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ART REVIEW

## Across a Sprawling Continent, Across the Centuries Asia Week New York Art Shows Take Over Upper East Side

### Korea

Kang Collection (9 East 82nd Street), one of the relatively few dealers to specialize in Korean art, should be included in any Asia Week itinerary; it's just steps from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and has supplied some of the items in the Met's collection. It's now featuring court paintings of the Joseon dynasty (1392-1910), among them an eight-panel folding screen from a gentleman's study that depicts bronzes and fruit bowls resting atop piles of books.

The other works on view are similarly aristocratic, including a screen painted by the 19th-century prince Yi Ha-Ung. But Kang also has a striking example of Korean folk art, a painting of a dragon (a creature associated, in Korean culture, with water rather than fire). Showing the beast snaking through thunderclouds, the work is thought to have been displayed outdoors as part of a prayer for rain.

By **KAREN ROSENBERG**

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