



In preparation for the Power and Beauty exhibition please add to this document any questions or concerns you anticipate to come up about the exhibitions topic, content or logistics. Additionally please add any situations you foresee arising during the run of this exhibit. These questions will be answered and presented to all front of house staff at the VET in February.

Power and Beauty in China's Last Dynasty: An Exhibition by Robert Wilson

Exhibition Dates: February 3 - May 27, 2018

The arts of the Chinese Qing court rivaled that of Europe's great kingdoms. This opulence served to affirm imperial power and prestige, and also as stagecraft for the emperor's leading role as "son of heaven." "Power and Beauty in China's Last Dynasty" presents treasures from the museum's renowned collection of Chinese art, including rare court costumes, jades, lacquers, paintings, and sculpture. Mia's curator of Chinese art, Liu Yang, has collaborated with celebrated artist, director, and New York-based stage designer Robert Wilson to create an experiential exhibition that engages the senses and evokes the otherworldly, intoxicating—and even dangerous—world of the Qing (pronounced "ch'ing") court (1644–1912).

CONTENT

Who is Robert Wilson and what is his connection to China?

Robert Wilson is one of the world's foremost theater artists. Over the course of his wide-ranging career, he has worked as a choreographer, performer, painter, sculptor, video artist, and sound and lighting designer. He is best known for his collaboration with Philip Glass on *Einstein on the Beach*. In 1991 Wilson established The Watermill Center, a laboratory for performance in Long Island, New York. Wilson has significant experience collaborating with several museums to stage exhibitions and is also a collector of Chinese art.

How did this collaboration start?

Yang Liu, Mia's curator of Chinese Art and head of China, South and Southeast Asian Art, was familiar with Robert Wilson's work and knew he was passionate about Chinese art. Liu invited Wilson to collaborate with Mia on this exhibition, with the goal of creating an immersive experience unlike anything Mia has done before.

Shouldn't Mia have a problem with a white man interpreting Chinese history? Isn't this cultural appropriation?

This collaboration was proposed by Yang Liu, Mia's curator of Chinese Art and head of China, South and Southeast Asian Art. Liu was familiar with Wilson's work and knew he was passionate about Chinese art. Liu invited Wilson to collaborate with Mia on this exhibition, with the goal of creating an immersive experience unlike anything Mia has done before. The staging and storytelling of this exhibition speaks to Mia's belief in art's ability to inspire wonder and fuel curiosity.

Why are there no didactics?

There are introductory panels about the exhibition, Robert Wilson, and the Qing Dynasty at the beginning. However, there are no didactics within the exhibition because our goal is to give our visitors a pure experience of the art and environment without the interjection of interpretive materials inside the exhibition, similar to a theatrical experience. If you need more information, we have a brochure available, and there is detailed information on the Mia website. We also invite you to visit Mia's renowned Chinese art galleries for more information about the arts of China. After your visit, please feel free to speak about your experience with our Docents and Guides in the "Stop and Chat" space in G240 (the alcove under the marble stairs), outside the exhibition.

Where can I find print material about the objects in the exhibit?

A brochure is available, and you can also visit the Mia website.

Will there be a borrow-only text I can take into the galleries with me? Why not?

A brochure is available.

How many objects are in the exhibition?

More than 100 objects from Mia's permanent collection are on view, along with artwork by contemporary Chinese artists Yang Yongliang and Wang Dongling.

Will there be a catalogue? If so, how much will they be?

There is no catalogue accompanying this exhibition. The journal *Orientalisms* features articles by Liu Yang and Matthew Welch about *Power and Beauty in China's Last Dynasty*. You can purchase a copy of the magazine in The Store (shop.artsmia.org or 612-870-3100). Members receive 20% off.

Will there be any music?

Each gallery features an original soundscape created by Wilson, in collaboration with sound designer Rodrigo Gava. Some of these soundscapes involve music, while others utilize laughter, spoken word, and other sounds.

Can I purchase the music in the store? Online?

No, the soundscape is not available for purchase.

