

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:

East and West: Chinese Export Porcelain

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/ewpor/hd_ewpor.htm

Introduced to Europe in the fourteenth century, Chinese porcelains were regarded as objects of great rarity and luxury. Through twelve examples you'll see luxury porcelains that appeared in Europe in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, often mounted in gilt silver, which emphasized their preciousness and transformed them into entirely different objects.

The Vibrant Role of Mingqi in Early Chinese Burials

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/mgqi/hd_mgqi.htm

Burial figurines of graceful dancers, mystical beasts, and everyday objects reveal both how people in early China approached death and how they lived. Since people viewed the afterlife as an extension of worldly life, these ceramic figurines, called *mingqi* or "spirit goods," disclose details of routine existence and provide insights into belief systems over a thousand-year period. *Mingqi* were popularized during the formative Han dynasty (206 B.C.–220 A.D.) and endured through the turbulent Six Dynasties period (220–589) and the later reunification of China in the Sui (581–618) and Tang (618–907) dynasties. There are eleven ceramic burial goods (and one limestone) as great examples of *mingqi*.

Indian Pottery

<https://www.veniceclayartists.com/tag/indian-pottery/>

The essay is informative but short. However, the many photos of ceramics, from simple terracotta, to blue glazed, to temple offerings, are terrific. This is from a blog post of Ceramics and Pottery Arts and Resources.

Mitti Mitti Bol: Unearthing India's Rare Pottery, Outlook Traveller

<https://www.outlookindia.com/outlooktraveller/explore/story/70059/5-rare-indian-pottery-traditions-you-should-know-about>

Here, are outlined five unique pottery traditions from India with beautiful designs of pots, toys, decorations and divinities that are emblematic of each community's heritage and links to the outside world. It includes four pottery traditions: Rajasthan's Molela, Kamatakari's Bidriware, West Bengal's Terracotte, Uttar Pradesh's Black Clay and Gujarat's Khavda pottery.

Calligraphy in Islamic Art

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/cali/hd_cali.htm

Among the eighteen examples are three exquisite ceramic artworks. Calligraphy is the most highly regarded and most fundamental element of Islamic art. It is significant that the Qur'an, the book of God's revelations to the Prophet Muhammad, was transmitted in Arabic, and that inherent within the Arabic script is the potential for developing a variety of ornamental forms.

The employment of calligraphy as ornament had a definite aesthetic appeal but often also included an underlying talismanic component.

The Japanese Tea Ceremony Ceramics

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/jtea/hd_jtea.htm

Learn the history of the tea ceremony through a selection of eleven artworks. The ceramics used in the tea ceremony—tea bowls, water jars, flower vases, tea caddies, and so forth—are functional tools valued for their practicality as well as artworks admired for their aesthetic qualities.

Edo Period Japanese Porcelains, Ceramics

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/jpor/hd_jpor.htm

Sixteen artworks, from plates to figurines, show why the pure white porcelain surface was favored by artist for painting delicate and sometimes colorful designs. Export porcelains of the 17th century were some of the first Japanese artworks seen in Europe.

Joseon *Buncheong* Ware: Between Celadon and Porcelain

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/pnch/hd_pnch.htm

Bold. Earthy. Dynamic. Modern. These are some of the words we associate with *buncheong* ware, the striking ceramic type produced during the first 200 years of the Joseon dynasty (1392–1910). Enjoy four examples of this technical tour de force.

Goryeo Celadon

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/cela/hd_cela.htm

During the nearly five centuries of the Goryeo Dynasty (918–1392), celadon constituted the main type of ceramics produced on the Korean peninsula. This exquisite ware typically appears gray-green in hue. Here are five different artworks highlighting the delicate beauty of celadon.

In Pursuit of White Porcelain in the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910)

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/chpo/hd_chpo.htm

If green is the operative word in Korean ceramics during the [Goryeo dynasty](#) (918–1392), then white becomes the preferred color under the Joseon (1392–1910). Try to guess the dates on these seven artworks that look like they could have been created yesterday – such clean lines and simple forms.

