



何鴻毅家族基金

THE ROBERT H. N. HO FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation supports
Cave Temples of Dunhuang: Buddhist Art on China's Silk Road exhibition

Opens 7 May 2016 at The Getty Center

(May 2, 2016 – Los Angeles) The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation is proud to serve as Presenting Sponsor for an unprecedented Spring-Summer exhibition at The Getty Center, Los Angeles, celebrating China's renowned Dunhuang cave temples and more than 1,000 years of Buddhist art.

Cave Temples of Dunhuang: Buddhist Art on China's Silk Road focuses on the Mogao Grottoes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, providing a vivid, close-up encounter with exquisite Buddhist art. The exhibition runs from 7 May 2016 to 4 September 2016.

Dunhuang was a cultural nexus on the Silk Road from the 4th century to the 14th century, becoming a vibrant meeting point for multicultural, commercial, religious, and artistic exchange. In Los Angeles, three complementary sections take visitors on a comprehensive journey through the creative richness of Dunhuang:

- The Getty Center's Arrival Plaza features full-sized replicas of three of Dunhuang's cave temples, hand painted by artists from the Dunhuang Academy. In this area, there is the opportunity to experience cave architecture and wall paintings, as well as learn about their conservation.
- At the Getty Research Institute galleries, original paintings and manuscripts on loan from the British Museum, British Library, Musée Guimet and Bibliothèque nationale de France illustrate the artistic styles and Buddhist iconography found in the ancient cave temples. Among the items included in the exhibition is the *Diamond Sutra*, the world's

earliest dated printed book. The *Diamond Sutra*, part of the British Library's collection, is a Chinese version of the original Sanskrit manuscript. A note at the end of the sutra states that it was printed on May 11, 868 CE, making it the oldest known surviving and complete printed and dated book.

- The third part of the exhibition uses virtual immersive technology to highlight the artistic detail of one of the cave temples.

The exhibition also celebrates the longstanding collaboration between the Getty Conservation Institute and Dunhuang Academy, a partnership that has worked to conserve the Mogao Grottoes for over 25 years. The initiative has produced a wealth of new knowledge that has advanced conservation practices at the world heritage site and contributed significantly to cultural exchange between China and the West.

“The Foundation is delighted to support this unique presentation that reflects our core mission to expand knowledge of Buddhism and Chinese culture, and facilitate cross-cultural understanding,” said Ted Lipman, CEO of The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation. “The exhibition has been developed by a dedicated international team of scholars, curators and conservators and creates an outstanding opportunity for people outside China to experience the wonders of the Mogao Grottoes. Dunhuang was a meeting ground for great cultures and ideas for more than a millennium. We hope that this cutting-edge presentation will have equally thought-provoking impact and, through on-going conservation, Dunhuang continues to provide inspiration for centuries to come.”

To enrich the experience for visitors, the exhibition will include a variety of public programmes, a website, an exhibition catalogue, and a revised edition of the book, *Cave Temples of Mogao at Dunhuang*. Performances, screenings, lectures and a symposium in partnership with the University of California, Los Angeles, will further augment the exhibition.

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation

Established in Hong Kong in 2005, The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation is a private philanthropic organisation that seeks to foster and support Chinese arts and culture; and to promote a deeper understanding of Buddhist

teachings and their application in everyday life. In pursuit of that mission, the Foundation engages in strategic, long-term projects in Hong Kong and around the world to support efforts that make traditional Chinese arts accessible and relevant to contemporary audiences. It also supports the creation of new works that brings innovative perspectives to the history of Chinese art and improves the quality and accessibility of scholarship on Chinese art. Guided by a belief that the insights of Buddhism have a vital role to play in approaching the challenges facing contemporary society, The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation has committed resources to expanding the understanding, interpretation, and application of Buddhist philosophy. To learn more about The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation and its activities, visit www.rhfamilyfoundation.org.

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