

Strand 4: Research and doctoral theses in progress

Definitive abstract for paper presentation at the *coupDefouet* International Congress

Art collecting between Catalonia and China (1880-95)

Traditionally, it has been considered that Chinese art collecting in 19th century Catalonia was scarce. During the last third of the 19th century, even though there was little Spanish presence in China, there were some figures belonging to Catalonia's 19th century cultural and political elite, such as Eduard Toda i Güell (*b* Reus, 1855; *d* Poblet, 1941), Víctor Balaguer i Cirera (*b* Barcelona, 1824; *d* Madrid, 1901), Juan Mencarini (1860-1939?) and Francesc Abellà (*b* and *d* unknown), who all made a great effort to buy, sell, distribute, exchange and exhibit artworks and other objects produced in China. This research focuses on the extent to which Chinese art collecting reached in Catalonia, as well as the place it occupied in the development of art collecting in the last third of the 19th century.

Keywords: Chinese art, Catalonia, 19th century, art collecting, Eduard Toda, Biblioteca-Museu Víctor Balaguer, Juan Mencarini, Francesc Abellà.

Col·leccionisme d'art entre Catalunya i Xina (1880-95)

Tradicionalment s'ha considerat que el col·leccionisme d'art xinès a la Catalunya del s.XIX va ser escàs. Durant l'últim terç del s.XIX, encara que hi va haver poca presència espanyola a la Xina, hi va haver personalitats del món cultural i polític de la Catalunya del s.XIX, com Eduard Toda i Güell (Reus, 1855 - Poblet, 1941), Víctor Balaguer i Cirera (Barcelona, 1824 -

Madrid, 1901), Juan Mencarini (1860-1939?) o Francesc Abellá (n. i m. desconeguts), que van participar en la distribució, l'intercanvi i l'exposició d'obres d'art i objectes procedents de la Xina. Aquesta recerca planteja la magnitud que va assolir el col·leccionisme d'art xinès a Catalunya i el seu lloc relatiu al desenvolupament del col·leccionisme d'art a la Catalunya de l'últim terç del s.XIX.

Paraules clau: Art xinès, Catalunya, segle XIX, col·leccionisme, Eduard Toda, Biblioteca-Museu Víctor Balaguer, Juan Mencarini, Francesc Abellá.

Curriculum Vitae

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Graduated in Art History (UB), in East Asian Studies (UAB-UPF), and Master in Arts (Leiden University), her Master Thesis was a study on the reception of Chinese art in 19th century Spain. She is currently writing her PhD Thesis on Chinese art collecting in 19th century Catalonia.

She has won various scholarships and research funds, such as Department of Culture of Generalitat's scholarship for the inventory of the church's artefacts (2013), and the Art Field Award from Fundació Güell (2010). She sporadically teaches diverse courses on Chinese art, culture and society. She has worked in the library of Ateneu Barcelonès, participating in projects of digitalization, documentation and bibliographic exhibition, and has collaborated with the Museum Víctor Balaguer in the elaboration of the catalogue of their collection of Chinese coins and artworks. She has also published a few articles about Chinese art collecting in Catalonia during the 19th century.