

10/28 - "Curating the Cultural Revolution: The Rent Collection Courtyard Then and Now" by Prof. Denise Ho



October 18, 2016

Curating the Cultural Revolution: The Rent Collection Courtyard Then and Now

When: Friday, October 28, 2016 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Where: Sterling Memorial Library, Room 218

Speaker: Denise Ho, Assistant Professor, History Department

Description: During this year's fiftieth anniversary of China's Cultural Revolution, many have invoked the writer Ba Jin's call for a Cultural Revolution Museum. Why has there been so little commemoration—state and otherwise—of one of the most important periods of China's twentieth century? This talk explores the history of the Rent Collection Courtyard, an exhibition that was displayed short before and during the Cultural Revolution and that became one of the Mao period's most iconic "model works." To this day, the Rent Collection Courtyard is on display in China, even though it is presented as art rather than propaganda. Denise Ho, assistant professor of history, will examine the practice of exhibiting class in the 1960s, the role of display in the Cultural Revolution, and the legacy of the Rent Collection Courtyard in contemporary China. Professor Denise Ho is an historian of modern China, with a particular focus on the social and cultural history of China during the Mao period (1949-1976). Her research on the museums and exhibitions of the Mao era—taking Shanghai as a case study—examines the relationship between exhibitionary culture and political campaigns. Her first book, *Curating Revolution: Politics on Display in Mao's China*, is under contract with Cambridge University Press. All are welcome. Light lunch will be provided.

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