



“Without visiting this garden, how could I ever have realized this splendor of spring!”

— Tang Xianzu (1550-1616), *The Peony Pavilion*

LV Nr. 56-636

Between Asia and Europe: Garden Design and Images in Transcultural Contexts

Yuning TENG

Mo. 14:00-16:00, Beginn: 17.04.2023, Raum ESA-W 120

This seminar will examine Eurasian exchanges in garden art, including garden design and the transmission of garden images through a variety of media and materials from the 18th century to the present day. Its special focus lies on case studies with regard to China, Japan, and Europe from a transcultural perspective. The early examples of garden design will be traced back to European gardens and parks decorated with Chinese and Japanese architectural elements, as well as the first building complexes invoking European garden designs in China, which were constructed by Jesuit court artists to please the Chinese emperor. Garden motifs depicted in Chinoiserie fashion art and craft, such as porcelain, screens, and clothes, will also be discussed. Then, the seminar will elaborate on how Japan and China learned from European garden designs to start their modern public park construction at the turn of the 20th century, as well as how pictorial newspapers, photobooks, and postcards accelerated the East-West two-way spread of garden images. The discussion will also extend to the field of contemporary art and films, in which garden images are used as a metaphor of the ideal spiritual home confronting today's surviving dilemmas caused by ecological issues, overdeveloped urbanization, global capitalism, and so on.

Images (from left to right):

Chinesische Teehaus im Park Sanssouci in Potsdam. Photo by Yuning Teng.

Detail from *Screen of Twelve Beauties*, 1709-1723, ink and colour on silk. Palace museum, Beijing.

Hito Steyerl, *Power Plants*, Installation view, 2019, Serpentine Galleries.