



# Collecting Objects / Excluding People: Chinese Subjects and American Visual Culture, 1830-1900

*Lenore Metrick-Chen*

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## **Collecting Objects / Excluding People: Chinese Subjects and American Visual Culture, 1830-1900**

Lenore Metrick-Chen

*Combining aesthetic and political history, explores the influence of Chinese people and objects on American visual culture.*

In *Collecting Objects / Excluding People*, Lenore Metrick-Chen demonstrates an unknown impact of Chinese immigration upon nineteenth-century American art and visual culture. The American ideas of “Chineseness” ranged from a negative portrayal to an admiring one and these varied images had an effect on museum art collections and advertising images. They brought new ideas into American art theory, anticipating twentieth-century Modernism. Metrick-Chen shows that efforts to construct a cultural democracy led to the creation of unforeseen new categories for visual objects and unanticipated social changes. *Collecting Objects / Excluding People* reveals the power of images upon culture, the influence of media representation upon the lives of Chinese immigrants, and the impact of political ideology upon the definition of art itself.

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