

A Semantic Approach to Digital Art History: The Chen Cheng-po Project

Sophy Shu-Jiun Chen

Research Center for Information Technology Innovation, Academia Sinica

The report presents Academia Sinica's first digital art history project, which demonstrates the application of semantic tools. The multifaceted initiative launched after the Institute of Taiwan History of Academia Sinica acquired the documentation of renowned modern Taiwanese painter Chen Cheng-po (1895–1947). Many items in the Chen Cheng-po's archive and his painting style, reveal a strong influence of both Japanese and Post-Impressionist art with cross-cultural encounter. The digitization process has already completed its first phase, comprising the digitization of Chen's letters, diaries, postcards, manuscripts, photographs, and works of art. Later phases will involve the creation of 46 metadata records for Chen's paintings; the generation of 25 artists' authority files detailing Chen's relationships with them, 109 authoritative data of Chen's life events, 29 geographic authority records relating to Chen's artworks; and the 6 timelines, including a personal life timeline of the artist, a modern art history and history timeline of Taiwan. This project will use Chen's archive collection as a case study to fully demonstrate the art historical applications of the Art & Architecture Thesaurus Taiwan (AAT-Taiwan).