

**Non-Western Art History**

**The Art of China**

**Part 3**

End

Art of China 3 1




+ The Chinese dynasties:

- 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)
  - Calligraphy and Painting
- Ming (1368-1644)
- Qing (1644-1911)

End

Art of China 3 2




**Song Dynasties 960 – 1279**



End

Art of China 3 3




+ The Northern Song Dynasty (960 – 1126)

- The Northern Song controlled most of inner China
- Bureaucracy staffed by scholar officials, chosen through exams
- Officials ruled with the help of local gentry and local clerks
- Confucian virtues were the social binding force
- Buddhism and Daoism remained strong
- Cities were vibrant cultural centers, people mingled at festivals and private clubs

End

Art of China 3 4




+ The Northern Song Dynasty (960 – 1126)

- Scholars turned to the arts as path to cultivation of moral self
- Four accomplishments:
  - painting,
  - poetry,
  - *weiqi* (like chess)
  - playing the zither (*qin*).
- Landscape painting now a high art
- Spread of literature and knowledge through woodblock printing
- Science, mathematics, engineering and philosophy flourished.

End

Art of China 3 5



+ Southern Song Dynasty (1127 - 1279)

- Jin Dynasty conquered northern territories of the Song Dynasty
- Song Dynasty court moved south of Yangtze River
- Economy strong, emperor still controlled vast agricultural lands
- Society pursued a highly aestheticized way of life
- Natural beauty of West Lake and Hangzhou area inspired artists
- Decorative arts – elegant with high technical skills


End

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*Silver Service*, 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century,  
Song Dynasty, D: 4.5 – 7.5 inches  
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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*Tea Bowl*, 960 - 1279,  
Song Dynasty,  
H: 5 inches, Stoneware with  
hare's fur glaze  
Metropolitan Museum of Art

8 Art of China 3 End



*Dish*,  
12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century,  
Southern Song Dynasty,  
D: 8.5 inches  
Porcelaneous stoneware with  
crackled blue glaze  
Metropolitan Museum of Art


9 Art of China 3 End



*Guanyin (Water & Moon)*,  
12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century,  
Jin Dynasty, H: 39 inches  
Cincinnati Art Museum

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Yuan Dynasty 1280 - 1365



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- ✦ The Yuan Dynasty
  - ✦ Mongol Khans conquered China, which became part of their vast empire
  - ✦ Mongols adopted Chinese administrative practices and ruled from Khanbalik, now Beijing
  - ✦ Chinese culture not only survived but was reinvigorated
  - ✦ Scholar elites were ignored by Mongols and most withdrew to pursue personal artistic cultivation

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*Pair of Incense Burners,*  
Early 14<sup>th</sup> century,  
Yuan Dynasty,  
H: 8.75 inches  
Porcelain with blue/white  
glaze  
Metropolitan Museum of  
Art

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*Plate,*  
Mid-14<sup>th</sup> century,  
Yuan Dynasty, D: 18 inches  
Porcelain with underglaze  
blue decoration  
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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✦ Chinese Painting Common Characteristics

- Calligraphy evolved into landscape and portrait painting
- Goal to capture not only the outer appearance of the subject, but the inner essence, its energy, life force, spirit
- Color, light and shadow are distractions
- Relies on line, the indelible mark of the inked brush

✦ Chinese Painting Forms

- Handscroll
- Hanging scroll

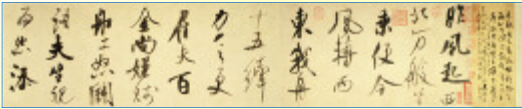
Source: *Chinese Calligraphy*, Dawn Delbanco, Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, Metropolitan Museum of Art

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✦ Chinese Calligraphy


- Calligraphy, the art of writing, prized above all others in China
- Painting and calligraphy emerged at the same time and used the same tools – brush and ink
- Calligraphy reflects the importance and power of the word in China
- Each word has a distinct form and should reveal itself to be:
  - a moral exemplar
  - a manifestation of the energy of the human body
  - express the vitality of nature itself

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*Sailing on the Wu River,* Mi Fu, ca. 1096,  
Northern Song Dynasty, H: 12 inches, L: 18 feet  
Handscroll, ink on paper  
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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*Poem of Farewell to Liu Man,* Yelu Chucai,  
12<sup>th</sup> century, Song Dynasty, H: 14.25 inches, L: 108 inches  
Handscroll, ink on paper  
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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Chinese Painting – Changes Over Time

