



CHINA  
2000  
FINE  
ART

**Unusually Large Cinnabar Lacquer Brush 堆朱軸大筆**

Ming dynasty, early 16th century

9.75 (L) 1.5 (dia.) in. Overall, 13 (L) in.

24.76 (L) 3.81 (dia.) cm. Overall, 33 (L) cm

Illustrated: *Chinese Works of Art*, London: A & J Speelman, 2008, plate 50.



The cylindrical handle of the brush is created in two shades of red lacquer, a bright upper surface in relief and a darker ground. The handle is hollow fitted with a thick brush at one end and a 'shou' character symbolizing longevity carved on the other sealed end. The surface of the handle is intricately carved with a continuous scene depicting two scholars and three attendants walking along a path with water on either side. The scene is set amidst rocks and bushes, leading into a landscape of hills and trees with a pavilion in the distance. The scene evolves from bottom to top wrapping around the handle like viewing and unrolling a painting.

