



2013 HAWAII UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES  
ARTS, HUMANITIES, & SOCIAL SCIENCES  
JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> TO JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>  
ALA MOANA HOTEL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

# THE BAMBOO CLAPPER OF CHANG'E: A SECULARIZED MOON GODDESS AND THE CULT OF QING IN PAINTINGS OF TANG YIN

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The Bamboo Clapper of Chang'e: a secularized moon goddess and the cult of *qing* in paintings of Tang Yin

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## **Abstract**

Early images of the Chinese moon goddess, Chang'e, depicted her as an elegant symbol of elite values of femininity. In the mid Ming Dynasty (ca.1425-1590), however, painter Tang Yin (1470-1524) parodied her as a lower-class courtesan. Through iconography and inscription, Tang Yin's Chang'e implicates dual identities and conflicting emotions of the erotic and the sentimental, *qing*. While the concept of *qing*/sentiment is recognized as a significant force in the visual and textual arts of the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the notion of *qing*/sentiment in Tang Yin's paintings is rarely discussed. With new research, this paper explores Tang Yin's paintings of beauties to explain how Tang manifested the value of *qing* and the period's new Neo-Confucian philosophy in his art.