne McGannon.

*Artibus Asiae*, Volume 66.1 (2006), in collaboration with Anne McGannon.

*Artibus Asiae*, Volume 65:2 (2005), in collaboration with Anne McGannon.

*Artibus Asiae*, Volume 65:1 (2005), in collaboration with Anne McGannon.

*Artibus Asiae*, Volume 64:2 (2004), in collaboration with Anne McGannon.

*Artibus Asiae*, Volume 64:1 (2004), in collaboration with Anne McGannon.

*Artibus Asiae*, Volume 63:2 (2003), in collaboration with Anne McGannon.

*Artibus Asiae*, Volume 63:1 (2003), in collaboration with Anne McGannon.

*Artibus Asiae*, Volume 62:2 (2002), in collaboration with Anne McGannon.

*Artibus Asiae*, Volume 62:1 (2002), in collaboration with Anne McGannon.

*Museum Rietberg Zürich. Museumsführer*. Zurich 1998.

*Chinesisches Gold und Silber. Die Sammlung Pierre Uldry*. Exhibition catalogue, Museum Rietberg Zürich, Zurich 1994.

Asia-related articles in *Georges-Bloch-Jahrbuch der Universität Zürich*, Vols. 4 (1997) and 5 (1998).

### **Translations**

"Roger Goepper (1925–2011)" obituary by Helmut Brinker. *Artibus Asiae* 71.2 (2011), pp. 335–339. Translated from the German.

"Dietrich Seckel (1910–2007)" obituary by Helmut Brinker, *Artibus Asiae* 68.1 (2008). Translated from the German.

Catalogue entries in Hsueh-man Shen ed., *Schätze der Liao: Chinas vergessene Dynastie*. Museum für ostasiatische Kunst, Köln, and Museum Rietberg Zurich 2006 (35 pp.). Translated from the English.

Eberhard Fischer: *The Art of the Guro, Côte d'Ivoire*. Translated from the German in collaboration with Anne McGannon (Munich: Prestel, 2008).

[www.rietberg.ch](http://www.rietberg.ch). The Museum Rietberg Zurich Web Site (2004). Edited and translated from the German.

*Museum Rietberg Zurich. Museum Guide*. Zurich, 2001 (204 pp.). Translated from the German in collaboration with Anne McGannon.

#### **Web Sites**

*History of Gardens in East Asia*: <http://faculty.bard.edu/~louis/gardens/> (2002–)

*The Liao Tomb at Tuerji Shan*: <http://faculty.bard.edu/~louis/liao/> (2008–)

## CONFERENCES AND CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED

**Picturing the Ritual Classics in Medieval China**. Symposium, 5 May 2017. Bard Graduate Center, New York.

**Perspectives on the Liao**. Three-day conference co-organized with Valerie Hansen for Yale University and the Bard Graduate Center. 30 September–2 October 2010 in New Haven and New York. For details see <http://www.bgc.bard.edu/news/past-events-09-10/perspectives-liao.html>

**Figural Art in Late Medieval China**. 30 October 2004, *New York Conference for Asian Studies* held at Bard College.

**The Age of Antiquaries in Europe and China**. Three-day conference co-organized with Peter N. Miller for the Bard Graduate Center. Held 25–27 March 2004 in New York. For details see the conference website at <http://faculty.bard.edu/~louis/conference>.

**Designing Art under the Tang Dynasty**. 30 March 2003, *Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies* in New York.

**Decorative Arts of China and the Making of Icons**. Symposium held 26 April 2002 at the Bard Graduate Center, New York.

**Ornament and Communication in Early Chinese Art**. Panel, 10 August 2001, *Second International Convention of Asia Scholars*, Freie Universität Berlin.

## PAPERS PRESENTED RECENTLY

“Golden Jugs: Uighur Heritage Among Kitan Elites?” Paper for the panel “The Technology of Luxury: The Manufacture and Dissemination of Precious Metals and Stones Across Asia.” *8<sup>th</sup> Worldwide Conference of the Society for East Asian Archaeology*. Nanjing University. 8 June 2018.

“Qianlong’s *Jue* Tripods and Pre-Antiquarian Learning.” Invited paper for the symposium *The Way of the Vessel: Making, Collecting, and Disseminating Chinese Bronzes*. Art Institute of Chicago/University of Chicago. 5 May 2018.

“Confucian Classicism and Liao-Dynasty Ritual Design.” Paper for the panel “Ritual Design in China.” *Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, 22 March 2018.

“Liao-Dynasty Elites in Light of Their Archaeological Remains.” Invited lecture. Council of East Asian Studies Colloquium Series, Yale University, 19 February 2018.

“Networks of Wealth: Tang Gold and Silverware in the Ninth Century.” Invited paper for the symposium *Secrets of the Sea: A Tang Shipwreck and Early Trade in Asia*. Columbia University, April 22, 2017.

“Picturing Antiquity in China’s Middle Period: Nie Chongyi’s *Illustrations to the Rites Classics*,” China Project Workshop, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, May 1, 2015.

“What does the Belitung Shipwreck tell us about Asianization?” The Historical Legacy of Asianization. Workshop at the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World, School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University, U.K., February 12, 2013.

“The Belitung Shipwreck: Medieval Chinese Treasures and Modern Culture Politics.” Department of Art History, Brown University, October 13, 2011.

“Seeking the Beginnings of Chinese Cloisonné.” Bard Graduate Center Gallery Programs Lecture, April 14, 2011.

“Luxuries, Corruption, and Ninth-Century Maritime Trade in China.” Invited lecture, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, December 8, 2010.

“Gilded Splendor: The Liao Dynasty and the Chinese Antiquities Market.” Invited lecture, Department of Art and Art History, University of Texas, Austin, November 15, 2010.

“National Heritage, Collectables, and Forgeries: (Dis)Functions of Ancient Artifacts in Asia,” Conversation with Janice Leoshko. Center for East Asian Studies, University of Texas, Austin, November 15, 2010.

“Iconic Ancestors: Re-Contextualizing Elite Kitan Tombs.” Conference: *Perspectives on the Liao*. Bard Graduate Center, October 2, 2010.

“Nomad Style in Early Tenth-Century China.” Conference: *Tenth-Century China and Beyond: Art and Visual Culture in a Multi-Centered Age*. Center for the Art of East Asia, University of Chicago. May 14-15, 2010.

“Rethinking Underground Ritual Sites in Tang-Song China.” Discussant’s comments. *Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, March 25, 2010, Philadelphia.

“Kitan Elite Burials.” *China’s Northern Frontier: Silkroad Foundation Onsite Seminar*. July 24, 2009, Inner Mongolia Museum, Huhhot.