



東皋叱犢圖

Disperse Ox in the Eastern Fields

周凱 CHOU Kai

墨色紙本 Ink on paper, 87.2X37.8cm, 1836

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※ 款文 | 春入遙山春漠淡，東風吹破燒痕綠，曉□叱犢向東皋，夜雨一犁新水足。王孟端東皋叱犢圖為辛階九元館丈清鑒，道光丙申二月芸皋周凱。

此景以冬日田野為主題，畫面構圖呈「之」字形，可分為前景、中景和遠景。先從前景的枯木帶出冬日，隨著枯木的枝桠引導至畫面中央，騎著牛隻的小童與扛著鋤頭的農人正朝著畫前走來，遠景以雅致的筆觸染出遠山。雖然此幅是典型的元代一水兩岸文人山水畫，但周凱以耕牛歸途點出主題，牛隻在《宣和畫譜》中有負重載物與性情柔順之意，切合了作為官員的周凱對天下太平、百姓農耕和樂以及自我任重道遠的期許。

This painting shows a field in winter and has a composition in the shape of the Chinese character “Zhi” (之), dividing the work into a foreground, midground and background. The leafless trees in the foreground of the scene indicate that it is winter and their branches guide the viewer to the center of the painting where a small child riding on top of a young ox and a farmer carrying a hoe over his shoulder move towards the foreground. In the background, elegant brushwork depicts mountains in the distance. Although this work is a classic Yuan Dynasty literati landscape painting showing both banks of a river, Chou Kai takes the ploughing ox returning home as his motif. In the *Xuanhe Catalogue of Paintings* oxen are depicted as beasts of burden carrying heavy loads but also submissive of temperament. This fits perfectly with the hopes and aspirations of Chou in his position as an official for peace, farming and happiness for the common people and his desire to have a successful and long-lasting career.