

Zhang Yuan (17th-18th century)

張遠

“Walking with Staff, after Huang Gongwang” 1722

倣黃公望山水

Handscroll, ink and color on paper
102.2 x 19.7 cm. (40 1/4 x 7 3/4 in.)

Inscription:

“Walking with Staff in Autumn Groves.’ During the first ten days of summer in the year 1722, I modeled this after Yifeng Laoren (Huang Gongwang),,,”

Artists seals:

Zhang; Yuan

Collector’s seals:

Two, undeciphered

A traveller with staff makes his way across a bridge in the opening section, heading toward the riverside house at the base of a cliff. Other houses appear further along, shaded by trees and protected by outcroppings of rock, until the work culminates in a dashing waterfall at the end. The rock and mountain forms are shaded for three-dimensionality and given shape and texture by application of texture strokes, much in the manner of Huang Gongwang (1269-1354), the great master of the Yuan dynasty.

Zhang Yuan was born in Houguan, the modern Fuzhou, but moved to live in Changshu, Jiangsu province, which was in fact the birthplace of Huang Gongwang. Earning an advanced degree in 1699 (or 1675, according to another source), he was appointed Prefect of Lefeng in Yunnan province, subsequently becoming famed for his landscape paintings.