Dress

Place of origin: Taiwan (USA, made)
Date: 1970-1983 (made)
Artist/Maker: Unknown
Materials and Techniques: Self-patterned and printed silk damask
Credit Line: Given by Madame Chiang Kai-shek
Museum number: FE.112-1996
Gallery location: In Storage

Descriptive line
Woman's dress qipao of silk damask, Taiwan, 1970-1983

Physical description
Woman's dress (qipao) of black flowers printed on a ground of blue silk damask with self patterned flowers. The dress fastens at the front with three spiral shaped huaniu (loop and knot buttons) in the "yi" style closure with pearl buttons. The garment has additional press studs and a hidden zip at the side seam. The dress has a high standing, stiff collar and long sleeves. It is a full length gown with high slits at the sides. It has a blue synthetic plain weave lining and blue piping at all the borders.

Dimensions
Length: 40 cm side slits

Museum number
FE.112-1996

Object history note
This qipao was made for and worn by the former First Lady of China, Song Meiling (Madame Chiang Kai-shek, b.1897). She is closely identified with this style of dress and wore it to show her allegiance to the Nationalist cause. She added her own hallmark to the style by wearing three large pearl buttons across the top of the dress. She is seen wearing this dress in pictures taken in 1983. Mrs Gwendolyn Chien, the wife of the Taiwan Representative to the UK, was instrumental in acquiring this dress for the V&A, see FE.119-1996.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O107701/dress-unknown/