

What's On

Gu Dashen Exhibition



An exhibition of the life of Gu Dashen (1620-1674), a scholar, poet, artist and irrigation official in Songjiang from the end of the Ming (1368-1644) to the beginning of the Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, is ongoing and will become a permanent exhibition at Zuibai Pond Park in Songjiang District. Gu is believed to be the first owner of the park, one of Shanghai's renowned five classic gardens. The exhibition is divided into four parts: Gu's path toward officialdom that was filled with frustration and adversity; Gu's academic and artistic achievements; Gu's relation with the Zuibai Pond Park; and replicas of Gu's works stored at the National Library of China, Shanghai Museum, Taipei Palace Museum and Songjiang Museum.

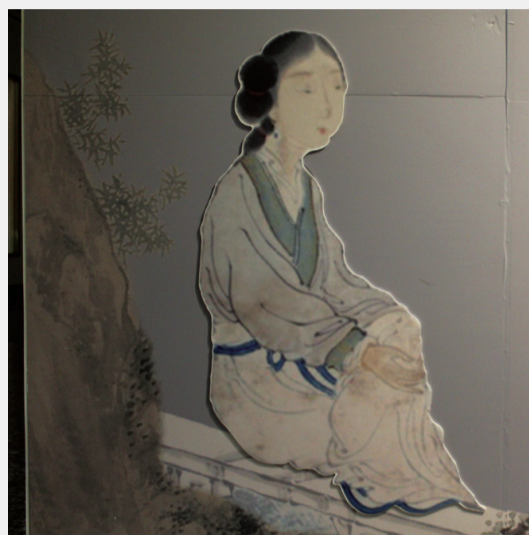
Dates: Throughout the year
Tickets: 12 yuan (Entrance fee for Zuibai Pond Park)
Venue: Jianshan Hall, Zuibai Pond Park
Address: 64 Renmin Rd S., Songjiang District
 松江区人民南路64号

Vintage Items From Yesteryear

"Please answer 1912," an exhibition of vintage items from 1912 to 1949, is taking place at the Ennook Museum of Art in Cangcheng Historic and Cultural Zone in Songjiang District. The majority of the items on display are objects and designs from the Republic of China period (1912-1949), including books, maps, newspapers and music scores, as well as American posters from the 1940s and Kodak film pictures.

Dates: Long term, 9am-7pm (closed on Mondays)
Tickets: Free
Venue: Ennook Museum of Art
Address: 169 Zhongshan Rd W., Songjiang District
 松江区中山西路169号

Jiangnan women in the Qing Dynasty



Portrait of a Qing Dynasty woman



EDITOR'S PICK

A bronze ox figurine used to stand a mirror by women in the Jiangnan area during the Qing Dynasty. — Photos by Yang Yang

Yang Yang

An exhibition featuring lifestyles and art related to females in the Jiangnan area (regions south of the lower reaches of the Yangtze River) during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) is taking place at Songjiang Museum through March 13.

In collaboration with Huzhou Museum in neighboring Zhejiang Province, the museum lifts the curtain covering the rarely exposed lifestyles of Qing Dynasty women in the Jiangnan area. Exhibited items include calligraphy and paintings about and created by Chinese women of that era, in addition to decorations, costumes and everyday activities. Visitors get a glimpse of the aesthetics represented through Qing Dynasty women in Jiangnan, as well as their wit and cleverness, through the hundreds of cultural relics exhibited.

Jiangnan has been a prosperous part of China for centuries. Since the

mid-Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), cities and towns have been built and a commodity market developed. As more local women engaged in commercial production, their social status rose accordingly and their beliefs began to change. Though the majority of the women still followed traditional moral codes requiring them to devote themselves to their fathers, husbands and sons, some women in Jiangnan during that era, with their consciousness awakening, gradually broke from the restrictions of a feudal society and pursued freedom and personal development through art and culture.

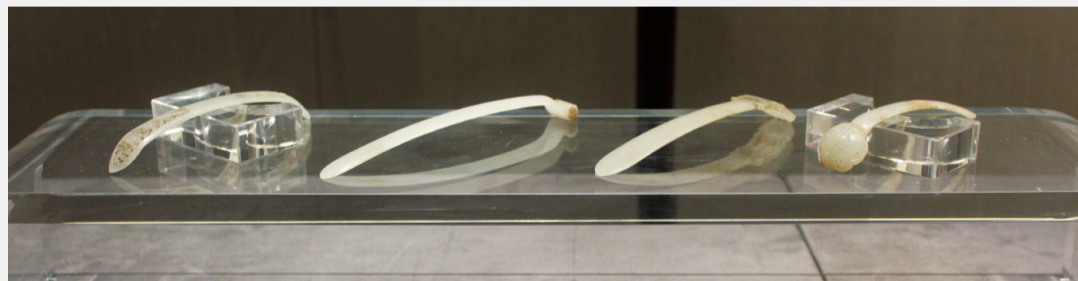
Paintings of ladies, a traditional Chinese painting genre, portrayed female roles from the perspectives of male artists in feudal societies. The exhibited paintings of ladies during this time portrayed graceful and peaceful female roles that differed from previous luxurious and gorgeous roles, reflecting a change

in people's aesthetics and social mentality by the end of a feudal era.

As authorities in the Qing Dynasty tried to ease conflicts between the Manchu and Han nationalities, Han ethnic women were able to maintain their ethnic costumes and makeup in spite of the fact that Han ethnic men had to follow the Manchu-style dress code. Apparel, shoes, decorations and jewelry displayed during this time displayed Jiangnan women's emphasis on delicacy and property.

In addition, paintings by women and *touhu* (投壘), arrow throwing and sports Jiangnan women of ancient times practiced at their ladies' chambers are also on display.

Venue: Songjiang Museum
Hours: 9am-4pm through March 13 (closed on Mondays)
Address: 233 Zhongshan Rd E., Songjiang District
 松江区中山东路233号



Above left: Jade hairpins used by Jiangnan women during the Qing Dynasty. Above right: Prayer beads.



Chinese Snacks

This is a series of stories about famous snacks in China. Each article will break down the ingredients of each tasty treat and tell you how it is prepared. Interesting stories about how each snack got its name will also be included.

Braised pork smells of straw fragrance

Qin Tian and Yang Yang

STRAWs collected from the autumnal rice harvest can be used to wrap fatty pork and make soy-sauce braised pork that sends out wafts of straw fragrance, a classic dish in Songjiang District.

One or two dried strips of straw are dipped in warm water to soften. Cut some pork belly meat into squares, then use straw to wrap the pork. Cut off extra straw ends. The wrapped pork is cooked in boiling water, and wine is added to eliminate the



Straw-wrapped pork — Li Cong

unpleasant odor. Boil some oil in a wok and add ginger slices and green onions. Then add these ingredients to cook 5 kilograms of fatty pork:

200 grams of spare rib sauce, 150 grams of seafood sauce, 150 grams of dark soy sauce, 150 grams of light soy sauce and 400 grams of rock candies.

After the ingredients boil, add the straw-wrapped pork and some water and braise them for three hours. Use a chopstick to test whether the meat is soft enough. Continue braising the meat until the sauce turns sticky. The meat can be eaten after removing the straws or wrapped with a pancake. It is very fragrant and tastes like sea eel.