

Invitation to the Press Conference

Treasures of the Sons of Heaven The Imperial Collection from the National Palace Museum Taipei, Taiwan

*An exhibition project of the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany
in cooperation with the Berlin State Museums*

*This exhibition was made possible by the sponsor payments of China Airlines
and "Hauptstadtkulturfonds, Berlin"*

**The press conference will be held on 20th November 2003 at 12.00 a.m. in the
Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany.**

Speakers at the press conference are:

- Dr. Wenzel Jacob - Director, The Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Prof. Dr. Günther Schauerte – Deputy Director General, "Staatliche Museen zu Berlin"
- Prof. Tu Cheng-Sheng - Director General, The National Palace Museum, Taipei
- Dr. Ursula Toyka-Fuong - curator of the exhibition
- Michael Biermann – China Airlines, Sponsor

This year, **the art collection of the Chinese imperial court** – held for the most part in the National Palace Museum in Taipei, Taiwan – will be on show for the first time in Berlin and Bonn. The traditional standing of the collection as a legacy of imperial China and symbol of the national cultural heritage gives this exhibition its exceptional historical significance. The changeful fate of the imperial collection illustrates in a unique way the history of China from the perspective of preserving and passing on artistic achievements. Master pieces from all periods of Chinese art and cultural history – from the Neolithic age to the coming of the modern era are on show in this exhibition.

The selection of the works reflects the diversity, creativity and functions of Chinese art alongside key social, intellectual and political currents. A thematic focus is provided by human beings, their relationship to nature and position in society. The complex stylistic language of Chinese art is illustrated in its two main streams. The brilliant pictorial language from the tradition of scholarship is contrasted with the sensuous magnificence of the courtly aristocracy with its many symbols. Imperial patronage is examined in the tension between aesthetic values, moral ideals and political objectives. In this context particular attention is paid to the Qian Long reign (1736-1796) of the emperor and art connoisseur Gao Zong.

A catalogue, supporting programme and film will accompany the exhibition.

The exhibition will be opened for viewing by 10 a.m.. Please register by Fax (+49/228/9171-211). Extensive essays and photo material are available at the press office or www.bundeskunsthalle.de. Please direct all requests for interviews to this office.

We are looking forward to your visit.

Maja Majer-Wallat
Head of the Press Department