



A Picture of a Boat in Mist and Rain

Date

Autumn 1702

Primary Maker

Shen Jian

Medium

ink and colors on silk

Description

While there is no biographical information currently available on this artist, it would appear that he was influenced by earlier artists, such as Qiu Ying (1494/1495-1552), a major painter of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The colophon in the upper left corner identifies the title of the work. It also indicates that the painting was executed by Shen Jian, a native of Tingjian, at his studio called the The Study for Fragrant Speech. Originally commissioned by Xuan Liushi, there are a number of owners and collectors seals on the painting. In keeping with Chinese techniques the painting is divided into three horizontal planes. In the foreground, there is a boat with a scholar and his servant moored beneath a willow tree. The river, islands, and a promontory dominate the mid-ground. There are a series of mountains draped in mist in the background. The entire composition is intended to portray the grandeur of nature against the relative insignificance

of man.

Dimensions

Sight: 39 x 18 3/4 in. (99.1 x 47.6 cm) Overall: 95 5/8 x 21 3/8 in. (242.9 x 54.3 cm)