

Though we can't meet in person during the pandemic, we still want to stay connected with you through these online resources that will feed our mutual interest in Asian arts and culture. Until we can meet again, please stay safe and healthy.

Essays:

Chinese Painting: Seventeen Masterpieces from 750 – 1702, from the Metropolitan Museum of Art

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/chin/hd_chin.htm

The aim of the traditional Chinese painter is to capture not only the outer appearance of a subject but its inner essence as well—its energy, life force, spirit. To accomplish his goal, the Chinese painter more often than not rejected the use of color. The Chinese artist regarded color as distraction. He also rejected the changeable qualities of light and shadow as a means of modeling, along with opaque pigments to conceal mistakes. Instead, he relied on line—the indelible mark of the inked brush.

Emotion and Devotion: Ragamala Paintings of India's Princely Courts, from the Freer Gallery

<http://ragamalaexhibit.com/>

This is a gorgeously illustrated guide to the Freer Gallery exhibit: *Emotion and Devotion: Ragamala Paintings of India's Princely Courts*. “In sumptuous royal palaces, the elite of India's princely states would gather in intimate settings, surrounded by food, wine, and music, to share the experience of viewing paintings. Ragamala paintings were illustrated to accompany specific musical modes called *ragas*.” Introductions to each section (Love as Devotion and Love as Emotion) are followed by exquisite digital images of eighteen painting with extensive descriptions. There are links to four examples of the music associated with this style of painting.

Studying Rajput Ragamala Paintings, from the Freer Gallery

<https://asia.si.edu/studying-rajput-ragamala-paintings/>

This links to a fascinating explanation of how *Emotion and Devotion* was created as an online exhibition. The exhibition is the result of months of collaborative work by the graduate, undergraduate, and continuing education student curators under the guidance of Dr. Robert DeCaroli, Professor and Director of the MA Program in Art History at George Mason, and Dr. Debra Diamond, Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art at the Freer and Sackler.

Painting is my Everything: Art from India's Mithila Region, from the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

<https://exhibitions.asianart.org/exhibitions/painting-is-my-everything-art-from-indias-mithila-region/>

Mithila style painting, characterized by visually striking compositions, stylized images, delicately detailed surfaces and vibrant colors, was originally practiced exclusively by women on the walls of their homes. In the wake of a severe drought in the 1960s, this mural tradition was transferred to paper, a format that could be sold to bring much-needed income to rural villages. The information for the exhibition includes the history of the style and information about the artists.

Painting Edo: The Feinberg Collection, from the Harvard Museums

<https://www.harvardartmuseums.org/exhibitions/5909/painting-edo-japanese-art-from-the-feinberg-collection>

Painting Edo — the largest exhibition ever presented at the Harvard Art Museums — offers a window onto the supremely rich visual culture of Japan’s early modern era. Selected from the unparalleled collection of Robert S. and Betsy G. Feinberg, the more than 120 works in the exhibition connect visitors with a seminal moment in the history of Japan, as the country settled into an era of peace under the warrior government of the shoguns and opened its doors to greater engagement with the outside world.

Diamond Mountain: Travel and Nostalgia in Korean Art, from the Metropolitan Museum of Art

<https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2018/diamond-mountains>

The Diamond Mountains—perhaps the most famous and emotionally resonant site on the Korean peninsula—is the theme of this international loan exhibition. Though the region has inspired cultural pride since ancient times, its location in what is today North Korea has kept it largely inaccessible in modern times. Featuring nearly thirty works—from delicately painted scrolls and screens to monumental modern and contemporary art—the exhibition presents the visual imagery of this iconic site from the eighteenth century to the present. Click on the left buttons to view the exhibition and the artworks and extensive curator notes. There is also a 1:30 video of scenes from the seasons in the mountains.

Videos:

The Famous Women Album, 3:48, from the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Also on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVIYgEzP-80>

"How does a woman represent herself?" Joseph Scheier-Dolberg shows viewers Cao Zhenxiu and Gai Qi's *Famous Women* album of 16 painted leaves dated 1799. The collaborative artwork is a Chinese folding book with 16 poems with facing delicate ink paintings, all focused on feminine virtue.

Ancient Art Links: Chinese Landscape Paintings at the Metropolitan Museum, 9:44

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIt0wBUdY5E>

This exhibit explores China’s thousand-year-old tradition of landscape painting. Asian Art curator Joseph Scheier-Dolberg leads a guided tour through the galleries: Landscapes of Poetry, Landscapes of Magic, Landscapes of Reclusion, and more. The program takes advantage of modern technology to magnify the fascinating details, which otherwise would be missed by general viewers. These landscape treasures reflect the Daoism view of the world that humans are tiny compared to the majesty of nature, and that only mountains and rivers last for eternity. You’ll also learn what two colors indicate the landscape is magical and how to get a crane to dance.

Painting is My Everything: Art from India’s Mithila Region, 0:59 from the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1x-pJ8rxbU>

Discover the bold artistic vision of 17 contemporary artists whose success has brought economic growth and social transformation to the provincial Mithila region of India. The artists, many of

them women, work within a traditional painting style to express personal experiences and viewpoints.

Buddhist Manuscript Painting, 4:53 from the Detroit Institute of Art,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDP7_gBsxcA

Katherine Kasdorf, Associate Curator of Arts of Asia and the Islamic World, helps oversee the collections of the Arts of Asia, the Islamic World, and the Ancient Middle East at the DIA. Here, she discusses "Perfection of Wisdom in Eight Thousand Verses" — a Buddhist manuscript from eastern India, produced around 860 years ago. The calligraphy and illustrations are fascinating.

Painting Edo, 3:23, from the Harvard Museums
<https://vimeo.com/channels/1537378>

There are three videos here, including a quick introduction of the exhibition with one of the co-curators (3:23 minutes), a tour of the exhibit (10 minutes) and a video to learn how puppies, bamboo and laughter can lead to enlightenment (15 minutes).

Conserving a Japanese hanging scroll painting, 2018, 7:13 from the The British Museum
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwiHDuhRQR4>

The video traces the step by step conservation and re-mounting of Kitagawa Utamaro's hanging scroll, "Standing Courtesan Reading a Letter" and its silk mount (BM 2014,3048.1), that was completed at the British Museum Hirayama studio in November 2016 thanks to generous support from the Sumitomo Foundation.

Korean Folk Painting: Minhwa, 3:40 from the Korean Cultural Heritage Foundation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYndKzq6lgE>

Minhwa means Korean folk painting. Animals, plants and everyday life were the main subjects of minhwa. It showed lives of the common Korean people. This includes a demonstration by Jung Gui-Ja of the minhwa painting style. This film was produced by the Korean Culture and Information Service and the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation.