

48.

Rong Jiang [Jung Chiang] 蓉江
(19th century)

“Flying Geese”

Fan, ink and color on paper
17.3 x 53.2 cm. (6 ¾ x 21 in.)

Inscription:

“They rise straight up through blue (sky) and clouds. Done in emulation of the brush idea of Bian Yigong at the Hall of Ying-?. The above was copied by Rong Jiang.”

Artist’s seal:

Jiang



A flock of geese rises from wind-tossed grass and reeds into the cloudy sky above. Touches of light color on the beaks and feet of the nine geese articulate the structure of their bodies and set them off from the amorphous background of sky and clouds. The birds are varied in orientation and placement so as to suggest their movement and graceful passage through space.

The inscription mentions Bian Shoumin (1684-1752), one of the Eight Eccentrics of Yangzhou, who was a famous specialist in painting ducks and geese (fig.1).



Fig. 1. Bian Shoumin: “Geese and Reeds,” after Howard Rogers: *Masterworks of Ming and Qing Painting in the Forbidden City*, Lansdale, 1988, cat. 67-10, p. 101.