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Chinese art to antiques attractive

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By Virginia Lockwood

Chinese Art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art to antiques in Redondo Beach are highlighted in the Los Angeles area.

A wide range of exhibitions at UCLA is expected to attract thousands of viewers to the Frederick S. Wright Art Gallery.

The activity gets under way with a major exhibition of more than 400 works of folk art from around the world, including Asia, Europe, Africa, North and South America and Oceania.

The exhibition is entitled "A Decade in Retrospect" and marks the 10th anniversary of the Museum of Cultural History and honors the donors who have provided the artifacts that have made the Museum a reality on the Westwood campus.

The show will continue through the fall quarter.

The Brand Library Art Center in Glendale is going to have sculpture, paintings, drawings and photographs by Jesus, Jacob and Frank Gutierrez Sept. 28 through Oct. 29.

The Los Angeles County Fair's Art in Action building has on display the works of Betty Davenport Ford. Her clay sculpted animals are shown with the deft watercolors of Ning Dennis Yeh, who is a widely acclaimed painter of horses.

Rick Adams works in porcelain and stoneware expressing himself in mystical horns and winged coffee pots.

The Hurschler collection of contemporary tapestries, mostly representing foremost European designers, also is on exhibit for public viewing.

In addition to the work of these craftsmen, Art in Action also offers colorful, contemporary room settings designed by Charles Burke and featuring original uses of ceramic tile and contemporary lighting.

With the current interest in things old and not so-old, a group of spirited antiquarinas have taken over a building at

290 Harbor Drive in Redondo Beach, formerly housing the Mayfair Market.

Called the "Antique Arcade," the premises have been converted into a Mall complete with coffee shop and partitioned into various-sizes for shops, each one having a unique facade related to that tenant's type of merchandise.

There are shops housing specifics such as clocks and plants, while others contain exquisite antique furnishings and art to the currently popular trend of gum ball machines, 78rpm records, a nostalgic penny arcade world.

Typical of this group of fascinating shops is the Art and Book Barn.

Rare or out-of-print books, manuscripts, sheet music, statuary and oriental and western art are rampant within the small confines.

Beginning as just an avocation, Jeremiah Dow and Agnes Nethers, singularly and collectively have pooled their talents and collections into a business that caters to the discerning historian, fact-finder or mere lover of fine objects.

An exhibition of 41 Chinese paintings from the Arthur M. Sackler collection of New York and Princeton will be on view in the Far Eastern Art Galleries on the first level of the Ahmanson Gallery at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art from Tuesday through Nov. 17.

The Sackler collection includes masterpieces from the 14th to the 20th centuries, with emphasis on the 17th century. Its unique strength lies in 15 important works of painting and calligraphy by Tao-chi (1641-ca. 1710).

These 15 objects — seven scrolls and eight albums of the highest quality — demonstrate the full stylistic range of Tao-chi's landscape, figure, flower and bamboo painting and of his calligraphy.

An Album leaf, "The Echo," of 1677-78 is the earliest dated work by Tao-chi in a western collection, and an album of 12 scenes, "Reminiscences of Nanking," dated 1707, represents his latest dated landscapes.

Other Chinese artists are featured in the Sackler collection. On exhibition will be hanging scrolls, handscrolls, albums and fans by leading masters of the Yuan, Ming and Ch'ing periods.

Problems of authentication abound in Chinese painting, partly because of the practice of repeating and re-working classical styles, always building new styles on the forms of the past. In the exhibition this problem is illustrated in several instances where copies and forgeries are paired with the originals, giving the viewers an exercise in connoisseurship.