




Non-Western Art History

The Art of China

Part 1

Art of China 1

End





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Art of China 1

End




Common Characteristics of Traditional Chinese Art

- ◆ Has changed constantly through history, each era has a distinct style
- ◆ Respect for tradition and morality, valued references to the past (Confucianism)
- ◆ High regard for spontaneity and innovation (Chan Buddhism)

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Art of China 1

End




Common Characteristics of Traditional Chinese Art

- ◆ Harmony with nature and natural processes (Daoism)
- ◆ Long tradition of art criticism and aestheticism which has changed over time
- ◆ Spirit of search, discovery and refinement
- ◆ Strong influence of three religions and one philosophy

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Art of China 1

End




Common Characteristics of Traditional Chinese Art

- ◆ Long tradition of calligraphy that evolved into landscape and portrait painting
 - Goal – to capture not only the outer appearance, but the inner essence, energy, life force, spirit.

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Art of China 1

End




Common Characteristics of Traditional Chinese Art

- ◆ Long tradition of calligraphy that evolved into landscape and portrait
 - Color, light and shadow are distractions
 - Relies on line, the indelible mark of the inked brush

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Art of China 1

End

⊕ Religions and Philosophy of China

- ◆ Ancestor worship – practiced from pre-history through the first dynasties and in some places today
- ◆ Daoism – animistic beliefs and intuitive balance with nature
- ◆ Confucianism – tradition and morality, beginning in the 5th century BC
- ◆ Buddhism – the path in life to reach *nirvana*; arriving in the 1st century AD

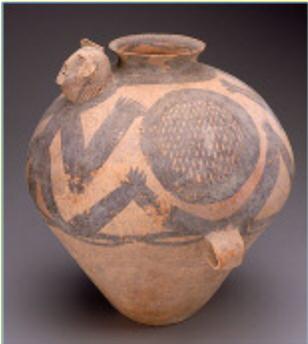
7 Art of China I End

⊕ Pre-historic China, 3,500 – 2,000 BC

- ◆ Neolithic culture developed along the Yellow River
- ◆ Clay and jade were the predominate materials
- ◆ Religion was based on ancestor worship
- ◆ Artworks that have survived are from tombs and there are no written records
- ◆ Stone tools, not metal

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Granary Jar,
Late 3rd millennium BC,
H: 15.5 inches,
Unknown Neolithic Artist,
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



9 Art of China I End



Basin (pen), Ca. 3200-2700 BC, H: 11 inches,
Unknown Mijiayao Culture Artist,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

10 Art of China I End



Plaque in the shape of a squarish loop with projections,
3500-2000 BC, H: 3 inches, Unknown Hongshan Artist,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

11 Art of China I End

⊕ A dynasty is a succession of rulers from the same family.

⊕ The Chinese dynasties we'll study are:

- ◆ * Shang (1700-1045 BC)
- ◆ * Zhou (1045-480 BC)
- ◆ * Qin (221-209 BC)
- ◆ Han (206 BC – 220 AD)
- ◆ Tang (618-907 AD)
- ◆ Song (960-1279)
- ◆ Yuan (1279-1368)
- ◆ Ming (1368-1644)
- ◆ Qing (1644-1911)



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Shang Dynasty 1700 – 1045 BC and Zhou Dynasty 1045 – 480 BC

CHINA
Shang Dynasty
1700-1045 BC
Lao Tzu
Confucius
Mao Tse Tung
1:100,000,000
© 1998 by National Geographic Society

Art of China I

End

Human-like Head, 16th – 11th century BC, H: 15.5 inches,
Unknown Shang Artist, The Israeli Museum

Art of China I

End

Spouted Ritual Wine Vessel (Guang), 1300-1050 BC, H: 13 inches,
Unknown Shang Artist,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art of China I

End

Spouted Ritual Wine Vessel (Guang), 1300-1050 BC, H: 13 inches,
Unknown Shang Artist,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art of China I

End

Ox Scapula with Divination Inscription, (Detail) 14th – 11th century BC,
Unknown Shang Artist,
National Museum of China, Beijing

Art of China I

End

Zhou (Bell),
5th-3rd century BC, H: 24 inches, Bronze
Unknown Zhou Artist,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art of China I

End



Set of 64 Zhou Bells, 5th century BC, Unknown Zhou Artists
Bronze with lacquer frame, from the tomb of a Marquis in Hubei Province

19 Art of China I End



Standing Youth,
5th – 4th century BC, H: 11.75 inches,
Unknown Zhou Artist,
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

20 Art of China I End

✦ Confucianism

- Founded by Confucius (551 – 479 BC)
- Respect for tradition and morality
- Includes human heartedness, education, loyalty, justice with empathy, respect for age and authority
- Long tradition of scholar-elites in China who followed Confucian principles



21 Art of China I End



Pendant in the form of a knotted dragon,
3rd century, H: 3.1 inches,
Unknown Zhou Artist,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

22 Art of China I End



Qin (Chinese Zither), 1634,
H: 11.75 inches, Wood, jade, lacquer, silk strings
Unknown Ming Artist,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

23 Art of China I End

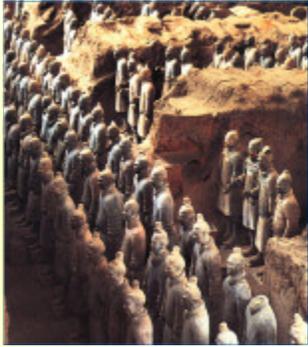


Mausoleum for Emperor Qin Shi Huang,
Photo 2006, Wikipdia

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Terra Cotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang, 210 BC
Unknown Qin Artists
Clay and paint



Art of China I

End

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Terra Cotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang, 210 BC
Unknown Qin Artists Clay and paint



Art of China I

End

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Terra Cotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang (Detail), 210 BC
Unknown Qin Artists
Clay and paint



Art of China I

End

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✦ This is the end of our first presentation on Chinese Art



Art of China I

End