

According to the curators, classical Chinese texts exist in connection with maritime travel, medical history, and evolving worldviews. With on-site interactions, situational design, and digital resources, the audience may realize that they are not mere observers in this broader culture, but active participants in its shaping and reconstitution.



A snapshot from the exhibition

■ **A Dialogue with Plants Across Time through 400-year Old Nature Paintings**

National Central Library and Linking Publishing held a book launch on January 31, 2026 for their new release *Collection of Nature Sketches by a Reclusive Woman Painter*. At the event, they guided readers toward a new understanding of this important work of nature painting through the sharing of multidisciplinary information by publishers and researchers, bringing new life to the 400 years old historical artwork that previously sat gathering dust in the archives. The event brought together members of the publishing and academic communities to explore and present the diverse possibilities of bringing ancient collections to contemporary readers.

Collection of Nature Sketches by a Reclusive Woman Painter is based on the national treasure-level work “Golden Rocks, Insects, and Plants” (*Jinshi Kunchong Caomuzhuang*) by Ming Dynasty woman painter Wen Chu. The paintings in the volume include medicinal plants, flowers and fruits, insects, birds and animals, and other natural elements. Wen Chu painted with delicate brush strokes and elegant color schemes, not only possessing a high quality of artistic expression, but also presenting observations and understanding of the natural world in the Ming Dynasty, therefore highly valuable both aesthetically and as a source

of knowledge. However, works on this volume have long been limited to academic research texts, therefore missing out on opportunities to fully enter into public reader awareness.



A group photo with NCL Director-General and four co-authors

This publication marks the sixth collaborative publication between NCL and Linking Publishing, a continuation of their collective effort to “read classical works through contemporary perspectives.” The team at Linking selected representative works from the NCL collection to include in the publication, arranged in a theme-based layout and printed with exquisite quality. The collection was edited into three volumes under the themes, “Medicinal Plants,” “Fruits and Flowers,” and “Animals,” conjuring these precious images from the depths of academic archives and research into a published format accessible to the reading public.

The book launch event invited the four co-authors: NTNU Professor Sheng Huang, Sun Ten Pharmaceutical’s Dr. Wu-Chang Chuang, NPUST Assistant Professor Chih-Kai Yang, and National Museum of Science Department of Biology Chair Ming-Lun Jeng to share their experiences across disciplines. These four experts shared their analyses of Wen Chu’s observational methods and knowledge of the natural world as expressed in her paintings, from their perspectives in the fields of botany, traditional Chinese medicine, forestry, and animal biology, working to initiate possibilities of dialogue between historical paintings and contemporary science.



Professor Chih-Kai Yang analyzes traditional Chinese herbology and modern botany in a humorous presentation

NCL expressed that *Collection of Nature Sketches by a Reclusive Woman Painter* is not only a published volume of an ancient work. Even more, it is an effort to integrate collection research with multi-disciplinary interpretation and public reading. NCL hopes that this collaboration will lead more classics out of the archives, creating continually developing cultural dialogues through encounters with today's readers.

Related Links:

Original Text of the National-Treasure Work (National Central Library): <https://rbook.ncl.edu.tw/NCLSearch/Selection/Details/38>

New Book Information (Linking Publishing Website): <https://www.linkingbooks.com.tw/books/190047>

2026 EUTW Forum I Held at NCL

The 2026 EUTW Forum I was held in Room 301 of the National Central Library Arts & Cultural Center at 10am on March 6, focusing on the theme “Technology Competition, Political Change, and the Future of European Integration.” The event was jointly organized by National Central Library, the European Union Center in Taiwan (EUTW), the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at National Taiwan University, and the EU Research Centre at the National Chengchi University College of International Affairs, with Professor Tai-Lin Chang of the Fo Guang University Department of Public Affairs serving as forum moderator. The forum invited speakers Assistant Professor Jui-Jen Peng, Professor Chung-Hung Cho, Professor Tzu-Li Lin, and Postdoctoral Research Fellow Yueh-Ching Chen to share their research with

Associate Research Fellow Roy Chun Lee serving as forum discussant. Additionally, a book launch was held with co-authors Professor Yun-Chen Lai and Associate Professor Wei-Fang Chen.



Group photo with forum moderator, speakers, and esteemed guests

Professor Tai-Lin Chang discussed the uncertainty and chaos of 2026 global politics, with US-Israel joint attacks on Iran and US President Donald Trump's tariff wars attracting particular attention from the international community. Amidst these uncertainties, the United States Supreme Court ruling of President Trump's worldwide tariffs to be unconstitutional further increased concern among trade partners. The Ukraine-Russia war continues into its fourth year, with prospects of peace remaining distant. European countries faced with a multitude of economic, trade, and security challenges continue their support of Ukraine, with the exception of Hungary and Slovakia where dissensions remain. At the Munich Security Conference and in *Foreign Affairs Magazine*, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, respectively, emphasized the importance of the role and autonomy of Europe in global geopolitical competition. The forum also focused on technology competition, particularly with regards to AI investment and infrastructure, as well as the impacts of great power politics on the EU.

Assistant Professor Jui-Jen Peng presented a talk focusing on “Efficacy and Challenges with Implementation of the EU’s Artificial Intelligence Act,” introducing this legislation implemented in 2024 which regulates AI using a risk-based approach. For high-risk AI systems and artificial general intelligence, the legislation defines clear obligations and establishes multi-level governance structures, including the European AI Office. The legislation’s initial effects include achieving the Brussels Effect, the establishment of international technical standards,