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DULUTH--A substantial cross-section of Chinese art from the latter stone age to the 18th century is included in a 174-piece exhibition opening with a public reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday (Feb.9) in UMD's Tweed gallery, 2531 East Seventh street.

In announcing the show, Curator Roger Fumagalli said the collection is the costliest to appear at the gallery. "Much time, effort and money has been expended to bring this historic attraction to Duluth and the people of this region," Fumagalli said.

"We feel confident that area residents will take advantage of this unique opportunity to view some of the most precious items available in the world of Chinese art."

The collection was loaned by C. T. Loo & Co., New York and Paris, leading dealer in Chinese art for more than half a century. Fumagalli has been negotiating since August for the show.

The late Mr. Loo, who established the firm, advised Alfred Pillsbury, Minneapolis, in his famous collection of Chinese art. The firm has helped museums and collectors in various parts of the world in developing collections.

The exhibition includes ceremonial bronzes, weapons, archaic jades and ceramics. The pieces afford a picture of the development of these art forms brought to a high degree of perfection by the Chinese.

Statuettes of dancing ladies, prancing horses, camels, warriors and peasants provide insights into the life and customs of ancient and more recent Chinese life.

Regular gallery hours are 1 to 5 p.m. daily except Mondays. The gallery is free to the public.