Videos:

An Introduction to Ming Blue and White Porcelain, The British Museum 13:45

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwvRXJd22oI>

The Ming Dynasty is famed for its blue and white porcelain, which took over European dining tables thanks to trade with the Dutch, Portuguese and English. However, you might not know exactly how to tell the difference between a Hongwu and a Longqing piece. If you don't, never fear! Curator Jessica Harrison-Hall has you and the entire Ming Dynasty covered!

The Priceless Ming Jar Used as an Umbrella Stand, Christie's, 2:46

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVC48xQZCU>

After a team of Christie's specialists looked at the jar, they realised they were handling an incredibly important piece of Chinese porcelain from the Ming Dynasty. In this video, Chi Fan Tsang, a specialist in Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art, discusses the details that make this piece so special, including the significance of the five-clawed dragon, and the cross mark on the base of the vessel.

A Guide to the Symbolism of Chinese Ceramic Decorations, Christie's 3:28

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

Chinese porcelain has been decorated with a huge variety of motifs in the years since the first recognizable shapes appeared on painted pottery in the Neolithic period. Since the Song dynasty (960-1279) flowers have been among the most popular decorative themes. This was particularly true on 18th-century enameled porcelains. The choice of designs was based not only on their beauty, but also on what the motifs represented. 'Throughout Chinese history, symbolism has been integral to its artwork,' says Katie Lundie, Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art Specialist at Christie's in London. 'These links are often very playful.'

Pottery Traditions of India – Maharashtra 6:32

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QmIkx2v2EY>

'Pottery Traditions of India' is an independently produced DVD made by potter Jane Perryman and her colleague Indru Bhatia. Recorded between 1996-99, it documents pottery and clay traditions from different areas of India (part two of the DVD shown).

Pottery Traditions of India – Kuth 6:45

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_9A73UXETQ

Another documentary by Jane Perryman with fine images of the decorative patterns typical of this tradition.

Jaipur's Blue Pottery, Live History India, 2:49

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

From the Mughal courts to the palaces of Jaipur, catch the story of how Jaipur has made the famed Persian Blue Pottery its own. It's created from quartz powder which contributes to its vibrant colors.

Kakiemon: A History of Making Japanese Porcelain, The British Museum 4:33

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZWXou8HTBw>

2016 marks the 400th anniversary of porcelain production in Japan. One of the major styles of porcelain from Arita is known as Kakiemon. The Kakiemon style dates back to the 1670s and was made for a largely European market. It originated with Sakaida Kakiemon I, who learnt the secrets to overglaze enameling possibly from a Chinese specialist in Nagasaki in 1647. He then introduced this technique to Arita, earning the name 'Kakiemon', which derives from kaki (persimmon) after the orange-red colour of the enamel.

The Japanese Art of Fixing Broken Pottery, BBC, 5:46

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9LMKGte0UU>

Japan's ancient art of celebrating broken pottery is rooted in an eastern philosophy of finding beauty in imperfection. Many believe it can help us to accept our flaws – and foster a sense of peace and fulfilment. Video by Terushi Sho

Mingei Treasures, The Pucker Gallery, 14:42

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NWZkY6iRJg>

This video illustrates the catalog that Professor Andrew Maske wrote about the Mingei Movement, propelled in the 1920s by Soetsu Yanagi, Shoji Hamada and Kanjiro Kawai, and continued by Tatsuzo Shimaoka. Pucker Gallery's 2010 exhibition included significant collections of work by Hamada and Shimaoka, and a few pieces each by Kawai, Rosanjin Kitaoji, Hamada Shinsaku, 19th-century Seto ware, and contemporary Onda Yaki.

Korean Pottery, The Korea Foundation, 4:45

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMXtAd4Gpe4>

This is traditional Korean pottery which is one of the most important Korean cultural heritages since the Goryeo Dynasty (918–1392). This video shows numerous pottery designs from ancient to modern, using Korean National Treasures.

Korean Contemporary Icheon Ceramic Masters, 6:00

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeaULZv248w>

This video shows three modern ceramic masters, Lee Yeounhyu, Yoo Kuangyul and Kim Jongho creating their masterpieces. The last section shows Kim loading and firing his climbing kiln and some of the finished treasures that emerge.