

DRAFT OF REMARKS FOR RUSSELL PANCZENKO – PRIOR TO CHEN LECTURE

Friday, July 13

Tonight we are honored to celebrate the opening of our new exhibition, *The Hall of Self-Reliance: Chinese Painting and Calligraphy from the Simon and Rosemary Chen Collection*. I am grateful to the Chen family for facilitating a wonderful contribution of Chinese art and calligraphy to the Chazen Museum of Art. I would like to highlight, of course, Dr. Simon Chen and his wife Rosemary Chen. Other family members who have been instrumental in the donation of the collection include Lillian Chen-Byerley, Margaret Chen and Clinton Young, Victor Chen, and Vivian Chen. Of course none of this would have been possible without the foresight and generosity of Dr. Simon Chen's parents, Hoshien Tchen and Linsie Chao. It was Hoshien Tchen's wish that the collection come to the museum, to promote greater appreciation for Chinese art and culture in Wisconsin. Simon and Rosemary Chen have enhanced the gift by also donating to the Kohler Art Library their books on Chinese art, some of which are rare or even unavailable in other university libraries. These resources create a strong foundation for the study of twentieth-century Chinese art at the University of Wisconsin.

There are a number of individuals and organizations that helped make the exhibition possible:

Julia K. Murray, Professor of Art History, East Asian Studies, and Religious Studies at the UW-Madison, has been instrumental in the organization of this exhibition. I'd like to thank her for all of her work on the exhibition and the lovely brochure that accompanies it (Russell- would you like to thank her for helping with the Chen donation? I'll leave that up to you)

I am pleased to acknowledge the financial generosity of the Chazen Museum of Art Council, Hilldale Fund and Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin. Monroe Street Framing provided framing services during this project.

I especially want to welcome other family members and friends of the Chens. This is an exciting weekend for all of you, and we offer congratulations to Vivian Chen and Chuck Lewis on the occasion of their wedding. We hope you all enjoy tonight's activities and we are very pleased to have you all here this evening.

And now I'd like to introduce Dr. Simon Chen and Professor Julia Murray.

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Dr. Chen bio info, if you need it.:

Dr. Simon Chen holds a BS from Chiao Tung University, an MS degree from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. from UW-Madison. He also has an MBA degree from the University of Chicago. After working on designing and developing engines in Chicago, he moved to Wisconsin and worked for Colt Industries as Vice President and for Beloit Power Systems as President.

In 1980, Simon Chen set up his own international consulting firm and later moved Power and Energy International Research Lab (PEI) to Madison. He served as an adjunct professor in the UW–Madison from 1984 to 1988.

Additional info on Dr. Chen's parents, if you need it:

The family collection was started by Simon Chen's parents, Hoshien Tchen and Linsie Chao. Hoshien Tchen lived in France while studying political science at the University of Paris. He became interested in art and frequented museums and galleries, where he met Chinese and European artists. When Tchen returned to China he served in provincial government under the Chinese Republic and later worked for the World Cultural Association, where his responsibilities included acquiring artworks for international exhibitions.

After the 1949 Chinese Revolution, Tchen immigrated with his family to the United States, eventually settling in Chicago. The Tchens were forced to leave most of their artworks behind in China, but gradually rebuilt the collection with paintings and calligraphy acquired on periodic visits to Taiwan. Simon Chen left China before his father, in 1948, and met Rosemary Ho while traveling to the United States. They started out in Chicago but eventually moved to Wisconsin, where they have built strong ties in the business community and at the UW–Madison.

After the United States recognized the People's Republic of China in 1979, Simon and Rosemary added paintings and calligraphy by old masters and modern contemporary artists to their holdings of works by well-known artists active in Taiwan. Many paintings by Szechuan artists were collected by Rosemary's father, and woodblock prints by Simon's father.