Why do I need to pay when the objects are from Mia's permanent collection?

This exhibition is unlike anything Mia has previously organized. We have completely

transformed our galleries, from the textures on the walls to the special theatrical lighting to the unique soundscape created especially for this show.

Where did the pieces come from? Are any works from another museum? Where will it go after this?

This exhibition was organized by Mia and is currently exclusive to our museum.

Will this be a good exhibition for children?

This exhibition provides an immersive, theatrical way to learn more about Chinese art and history, but there may be aspects of the show that can seem overwhelming for visitors, such as dark rooms, surprising sounds, and repetitive noises. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to speak with our staff.

INTRODUCTORY ROOM

Description of Gallery 1:

Visitors will start their experience in the Introductory Room. They can enter this room at the time printed on their tickets. The maximum wait time inside the Introductory Room is 8 minutes. Introductory panels on Robert Wilson and the Qing Dynasty are located in the Introductory Room.

Will I be able to look at my phone while in the first, dark room of the exhibit? Can I use the flashlight on my phone?

We encourage you to refrain from using your phone to preserve the experience of other visitors.

Will there be seating available in the Gallery 1?

Yes.

Why am I required to stay in the first gallery for 8 minutes? Can I skip that room?

The wait time is a part of the experience. Visitors have an opportunity to clear their minds, contemplate the artwork on display, and experience the specially designed soundscape.

I've seen this before; can I skip Gallery 1?

Staff may escort a visitor through Gallery 1 if (a) a visitor is uncomfortable with the experience, or (b) a visitor has experienced it before. The visitor must be escorted by staff in order to move through the room; they cannot "skip" it on their own.

If I have to use the restroom while I am in the exhibition, where do I exit and re-enter? Do I have to spend 8 minutes in Gallery 1 again?

Please exit through the Light Room (Gallery 10). Re-enter through Gallery 1, and Mia staff will escort you through at the appropriate moment so as not to disrupt other visitors' experiences.

Can I stay in the first gallery longer than 8 minutes?

Yes, you may stay for another full cycle (i.e., another full 8 minutes).

I am uncomfortable waiting/unable to wait in the darkened room. Is there another way to enter the exhibition?

Gallery 1 is the only entry point, but staff can escort visitors who are uncomfortable with the lower lighting conditions. Please let us know if you have concerns.

ACCESSIBILITY

Are strollers and double-wide strollers allowed in the exhibition?

Yes, we welcome families with children and strollers. We ask that adults manage the strollers at all times for the safety of children and visitors.

Are wheelchairs allowed in the exhibition?

Yes, electric and manual wheelchairs are allowed.

Are scooters allowed in the exhibition?

Yes, scooters are allowed in the exhibition for visitors who need them for accessibility issues.

Will there be seating in the exhibition?

There is a long bench in Gallery 1.

Are gallery stools allowed in the exhibition?

No, Mia-owned gallery stools are not allowed in the exhibition.

Are there any flashing lights within the exhibition? For example when we leave the darkened room what is the lighting situation for the next gallery? People with epilepsy may be sensitive to this.

Some lights will turn on and off; however we do not anticipate any strobe effects.

Are there going to be any intense lights/sounds that may bother people who are sensitive to those things?

This exhibition provides an immersive, theatrical way to learn more about Chinese art and history. There are darkened rooms, surprising sounds, and repetitive noises that may affect those with sensory sensitivities. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to speak with our staff.

I am extremely allergic to thatch (or other substance in the exhibition) and am having an extreme reaction.

If a visitor needs immediate medical attention inform the nearest security guard or call Control at 5555 and report the location and the conditions of the visitor. Are they breathing, bleeding, unconscious? Security Captains will respond to the emergency and will have Control call 911 as needed. We will also provide a full refund for their tickets.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Can I take photographs? Flash?

Yes, photographs are permitted in the galleries. However, we ask that guests refrain from using flash photography.

Is there a photo opportunity in the exhibition?

There are many areas of the exhibition that offer unique photo opportunities for visitors. We invite you to take photos and share on social media.

