Image and Text:

A Detective Reading of a Rare Chinese Mirror Design

Friday, April 15th noon – 1 pm

Free Public Lecture

at Kalamazoo Institute of Arts



Dr. Hanmo Zhang Professor, Renmin University of China Visiting Scholar, University of Chicago

Bringing together art historical, archaeological, historical and literary sources, this talk demonstrates how a rare, unprovenanced bronze mirror with a decorated silk backing is related to the Wu Zixu story in early Chinese

history. This not only details the process of deciphering the design on the silk backing, but also reveals the complex relationship between text and image. The successful interpretation of this design proves that multi-scene presentation of pictorial narrative indeed appeared in early China.

Dr. Zhang received his M.A. in 2005 from WMU, and Ph.D. in 2012 from UCLA. He joined the faculty of Renmin University of China, Beijing, in 2016. He is currently a visiting professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations and a Research Affiliate of the Center for the Art of East Asia at the University of Chicago. Dr. Zhang's interests center on the investigation of the early Chinese literary world in its textual and archaeological contexts, especially at the converging points of the disciplines of literature, history, and archaeology. He is the author of *Authorship and Text-making in Early China* (Mouton: De Gruyter, 2018) and numerous articles on topics related to early Chinese textual and material cultures.

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