

## ART FOLIO

### *Chinese Paper Cuts*

*A girl in her chamber mourns the passing of spring,  
No relief from anxiety her poor heart knows;  
Hoe in hand she steps through her portal,  
Loath to tread on the blossom as she comes and goes.*

.....

*See, when spring draws to a close and flowers fall,  
This is the season when beauty must ebb and fade;  
The day that spring takes wing and beauty fades  
Who will care for the fallen blossom or dead maid?*

#### *lament of Daiyu, heroine of **A Dream of Red Mansions***

Paper cuts are intricately cut paper decorations depicting ornamental and symbolic motifs, landscapes, scenes from ordinary life as well as characters and episodes from Chinese theatre and literature. They are traditionally made by women -- in the past, a girl's fitness for marriage was determined partly by the quality of her paper cuts -- although entire peasant families may make them. The paper cuts shown here illustrates scenes from *A Dream of Red Mansions*, a well-known novel of the Qing Dynasty which depicts the excesses of feudal society in 18th century China. They provide a glimpse at the life and concerns of women in a bygone age, as seen through literature and art.





















