

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

Traditional Dress from East Asia, the Victoria & Albert Museum

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/t/traditional-dress-from-east-asia/>

Traditional clothing from the East Asian countries of Japan, China and Korea tends to conceal the form of the body. With some exceptions, it is the surface decoration of dress from Japan and China, and the striking plain color combinations of Korean clothes that hold our attention. There are few pleats, frills or darts to be found in East Asian dress. There's a short essay on each of the cultures: Japan, Korea and China.

Museum of Ethnic Costumes, Google

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/museum-of-ethnic-costumes-beijing-institute-of-fashion-technology>

Ethnic Costume Museum of Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology (BIFT), established with the approval of Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage, is the first museum specializing in ethnic costumes in China. The Museum is also a cultural research institute integrating collection, display, research, and teaching. There are eight stories (slide shows) of various aspects of Chinese costumes, including ancient textiles, jewelry and attire and adornment of ethnic minority groups. And there are 244 items to explore.

Chinese Textiles: Ten Centuries of Masterpieces, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

<https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2015/chinese-textiles>

After a short essay introducing the 2015 exhibition, you'll see four highlights of the show. But look for the red circle and dot and click on "View All Objects" for beautiful digital images and descriptions of seventeen textiles in the exhibition, from an 8th century *Textile with Floral Medallion* to an 18th century *Woman's Ceremonial Robe*.

Indian Textiles: Trade and Production, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/intx/hd_intx.htm

In the international commerce of the pre-industrial era, spices and textiles were the principal commodities. India in particular was known for the quality of its textiles, and for centuries was involved in a brisk trade with Far and Southeast Asia. European companies worked their way into this commercial nexus in the early sixteenth century. There are ten extravagant examples to enjoy.

The Fabric of India, Victoria & Albert Museum

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/exhibitions/the-fabric-of-india/at-the-cutting-edge/>

Remind yourself of the fabulous textiles and fashions from this exhibit that was very popular when it was on display at the CAM. This is a summary of the exhibit with a link to a video of a contemporary designer and to the fun Indian streetwear website.

The Fabric of India, Victoria & Albert Museum

www.vam.ac.uk/content/exhibitions/the-fabric-of-india/

Seven extensive articles give information about the major sections of the exhibit and include videos of dyeing, weaving and more.

Fashion in Safavid Iran, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/safa_f/hd_safa_f.htm

Carrying a range of political and literary messages, fashions from Safavid Iran (1501–1722) were a versatile medium for self-expression. Safavid dress is characterized by innovative color combinations, distinctive figural motifs on fabrics, and rich texture due to the extensive use of gold- and silver-wrapped threads. The resulting overall ensemble of garments created an opulent and elegant look for both men and women, as you can see in six examples.

Silk Textiles from Safavid Iran (1501-1722), The Metropolitan Museum of Art

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/safa_3/hd_safa_3.htm

Safavid textiles, here are ten examples, are praised as the pinnacle of Iranian loom weaving. When the Safavids came to power at the turn of the sixteenth century, the Iranian textile industry was already well developed in the production and sale of woven silk textiles and rugs as well as raw silk for export. The textile industry consisted of urban workshops producing textiles independently, provincial centers focusing on rug weaving, and small farms cultivating silk in the Caspian region.

Interiors Imagined: Folding Screens, Garments and Clothing Stands, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/fold/hd_fold.htm

Folding screens in Japan functioned both as a type of furnishing and as decoration. There were standard subjects for samurai and wealthy merchants. But a mystery remains why artisans from various painting schools depicted on folding screens an array of sumptuously patterned garments casually draped over clothing stands. Learn more about The Met's pair of six-fold screens and the fabulous textiles shown against a sumptuous gold background.

Netsuke: From Fashion Fobs to Collectibles, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/nets/hd_nets.htm

From the seventeenth through mid-nineteenth century, Japanese citizens of all classes wore the kimono which have no pockets. They devised clever containers that were suspended from their sash and anchored with a netsuke. What started as a simple counterweight developed into fashionable mini-sculptures. These fifteen examples will delight you, from charming to humorous.

Japanese Nō Costumes, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/nohc/hd_nohc.htm

Nō evolved from several strands of the performing arts and has been performed in Japan since the fourteenth century. In performance, Nō's austere bare stage and the severe elegance of its powerful masks combine with the multiple layers of shimmering costume to give the actor an oversized sculptural presence as he moves with the music and chanting of the chorus. These 10 examples will dazzle you.

