

This month let's explore cross-cultural connections in Asian Arts

Essays:

Asian Sculptures, Paintings, Prints, and Ceramics from the Art Institute of Chicago

https://www.artic.edu/highlights/21/asian-art-2?utm_medium=email&utm_source=enews&utm_campaign=base&utm_content=enews-july-07-01-20

At the start of the article are twelve artworks from India, Southeast Asia, China, Japan and Korea, spanning over 1,000 years. Further down are more artworks with descriptions and the ability to zoom for details of the art. There are excellent digital images.

East Asian Cultural Exchange in Tiger and Dragon Paintings from the Metropolitan Museum of Art

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/tidra/hd_tidra.htm

Nine artworks illustrate this essay tracing motifs in tiger and dragon paintings in China, Japan and Korea. There are strong religious associations that were shared across the three cultures and sometime make it difficult to determine the origin of an artwork.

Buddhism and Buddhist Art from the Metropolitan Museum of Art

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/budd/hd_budd.htm

Take a Buddhist pilgrimage with artworks from China, Pakistan, Cambodia, India, Tibet, Sri Lanka, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, and Nepal, while learning the history of Buddhism.

Lacquerware of East Asia from the Metropolitan Museum of Art

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/elac/hd_elac.htm

Originating in China in the 5th century BC, lacquer techniques spread to Korea and Japan where each culture developed its own unique aesthetic. Nineteen artworks show you the amazing artistry of lacquer artists that included mother-of-pearl inlay and gold and silver decorations.

A New Visual Language from the Metropolitan Museum of Art

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/khan4/hd_khan4.htm

Through six artworks, learn how the dragon, phoenix, peony and lotus traveled across cultures as a visual motif. The dragon and the phoenix are two mythical beasts that integrated the ideas of cosmic force, earthly strength, superior wisdom, and eternal life. The flowers, often seen in combination and viewed from both the side and top, provided ideal patterns for textiles and for filling dense backgrounds on all kinds of portable objects.

Videos:

Discover the Power of Mudras: Hand Gestures in Buddhist Art, 3:19, from Sotheby's

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSI4uDa-VEc>

Sotheby's exhibition, *Images of Enlightenment: Devotional Works of Art and Paintings*, traces the development of Buddhist art across Asia. This short video describes the importance of hand gestures, or 'mudra' in Sanskrit, which were used to convey specific meanings to the viewer.

Cinnabar: The Chinese Art of Carved Lacquer, 8:10 from the Metropolitan Museum of Art

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKTdeok2Wcw>

The video features the 2013 Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibition "Cinnabar: The Chinese Art of Carved Lacquer, 14th to 19th Century." It explored thousands years Chinese lacquer art tradition. The Asian Art Curator discusses the unique characteristics of selected works from the exhibition.

Bone, Flesh, Skin: The Making of Japanese Lacquer, 14:27 from the Getty Museum

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJknAo0temI>

This 1987 video from the Getty Museum traces the creation of a lacquer artwork from its wooden base (bone) to its base coating of lacquer and clay (flesh) and finally to its painted decoration (skin). You'll see demonstrations of a few of the hundreds of techniques for decorating lacquer, such as gold powder, mother-of-pearl and relief decorations.

Frolicking Asian Cats in the Freer Gallery of Art, 2:16

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ObWuQuc6II>

From China, Japan and more, both hidden and in plain sight, there are cats amid the marbled walls of the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler museum in Washington D.C. (Tish Wells/McClatchy)