

## JAMES WATT RECEIVES SCHOLAR AWARD

James C.Y. Watt is the Brooke Russell Astor Chairman of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Department of Asian Art. Before joining The Metropolitan Museum in 1985, he assumed positions at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Hong Kong City Museum and Art Gallery and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he was Chairman of the Board of Studies in Fine Arts for three years. He also curated the University's Art Gallery.

On March 20th, 2007, James C.Y. Watt became the third individual to receive the Distinguished Scholar Award in Chinese Art History. He was honored for the excellence of his work in the field. The award consisted of a \$10,000 check and an engraved crystal medallion. 82 friends, members, scholars, and collectors gathered to congratulate Watt at the Knickerbocker Club. The Shau wai and Marie Lam Family Foundation as well as The Thaw Charitable Trust were generous enough to provide the dinner.

Watt's wife, Sabine Rewald, a curator at the Metropolitan Museum, accompanied him to the ceremony that evening, which was a great success.

AFSM's President Patricia Tang opened up the evening with a welcome speech and presented the award. The architect, I. M. Pei expressed admiration for Watt's insightful contributions to the understanding of the modern museum. Collector Eugene V. Thaw recalled how impressed he was with a past exhibition Watt organized for the Met. Thaw reminisced "how quietly and subtly James would reveal more and more layers of knowledge...leaving us amazed, grateful, and wondering how much more depth and wisdom was still to come."

During his address, Watt remarked upon the current dissension on how to correctly understand Chinese art. However, he optimistically suggested, "it is organizations like the American Friends of the Shanghai Museum that will help to bridge this gap of understanding by providing opportunities for Chinese scholars to visit the States, and eventually we can all work together to mutual benefit." At the end of his speech, Watt thanked the members of the AFSM for honoring him and modestly reminded us of how "as we all know, museums work in teams."

