



Bei Shan Tang Conservation Seminar Series

# Preserving the Precious Feather

## Art and Science in Feather Conservation

Online via Zoom Webinar

**Hong Kong / Beijing**

June 24, 2023 (Sat) 9am – 1pm HKT/CST

**San Francisco / Los Angeles**

June 23, 2023 (Fri) 6pm – 10pm PDT

**New York**

June 23, 2023 (Fri) 9pm – June 24, 2023 (Sat) 1am EDT

Conducted in Mandarin and English

Facilitated by simultaneous interpretation in both languages



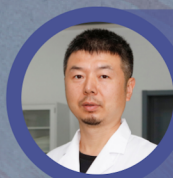
Gold-plated Silver Gourd-patterned Hairpin  
Qing Dynasty  
Collection of The Palace Museum

Moderators



**Dr. Jay XU**

Asian Art Museum  
Director and CEO



**Dr. LEI Yong**

The Palace Museum  
Deputy Director,  
Conservation Department

The Bei Shan Tang Conservation Seminar Series invites conservation experts and scholars from around the world to share the latest theories, research and trends in conservation, promoting the understanding of culture, ethics and values behind the conservation of Chinese art and artefacts.

For registration and  
more details, visit  
[www.jsleefellowship.org](http://www.jsleefellowship.org)



The conservation of ancient artworks that use materials from endangered species is crucial and requires significant emphasis and strengthening. The rarity of such materials, coupled with the difficulties in initiating conservation practices, the lack of references for identifying materials, and the absence of systematic research, all make the task of conservation particularly challenging.

Feather artworks, in particular, are significant as they often reflect the material culture of royalty, and the diversity of scientific research into their colours makes such materials and their conservation practices intriguing for museum exhibitions and public promotion. By exploring the conservation and study of feathers, including the Kingfisher Blue, this Seminar aims to draw the attention of conservation experts and museum professionals to the importance of preserving ancient artworks that use materials from endangered species.

The Seminar will encourage experts to consider how conservation and scientific analysis can help museum curators gain a better understanding of the cross-cultural creation, circulation, and consumption of rare materials. This, in turn, will increase the impact of relevant research on both academia and the general public.

## Programme

0900 Welcome and Introduction

0910



**Prof. Ellen PEARLSTEIN**

The University of California, Los Angeles | Cultural Materials Conservation  
Protective and Fugitive Properties of Natural Feather Coloration

0940



**Ms. KONG Yanju**

The Palace Museum | Conservator  
The Research and Restoration of Qing Dynasty Palace Kingfisher Feather Craftsmanship

1010 Break

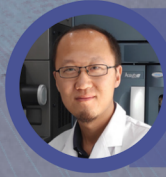
1015



**Ms. Julia SYBALSKY**

American Museum of Natural History | Conservator, Science Conservation  
The Impact of Cleaning on Feather Preservation: Results of a Four-Year Study  
Conducted at the American Museum of Natural History

1045



**Mr. GU An**

The Palace Museum | Scientist, Conservation Department  
Scientific Analysis of Kingfisher Feathers in The Palace Museum

1115 Discussion

1155 Questions and Answers

1215 Closing Remarks

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