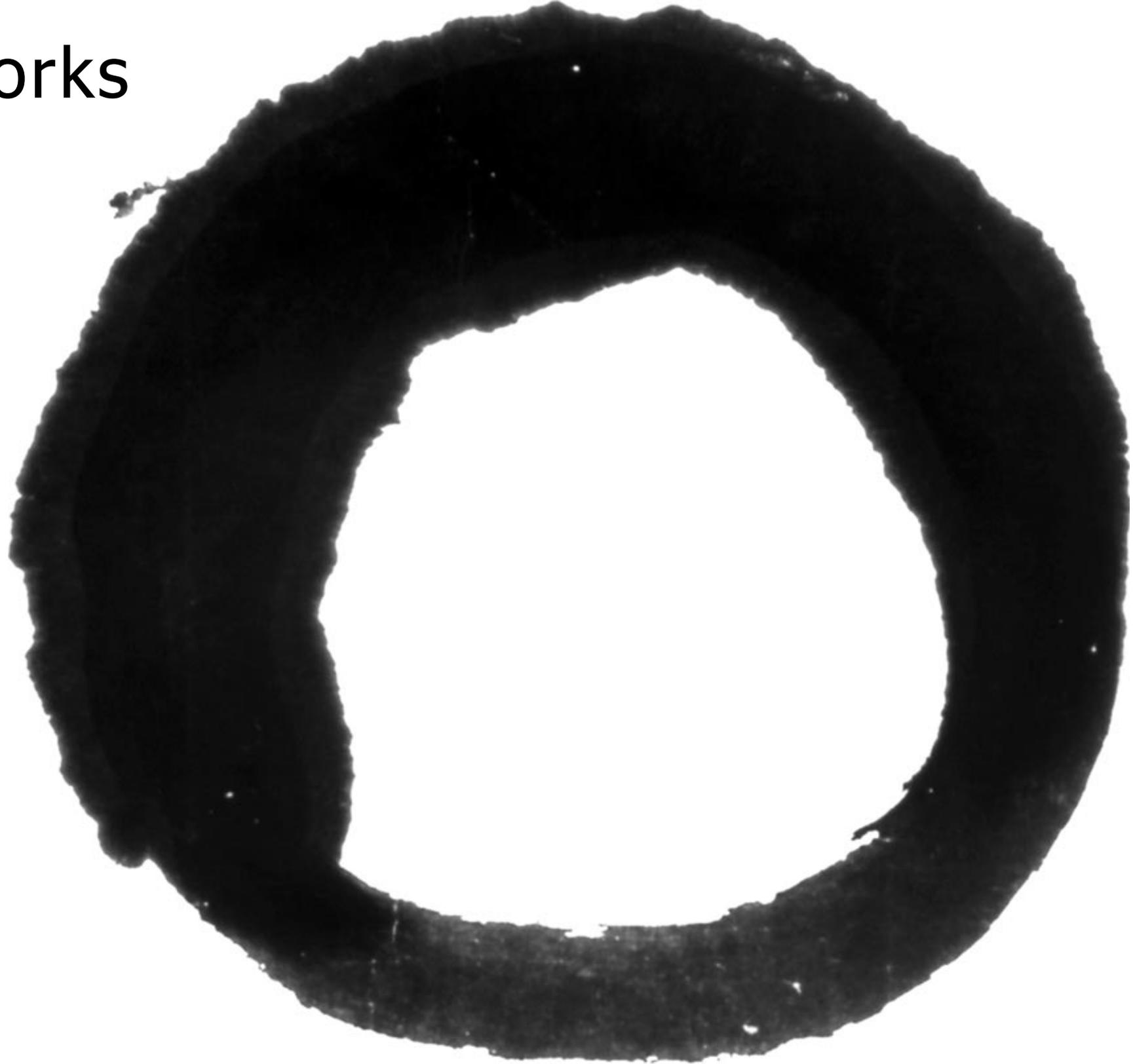
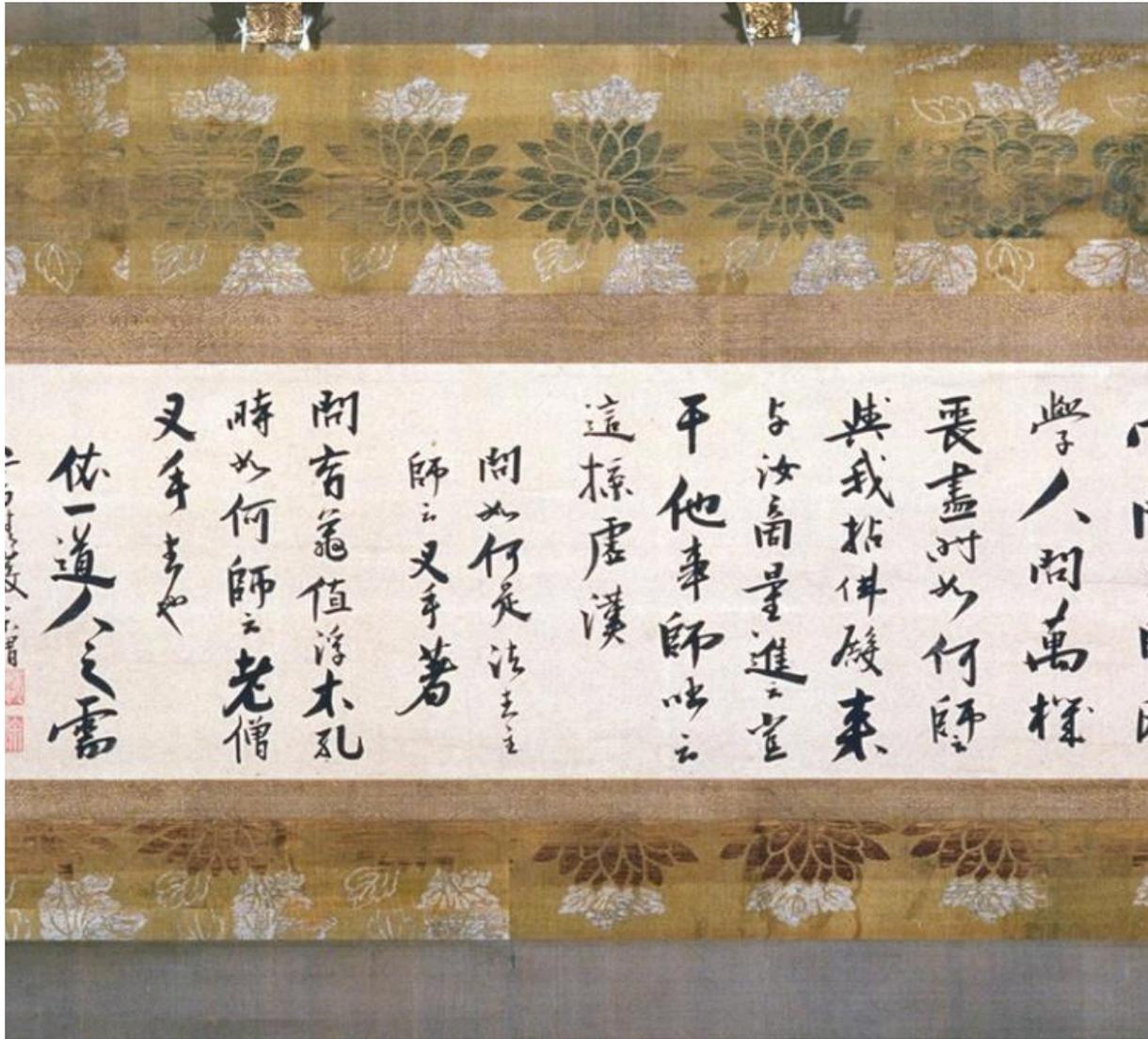


# Zen Artworks



In Zen Buddhism, the circle is a symbol of infinity that is both empty and full. Painting a circle, or *enso*, is a meditation practice. Though it looks simple, to make a truly round stroke of ink with a brush where the end smoothly connects with the beginning takes practice.





This calligraphy is written entirely in Chinese characters by a Japanese Zen master. The text details what is today known as a "dharma combat" or Zen dialogue, which occurred between the Chinese Chan (Zen) master Yunmen Kuangzhen (864–948) and a disciple. This kind of dialogue would have been studied by Zen monks in training. In a tearoom it also stimulates discussion and imbues the gathering with a thoughtful atmosphere and Zen aesthetic.

**Calligraphy of a Zen dialogue from The Record of Yunmen**

Artist: Seigan Sōi (Japanese, 1588 - 1661) approx. 1588-1611, Momoyama period (1573-1615)

Ink on paper, *Museum purchase, City Arts Trust Fund with additional funding from Mr. and Mrs. Johnson S. Bogart and Mr. and Mrs. Willard G. Clark, 1989.3*