Is there a social media hashtag for the exhibition?

#PowerandBeautyMia

TOURS

Will there be guided tours of this exhibition?

We designed this exhibition to give our visitors a pure experience of the art and environment without the interjection of interpretive materials, similar to a theatrical experience, so there are no guided tours. However, guides and docents are available to answer questions before or after your visit. They are located in the “Stop and Chat” area in G240 under the marble stairs. The China Art Cart is available with related art objects you can touch and there are make-and-take activities for all ages. This area will have volunteer guides Tuesdays through Sundays, 12 to 4 p.m. and an additional 6-8 p.m. on Thursdays.

Will there be any audio explaining what is happening in the first room for people to listen to as they wait in the dark?

No. We designed this exhibition to give our visitors a pure experience of the art and environment without the interjection of interpretive materials, similar to a theatrical experience.

The audio is too loud.

The sound and sound levels are part of our vision for this installation, but we take your feedback very seriously. [Please report complaints to the manager on duty so we can monitor visitor responses to the exhibition.]

Will school groups be able to visit the exhibit? How will that work?

School groups can reserve an entry time with the Tours Office. They are allowed to reserve 15 tickets every 10 minutes on top of the 30 tickets VE will be reserving. If groups of 60 or more students are booked, the Tour Office will alert VE management. Day-of self-led groups may enter the exhibition if there is space and the chaperones agree to buy tickets for themselves to accompany the students through the exhibition. School groups will be escorted directly into Gallery 2 from Gallery 1.

Is there a Try-it Space for this exhibition?

No, however, guides and docents are available to answer questions before or after your visit. They are located in the “Stop and Chat” area in G240 under the marble stairs. The China Art Cart is available with related art objects you can touch and there are make-and-take activities

for all ages. This area will have volunteer guides Tuesdays through Sundays, 12 to 4 p.m. and an additional 6-8 p.m. on Thursdays.

Is sketching/drawing allowed in the exhibit?

Not in this special exhibition, as it can present an obstacle to visitors moving through the exhibition spaces. However, we do invite you to consider visiting the permanent galleries to sketch/draw. Our guides and docents are happy to direct you to additional highlights from our Chinese art collection.

LOGISTICS

How many visitors are allowed into the first gallery at a time?

30 visitors at a time

Will this exhibit have timed tickets?

Yes, every 10 minutes.

How does the arrival of a VIP (board member, Kaywin Feldman etc) impact our enter/exit timing for the exhibit and Gallery 1?

VIP should get instant access to the information room and wait for the next entrance. Someone hoping to get in instantly may enter via the exit in Americas.

Are there audio guides? What do they cost? How long will they be?

There is no audio guide. We designed this exhibition to give our visitors a pure experience of the art and environment without the interjection of interpretive materials, similar to a theatrical experience.

I use hearing aids, will the audio guides work?

There is no audio guide.

What is the Third Thursday plan for entry into the exhibition? I don't want to wait in a long line before going in. Can I skip ahead to an earlier entry time?

Third Thursday is Feb. 16. New and current My Mia members get in free to "Power and Beauty." A ticket from Third Thursday may be used again (once) on another day. Logistics and timing for the evening are as follows:

- 6-7p.m.
 - 30 tickets per time slot pre sold (via phone, online, onsite). 30 tickets added to each time slot at 5:30 pm Feb. 16. Total of 60 per time slot. (We may be able to increase this further depending on the final design of the exhibit)
 - My Mia pricing rules apply in person or over the phone but not online. Phone Room and Front Desk staff will have the ability to use price override on the tickets in advance and on the day of.
- 7:10, 7:20, 7:30 p.m.

- Tickets held for AE Influencer guests (30 per time slot)
- 7:40 entrance and later
 - NOT PRESOLD - available only at the event
- No limit on tickets issued, good for validation that night, or another day.

PROGRAMMING

Talks:

“On Power and Beauty”: An exhibition preview talk with Robert Wilson and Liu Yang

Thursday, February 1, 2018, 6:30 PM

[Link to the website page](#)

Guzheng Performance with Jarrelle Barton

Saturday, Date to be confirmed, 2 p.m.

