

Viewing Plum Blossoms by Moonlight

The Metropolitan Museum of Art Chinese Painting and Calligraphy up Close, Viewing Plum Blossoms by Moonlight, Ma Yuan, 13th century, Painting, 9 7/8 x 10 1/2 inch. (25.1 x 26.7 cm)

With over 4000 years of history, China has a rich past of painting and calligraphy, making it an important artistic tradition in the world. The Metropolitan Museum of Art has an exhibit dedicated to Chinese painting and calligraphy, presenting over 40 masterpieces from the 11th to 18th century.¹ Each of the artworks showcases details of the artist's brushstrokes, their use of color as well as the medium the artist uses, allowing visitors to study and admire the traditional art form from China. In this exhibit, *Chinese Painting and Calligraphy up Close*, Ma Yuan is a painter that is featured. Being an influential Chinese painter, several of his artworks appear in the gallery. *Viewing Plum Blossoms by Moonlight* is especially an iconic artwork that presents his skill and style as a landscape painter. This painting is of ink and color on a silk fan, sized 25.1 x 26.7 cm. From the painting's composition, brush strokes to its color and medium, he paints sensational imagery of the plum blossoms under the moonlight.

¹ "New Exhibition at The Met Takes a Close Look at Its Own Chinese Masterpieces as Old Masters Did," metmuseum.org, accessed November 23, 2020, <https://www.metmuseum.org/press/exhibitions/2020/chinese-painting-calligraphy>.