

SLEEPING KITTENS

PAINTING IN INK ON PAPER

By Yün Shou-p'ing (1633=90), considered the greatest master of the Manchu period. The lines written by him, in which he addresses the kittens, apparently his own, are as follows:—

“The rat has overturned your food bowl
while you did not look,
And now you decline to search for butterflies
Beneath the flowers and have fallen asleep—
What a shame!—Nan T'ien Yün Shou-p'ing.”

Chinese artists represent the cat in nature amid peonies and other flowers, usually leering at butterflies or hunting them.

Hall 24
Hall South
End

376
Pm

China, 17th Century

BLACKSTONE EXPEDITION TO CHINA, 1908-10
BERTHOLD LAUFER, COLLECTOR

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