Art Exchanges between Japan and England, 1613-16

Presented by Timon Screech SOAS, University of London

> Thursday, March 6 4:00pm at Olson 53A

Although the early history of the English East India Company is well studied, cultural manifestations in the interactions that such voyages provoked have not been investigated in any detail. Particularly, it has been entirely forgotten that the Company engaged in an art trade, specifically with its last port of call, Japan, where it both imported and exported paintings, prints and high-grade craft objects. This presentation will reveal lost information, and will go further in assessing layers of intention, and of deferred and contested understanding, that the works gave rise to outside their original spaces of creation and consumption.

Timon Screech is Professor of the History of Art and Head of the School of Arts at SOAS, University of London. He has also taught at numerous universities including Chicago, Heidelberg, Meiji and Waseda. He is an expert on the art and culture of the Edo Period, including its international dimension, and has published some dozen books on the subject.

His best-known work is probably *Sex and the Floating World*, a study of erotica, and he has recently completed a field-defining overview of the Edo arts, *Obtaining Images*. His work has been translated into French, Japanese, Korean, Polish and Romanian.

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