Kimono, The Victoria & Albert Museum

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/page/k/kimono/>

This actually links to two articles about kimono: Kimono: An Introduction, including its history, decorations, symbols and motifs and Making a Kimono.

Korean Costumes Through the Ages, Pacific Asia Museum

<https://pacificasiamuseum.usc.edu/exhibitions/past/exhibitions-at-usc-pam-prior-to-2011/korean-costumes-through-the-ages/>

This essay describes an exhibit of Korean costumes held at the USC Pacific Asia Museum in 2003. It's a brief history of the styles and colors of the textiles and the costumes from the first century BC to the present era. The fashions are from the National Folk Museum of Korea.

Videos:

The Making of Balinese Double Ikat Textiles, Asian Art Museum, 6:59

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KECV0ceXWkc>

Travel to the Balinese village of Tenganan to discover how double ikat textiles, known as "geringsing," are made. "Gering" means "sick" and "sing" means "no." Geringsing are prized for their ability to ward off evil and sickness. This includes the step by step process from preparing the threads to dyeing then weaving. Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

The Shanghai Dress, Asian Art Museum, 3:41

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ditvmo2vt_U

The qipao is a stylish, sophisticated form-fitting dress that emerged in 1920s Shanghai. Meet Jane Zhu: she's studied qipao patternmaking and construction from master tailors. Celebrated in Shanghai and New York for her contemporary, made-to-order luxury qipao, Zhu's been featured in Vogue, Elle China, Harper's Bazaar China, Newsweek, and more.

Weaving a Culture: A Film on Saris of India, Archana Kapoor Productions, 18:06, 2015

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_TEHWmL6fY

Part One: Saris are the definitive example of style and popular culture in the subcontinent. This film looks to understand and demystify the history, the manufacturing and consumption of this piece of clothing and art.

Weaving a Culture: A Film on Saris of India, Archana Kapoor Productions, 14:15, 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfgUp-NYSOI>

Part Two, enjoy!

How was it Made: Traditional Indian Weaving, Victoria and Albert Museum, 3:07

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OHbJQ90hfY>

Rajasthan Khadi Sangh is a weaving cooperative in Kala Dera, Rajasthan. There, cotton is spun and woven by hand using traditional tools and equipment to make cotton khadi cloth. Handmade textiles, are still a significant part of the Indian economy, providing work to millions. The V&A visited Rajasthan Khadi Sangh to watch how they turn cotton into plain-woven cloth.

The Fabric of India, Victoria & Albert Museum

www.vam.ac.uk/content/exhibitions/the-fabric-of-india/

Seven extensive articles give information about the major sections of the exhibit and include many two to three minute videos of dyeing, weaving and more.

Kimono in Japan: Japanology, NHK, 29:39

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPiLPMZiyi0>

NHK, Japan's public broadcasting system, takes a look at the history of kimono and how styles have changed over the years. From men's kimono to women's kimono, when to wear kimono now and how to wear one, even how kimono are cleaned and restored, you'll see it all here.

A Brief History of Samurai Armor, Asian Art Museum, 5:29

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91x5bPf2Eag>

Men can be just as interested in the latest fashions. Learn about samurai armor by exploring artworks in the Asian Art Museum's collection, plus examples from the Tokyo National Museum.

Batik of Java: A Centuries Old Tradition, Asian Art Museum, 7:08

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLTmu5m5bFU>

Watch Javanese artisans make batik and learn more about their refined techniques. Many places in the world pattern textiles by applying wax to protect certain areas from dye. During the dye process, the wax areas resist the dye, and when the wax is removed a pattern emerges. Both the technique and the textile produced are called batik. Nowhere in the world is this method of patterning textiles as highly refined as in Indonesia. Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

What Korean Kings and Queens Wore, Talk to Me in Korean, 9:25

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jue7fPFEq-0&feature=emb_rel_end

Hanbok(한복) is traditional clothing in Korea, the colorful clothes that you can see Korean people wearing on traditional holidays or during wedding ceremonies. We (three amateurs) went to the N. Seoul Tower Hanbok Culture Experience Center to try out some royal palace style Hanbok!