Jarrelle Barton is a Minnesota musician trained on the Chinese guzheng, a 21-string zither with a 2,500-year history. Barton first heard its sound at a public library as a young teenager and was instantly hooked. At home, he attempted to construct his own from a tea tray and guitar strings; later he convinced his grandmother to buy him one. He also taught himself Mandarin in order to understand guzheng video tutorials he found online. Despite this unusual journey, he is considered a virtuoso on the instrument by guzheng masters. At this special performance, the first at Mia, Barton will play music from the Qing dynasty inspired by the sweeping drama of the “Power and Beauty” exhibition.

Performance is free; tickets are recommended. See artsmia.org or call 612-870-6323 to reserve.

MSPIFF Spotlight on China

April 2018

The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul is pleased to be partnering with Mia's forthcoming "Power & Beauty" exhibition with a Spotlight on China at the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival, April 12-28, 2018. Featuring acclaimed Chinese artist and filmmaker Xu Bing's experimental first feature *Dragonfly Eyes*, and new and classic films from China. For more information, please visit MSPFilm.org.

Third Thursday:

Power and Beauty in China's Last Dynasty: Concept and Design by Robert Wilson

Thursday, February 15, 2018

6-9 PM

museum-wide

FREE; refreshments available for purchase

[Link to the website page](#)

SAFETY AND SECURITY

How is the art protected?

We have several methods in place, and security guards patrol the galleries to assist visitors and to ensure the safety of the exhibition objects.

How does Mia ensure my safety in this exhibition?

Mia is committed to ensuring the safety of our visitors. Security guards are on duty in the exhibition galleries to assist visitors at any time and to monitor for safety and security issues.

SITUATIONS

Lost child

Report a lost child or vulnerable adult to a security guard or call the Control emergency line 5555. Ask the parent or chaperone to wait for the Captain who will get a description and last location where the child or adult was seen. Security and VE will implement the Mia Lost Child Procedure and search the building and grounds until the situation is resolved.

Crying child

Notify a security guard who will check in with the visitor to see if they need assistance. We can offer the Family Center in the Commons area as an option to relax. VE can assist with re-entry if the adults check in at the VE Target entrance.

Outraged visitor condemning the exhibition

Notify a security guard who will check in with the visitor to offer assistance. Please listen to their comments, assure them they are being heard, and let them know we appreciate their perspective. Art is a dialogue, and people will react to exhibitions in individual ways. If the person wants to speak further, take their contact information and someone from AE will respond. Please report all outraged visitors to AE. We want to make sure we keep records of comments in case anything escalates.

Visitor falls in Target Galleries

Report all medical emergencies to security immediately. Security responds to all medical situations and are trained in First Aid and CPR. Please note that depending on the severity of the emergency the galleries may be evacuated for medical responders. Security Captains will be responsible for communicating the evacuation plan and route to visitors and VE. If a full gallery evacuation takes place VE will allow visitors back in the exhibit after the all clear is given by Security Captain. In this instance visitors will not need to verify their tickets upon re-entry

Visitor falls into a piece in Target Galleries

If a visitor falls into a piece in the exhibition report to security immediately. Security will respond to assist as needed including medical response. Security will notify Registration and the Curator to inspect the objects for possible damage.

MISCELLANEOUS

How can I get in touch with Robert Wilson?

Please send inquiries to Robert Wilson directly, through his website <http://www.robertwilson.com>

What type of discounts can I get on tickets?

Mia offers discounts on special exhibition tickets to all of our members

Who are the exhibit partners?

Presenting Sponsor: Sit Investment Associates

Lead sponsors: Nivin and Duncan MacMillan Foundation, Johanna Maud Hill

Major sponsors: Estate of Patricia S. Ringer (Carpenter-Coan Family), Marianne Short and Raymond Skowyra, Delta Air Lines

Media partner: Star Tribune

Are the Summer Gala participants going to have open access to this exhibition?

TBD