The Hermit of West Mountain
A Selection of Paintings and Calligraphy
by Pu Ru 溥儒

April 10-May 20, 2017
1776 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC
About the Collection

Pu Ru’s paintings are in high demand among collectors of Chinese art and frequently do well in auctions. Unlike many of his fellow renowned Chinese artists, however, Pu Ru kept a very low profile during his lifetime. While he traveled some in Asia, he did not make trips to the U.S. or Europe to exhibit his work. Because of this, Pu Ru’s work has not been widely shown in the U.S. and, as far as we could determine, he has not had a solo U.S. exhibit.

The collector has chosen to put a portion of his personal collection of Pu Ru paintings on display in the hopes of sharing the paintings and calligraphy of this beloved Chinese artist with an American audience. Pu Ru was a prolific painter and calligrapher and created untold numbers of works during his lifetime. While the collection exhibited here is only a small sampling of the artist’s work, it will hopefully serve to spark new interest in Pu Ru, and also in Chinese traditional Chinese art.

Pu Ru was a family friend of the collector. It is this early acquaintance with the artist that helped spark the collector’s passion for Chinese art and spurred his own personal art collection. The works currently on display only represent a portion of the collector’s Pu Ru pieces. Due to the size of the gallery, the collector was unable to put some of his favorite Pu Ru pieces on display.

He sincerely hopes that more well-known galleries will be inspired to host their own exhibitions of Pu Ru’s works. He would also be willing to donate some of his pieces, both those on display and the more significant pieces from his collection not shown here, in order to help make such exhibitions possible. The collector has a deep appreciation for Pu Ru’s art and hopes to do what he can to share that passion with others.

Inquiries about the pieces on display, or the full Pu Ru collection, can be made through the U.S.-China Policy Foundation contact listed below:

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About the Artist

Pu Ru (1896-1963), also known as Pu Xinyu, was born into the Manchurian royal family of the Qing Dynasty. He was the cousin of Pu Yi, the last emperor of China. After the Qing Dynasty fell and Pu Ru returned from his schooling in Germany, he lived in the Je Tai Monastery in the mountains outside of Beijing. There, he acquired the nickname Xishan Yishi, or Hermit of the West Mountain. In 1947, Pu Ru was appointed as the Manchu representative for the Republic of China’s Constitutional National Assembly by Chiang Kai-shek. At the invitation of the Nationalists, Pu Ru moved to Taiwan after the Communist victory in mainland China. In Taiwan, he taught at the National Taiwan Normal University. He sold his artwork, which was in high demand, when he had to in order to make a living, but enjoyed gifting pieces to friends.

Pu Ru was a master of traditional Chinese painting, calligraphy, and Chinese scholarship. He is considered one of the last of the true Chinese literati and artist scholars. Pu Ru’s work displays his strong mastery of traditional techniques and styles. His expertise gave Pu Ru the flexibility to paint a large array of subjects and develop his own individual style. His calligraphy is elegant and fluid. Pu Ru viewed Chinese painting and calligraphy as coming from the same source and approached his painting with the same attention to brushwork and balance. He is well known for his landscapes and natural scenes, as well as his figure paintings.

Pu Ru was a contemporary of another famous 20th century Chinese artist, Zhang Daqian (1899-1983). When discussing the best Chinese artists of the time, it was common to refer to “Pu of the North and Zhang of the South.” The two painters even collaborated on several pieces in the 1930s. To recognize their accomplishments, in 1993 the Taipei National Palace Museum hosted a three day international conference in their honor.

溥儒生平简介

溥儒 (1896-1963)，满族，北京人。现代国画大师，出身清皇族，姓爱新觉罗，字心畬，又号羲皇上人、西山逸士。善画山水、人物、花鸟、走兽。其山水学北宗，受马远、夏圭影响较多，复灵活变通，有自家风范。意境雅淡致远，俊逸出尘，结构谨严，笔法挺劲，并喜绘于绢地，染色层次多而淡。
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

Calligraphy

Running script - good fortune

Ink on paper

32.5 x 31 cm
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

Calligraphy - palindrome poem

Regular script, small characters

Ink on paper

49.5 x 35 cm

1955
溥儒
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

书法 - 蠹化
Calligraphy - poem

楷书 小楷
Regular script in small characters

水墨纸本
Ink on paper

款识: 蠹化, 陆龟蒙
Signed with seals

26 x 68 cm

1956

(note: image is on side)
溥儒
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

