

Basic Detail Report



Calligraphy Seals

Date

early 21st Century

Medium

Stone

Description

Seals are important components of paintings and calligraphic works, but are also seen as art forms themselves. They were first used as markers of

authenticity on important official government communications. During the Song and Yuan periods, scholars began to take interest in the way in which seals were carved, and as such made their carving and design part of the art of calligraphy. As artists and calligraphers began to incorporate seals into their works, specific preferences arose. By the Ming Dynasty, rules for where seals could be placed were established. It was essential that seals were applied to a work in such a way that was harmonious. Seals are seen as adding balance and should not disrupt the spacing or rhythm of calligraphy. An artist's or calligrapher's seal would be placed beneath a signature. A second seal would typically be placed in the top right corner of the work. Seal inscriptions would usually contain a motto, quote, nickname, or a name given to the artist from friends. These two seals are not carved at their bases, so they were likely never used.

Dimensions

Each: 3 1/4 × 1 1/8 × 1 1/8 in. (8.3 × 2.9 × 2.9 cm)