



## THE ORIENTAL CERAMIC SOCIETY OF HONG KONG LIMITED

### “WERE THERE ANTIQUES IN ANTIQUITY?: THE CASE OF CHINESE ARCHAIC BRONZES”

by Professor Jenny F. So

**Date:** Thursday, 3 December 2009  
**Venue:** The Hong Kong Club  
Jackson Road, Central, Hong Kong  
**Time:** 18:00 Drinks; 18:30 AGM; 19:00 Presentation; 20:15 Dinner  
**Cost:** Lecture HK\$100 for non-members  
Dinner HK\$450 (members); HK\$500 (guests)

The focus on bygone artistic traditions - often described as "archaism"- occupies a central place in the history of Chinese art. Generations of literati painters and calligraphers prescribed copying ancient masters as the cornerstone of all artistic training. Cultured Chinese emperors like Song Huizong (1101-1125) and Qing Qianlong (1736-1795) were preoccupied with the collection, study, and reproduction of antiquities. However, archaeological discoveries in recent years have revealed increasing evidence that archaizing activities occurred as early as the mid-first millennium BCE, well before the Song and Qing dynasties. Using ancient bronze vessels as examples, this lecture will explore the circumstances under which antiquities could have survived to serve as models for archaistic reproduction, what evidence we have today that this archaizing activity occurred, and when and why this activity might have flourished.

**Jenny F. So** left Hong Kong for undergraduate and post-graduate studies in the U.S., where she received her doctorate in Chinese art history from Harvard University. From her graduate student days onward through her appointment as Senior Curator for the ancient Chinese collections at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in Washington, D.C., she has been involved in a variety of exhibition and catalogue projects concerning the art and archaeology of early China. In 2001 she returned to Hong Kong to work at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where she is currently Professor of Fine Arts and Director of the Institute of Chinese Studies.

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- Please reserve \_\_\_ seat(s) for members at HK\$450 each and \_\_\_ seat(s) for guests at HK\$500 each for dinner.

**N.B. Due to The Hong Kong Club's regulations, any dinner reserved will be charged for irrespective of attendance unless at least 48 hours' notice of cancellation is given.**

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*The event will be cancelled or postponed to a later date if Typhoon Signal no.8 or above is hoisted or if Black Rainstorm Warning is in force **one hour** before the event.*