

## **The Signification of *Scroll of a River in Mist and Piled Peaks* by Dong Qichang**

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### **Abstract**

The calligraphy and painting around the *Scroll of a River in Mist and Piled Peaks* (*Yanjiang diezhang tu*) is noteworthy in the world of Dong Qichang's (1555-1636) art. On the one hand, as an influential connoisseur and an artist skilled at innovating by taking lessons from history, Dong Qichang always attempted to establish a connection with the ancients and their works through his artistic practice. On the other hand, as a government official in the center of the political whirlwinds in the late Ming Dynasty, Dong Qichang, unlike his friends' bragging comments, could not fully escape from the emotions about political gains and losses. As an art event that links with Su Shi (1037-1101), Wang Shen (ca. 1048-ca. 1104) and Wang Dingguo (ca. 1048-ca. 1117), *Yanjiang diezhang tu* reveals Dong's political background and artistic attitudes, to which importance is to be attached. In such a special period in history, Dong Qichang made active connections with related aspects of art history and political history through his continuous creation of calligraphy and painting around the *Yanjiang diezhang tu* work, and thus through them he was able to express his personal feelings.

**Keywords:** Dong Qichang, *Yanjiang diezhang tu*, Jihai Jingcha, signification, enacted biography, Su Shi, Wang Shen