- Not until the Song Dynasty was painting considered fine arts. Then painting allied with calligraphy in:
  - purpose – expressive
  - form – representative
  - technique – fluid
- Song Dynasty painters focused on nature, transience of beauty and poetic ideas that appealed to the senses
- Yuan painters emphasized self-expression

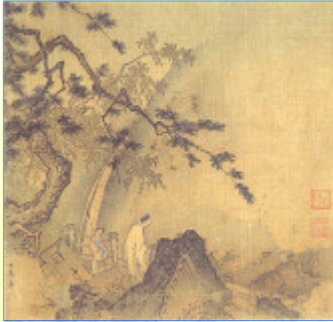
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Chinese Landscape Painting

- Recognize 25 varieties of textured strokes
- People are small part of larger scheme of nature
- Viewer invited to “walk through” artist’s world and savor details
- Artists valued inspiration, spontaneity and creativity
- Look beyond externals to capture essence of subject
- Accumulation of experiences, flowing out through the artist’s brush in a moment of great exultation, not a record of a single visual experience.

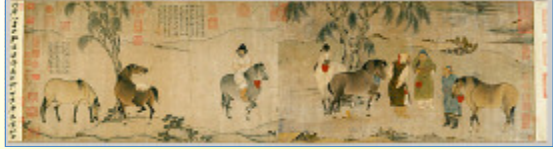
Source: *Chinese Painting*, Maxwell Hearn, Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, Metropolitan Museum of Art

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*Scholar by a Waterfall*,  
Ma Yuan (active 1190-1225),  
Late 12<sup>th</sup> century,  
S. Song Dynasty, Album Leaf  
10 x 9 inches  
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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*Six Horses*, Left – 14<sup>th</sup> century, Right – early 13<sup>th</sup> century,  
Yuan and Jin Dynasty (Song Period), H: 18.5 inches, L: 65.5 inches  
Handscroll, ink and color on paper  
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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*Six Horses*, Detail, left – 14<sup>th</sup> century,  
Yuan Dynasty, H: 18.5 inches, L: 65.5 inches  
Handscroll, ink and color on paper  
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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*Nine Dragons (detail)*, Chen Rong (active mid- 13<sup>th</sup> century), 1244,  
Southern Song Dynasty, Entire scroll 18 x 431 inches  
Ink with touches of red on paper, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

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Art of China 3

**End**

*Fisherman*, Wu Zhen (1280-1354), ca. 1350  
Yuan Dynasty, 8 x 17 inches  
Handscroll, ink on paper  
Metropolitan Museum of Art



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Art of China 3

**End**

*Woods and Valley of Mount Yu*,  
Ni Zan (1306-1374), 1372,  
Yuan Dynasty, 37 x 14 inches  
Hanging scroll, ink on paper  
Metropolitan Museum of Art




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**End**

*Woods and Valley of Mount Yu*,  
Ni Zan (1306-1374), 1372,  
Yuan Dynasty, 37 x 14 inches  
Hanging scroll, ink on paper  
Metropolitan Museum of Art




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Art of China 3

**End**

*Woods and Valley of Mount Yu*,  
Ni Zan (1306-1374), 1372,  
Yuan Dynasty, 37 x 14 inches  
Hanging scroll, ink on paper  
Metropolitan Museum of Art



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Art of China 3

**End**

*Bamboo and Rocks*,  
Li Kan (1245-1320), 1318,  
Yuan Dynasty,  
74 x 21 inches,  
Pair of hanging scrolls  
Ink and color on silk  
Metropolitan Museum  
of Art



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Art of China 3

**End**

*Bamboo and Rocks (detail)*,  
Li Kan (1245-1320), 1318,  
Yuan Dynasty,  
74 x 21 inches,  
Pair of hanging scrolls  
Ink and color on silk  
Metropolitan Museum  
of Art

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*Inkstone and Box.*  
 Early 18<sup>th</sup> century,  
 Qing Dynasty.  
 H. 8.25 inches.  
 Green schist and wood  
 Metropolitan Museum of Art



Art of China 3

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✦ This ends our presentation on  
 the Art of China Part Three



Art of China 3

End