楷书七言联
Couplet

水墨纸本
Ink on paper

款识：
竹榻夜移听雨坐
纸窗晴后看云眠
Signed with seals

68 x 13 cm (x2)
溥儒
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

楷书七言联
Couplet

水墨纸本
Ink on paper

款识：
芳树笙歌酬令节
茂林觞咏叙幽情
Signed with seals

67 x 11.5 cm (x2)

1942
溥儒
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

行书书法
Running Script Calligraphy

水墨纸本 立轴
Ink on paper, hanging scroll

款识:
古人寄简赋重鱼
弥重加餐字字珠
喜见绿衣行万里
从今不待燕传书
壬辰春月溥儒

钤印:（心畲）

37 x 49.5 cm

1952
溥儒

Pu Ru (1896-1963)

竹图
Bamboo

设色纸本
Ink and color on paper

Signed with seals

120 x 36.3 cm
溥儒
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

Chinese Painting

设色纸本
Ink and color

款识：甲午夏月
绍仁先生属作，
心畬
钤印：旧王孙，
傅儒
Signed with seals

67 x 34 cm

1954
Pu Ru (1896-1963)
Chinese Painting
Ink and color on silk

款识：西山逸士溥儒敬写
钤印：溥儒，心畬
Signed with seals

59.5 x 37.5 cm
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

Chinese Painting

Ink and color on silk

24 x 12 cm
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

Court Lady

Ink and color on silk

Signed with seal

54 x 25.5 cm
Pu Ru (1896-1963) (attributed)

Double Horses

Ink and color on paper

Signed with seals

50 x 27 cm
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

Landscape

Ink and color on paper, long hanging scroll

Signed with seal

66 x 10 cm
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

Landscape

Ink and color on paper, hanging scroll

Signed with two seals

117 x 35.5 cm
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

Landscape

Ink and color on silk, hanging scroll

Signed with two seals

72 x 22 cm
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

山水小品
Landscape

设色纸本
Ink and color on paper

Signed with seals

24.2 x 23.7 cm
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

Landscape Booklet Page

Ink on paper

Signed with seal

27.1 x 16.4 cm

This booklet was a gift from Pu Ru to his friend, General Wang Shuchang (1886-1960).

A blank page was left for General Wang to add his own calligraphy. Unfortunately, he did not have the opportunity to complete it.
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

Monkey

Ink on silk

39.5 x 26 cm
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

Painting, calligraphy on fan

Ink and color on paper

Signed with seals

90 x 61 cm
溥儒
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

空亭临水
Pavilion facing the water

设色纸本
Ink and color

63 x 32.5 cm

1935
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

Plum Blossoms

Ink and color on paper

款识：旧时月色板桥西，心畬
钤印：溥儒，旧王孙，一壶之中

Singed with seals

81 x 28 cm
溥儒
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

松下高士图
Scholar Under Pine

设色纸本
Ink and color on paper

款识：企石属(谢承炳)
Dedicated to Mr. Xie Chengbing (1909-2003), a famous collector of Chinese art and friend of Pu Ru

71.5 x 32.5 cm

The painting depicts Pu Ru with his good friend and fellow artist, Zhang Daqian (1899-1983)
溥儒
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

松下高士图
Scholar Under Pine

水墨纸本
Ink on paper

款识：心畬
Signed with seal

钤印：心畬

32 x 20 cm
Pu Ru (1896-1963) (attributed)

Visiting Friend in Snow

Four panel hanging screen

Ink and color on silk

Signed with seals

69.5 x 129 cm
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

钟逵图
Zhongkui

设色纸本 立轴
Ink and color

Inscribed with a poetic quatrain and signed Pu Ru with one seal

37.5 x 18.4 cm

Zhongkui is a ghost catcher from Chinese folklore
溥儒
Pu Ru (1896-1963)

钟馗
Zhongkui

设色纸本
Ink and color on paper

轴心：设色纸本
Inscribed with a poetic quatrain and signed Xinyu with three seals

52.5 cm x 26.5 cm