1  Chapter 10: Chinese and Korean Art Before 1279

   Art History 1

2  In this Chapter You Will...
   - Examine the interaction of art and ritual in early periods of Chinese and Korean history.

3  In this chapter you will...
   - Discuss the development of Confucian philosophy and its impact on the pictorial art of China.

4  In this chapter you will...
   - Analyze the Daoist elements in early landscape motifs of China.

5  In this chapter you will...
   - Assess the introduction and spread of Buddhism, and its adherents as patrons (including the court) in both China and Korea.

6  In this chapter you will...
   - Discuss the development of naturalistic depiction and the achievement of verisimilitude in both landscapes and figures in the painting and sculpture of China before 1279.

7  The Middle Kingdom
   - From Qin comes our name for the country that the Chinese call the Middle Kingdom, the country in the center of the world.

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9  Neolithic Cultures
   - Early archaeological evidence had led scholars to believe that agriculture, the cornerstone technology of the Neolithic period, made its way to China from the ancient Near East.

10  Painted Pottery Cultures
   - In China, as in other places, distinctive forms of Neolithic pottery identify different cultures.
   - One of the most interesting objects thus far recovered is a shallow red bowl with a turned-out rim.

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12  Liangzhu Culture
   - Banpo lies near the great bend in the Yellow River, in the area traditionally regarded as the
cradle of Chinese civilization, but archaeological finds have revealed that Neolithic cultures arose over a far broader area.

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- The image is one of eight that were carved in low relief on the outside of a large jade cong, an object resembling a cylindrical tube encased in a rectangular block.

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- The cong is one of the most prevalent and mysterious of early Chinese jade shapes.

15  
- These intricate carvings show the technical sophistication of the jade-working culture, named the Liangzhu, which emerged around 3300 BCE.

16  Bronze Age China  
- Archaeological evidence now makes clear, however, that the bronze casting using the piece-mold casting technique arose independently in China, where it attained an unparalleled level of excellence.

17  Shang Dynasty  
- Traditional Chinese histories tell of three Bronze Age dynasties: the Xia, the Shang, & the Zhou.

18  Shang Dynasty  
- The chief Shang deity, Shangdi, may have been a sort of “Great Ancestor”.  
- Shang priests communicated with the supernatural world through oracle bones.

19  Shang Dynasty  
- Oracle bones, many of which have been recovered and deciphered, contain the earliest known form of Chinese writing.

20  Ritual Bronzes  
- The tombs contained hundreds of jade, ivory, & lacquer objects, gold & silver ornaments, & bronze vessels.  
- Here is a bronze Fang Ding, a square vessel with four legs, that is one of hundreds of vessels recovered from the royal tombs near the last of the Shang capitals, Yin.

21  
- Its surface is decorated with a complex array of images based on animal forms.

22  Ritual Wine-Pouring Vessel (Guang) with Tiger and Owl Décor, 13th Century BCE  
- A ritual pouring vessel, called a guang, shows a highly sculptural rendition of animal forms.  
- The pouring spout and cover are modeled as the head and body of a tiger, while the rear portion
of the vessel and cover is conceived as an owl.

23 Zhou Dynasty
- Around 1100 BCE, the Shang were conquered by the Zhou from western China.
- During the Zhou dynasty a feudal society developed, with nobles related to the king ruling over numerous small states.

24 Bronze Bells
- Ritual bronze objects continued to play an important role during the Zhou dynasty, & new forms developed.

25 The Chinese Empire: Qin Dynasty
- Toward the middle of the 3rd century BCE, the state of Qin launched military campaigns that led to its triumph over the other states by 221 BCE.
- For the first time in its history, China was united under a single ruler.

26 Han Dynasty
- The commander who overthrew the Qin became the next emperor and founded the Han dynasty.
- During this period the Chinese enjoyed a peaceful, prosperous, and stable life.

28 Painted Banner from Changsha
- The early Han dynasty marks the twilight of China’s so-called mythocentric age, when people believed in a close relationship between the human and supernatural worlds.
- The most elaborate and most intact painting that survives from this time is a T-shaped silk banner, which summarizes this early world view.

32 Daoism and Nature
- Daoism emphasizes the close relationship between humans and nature.
- It is concerned with bringing the individual life into harmony with the Dao, or the Way, of the universe.

33 Incense Burner, 113 BCE
- Around the bowl, gold inlay outlines the stylized waves of the sea.
- Above them rises the mountainous island, busy with birds, animals, & people who had discovered the secret to immortality.

34 Confucianism and the State
In contrast to the metaphysical focus of Daoism, Confucianism is concerned with the human world, & its goal is the attainment of equity (or justice).

To this end, it proposes a system of ethics based on reverence for ancestors & the correct relationships among people.

35  Confucian Art
- Among the most famous examples are the reliefs from the Wu family shrines built in 151 CE.
- Carved and engraved in low relief on stone slabs, the scenes were meant to teach Confucian themes such as respect for the emperor, piety, and wisely devotion.

36  Architecture
- Unfortunately nothing of Han architecture remains except ceramic models.
- One model of a house found in a tomb, where it was provided for the dead to use in the afterlife, represents a typical Han dwelling.

37  Six Dynasties
- With the fall of the Han dynasty in 220 CE, China broke into three warring kingdoms.
- For the next three centuries, northern and southern China developed separately.

38  Painting
- One of the most important of the very few works that survives from this period is a painted scroll known as Admonitions of the Imperial Instructress to Court Ladies.
- It alternates illustrations and text to relate seven Confucian stories of wisely virtue from Chinese history.

39  Calligraphy
- The emphasis on the expressive quality & structural importance of brushstrokes finds its purest embodiment in calligraphy.

40  Buddhist Art & Architecture
- Buddhism originated in India during the fifth century BCE then gradually spread north into Central Asia.
- With the opening of the Silk Road during the Han dynasty, its influence reached China.

41  Rock-Cut Caves of the Silk Road

42  Sui and Tang Dynasties
- In 581 CE, a general from the last of the northern dynasties replaced a child emperor and established a dynasty of his own, the Sui.
- He molded China into a centralized empire as it had been in Han times.
- The Sui dynasty fell in 618 CE, but in reunifying the empire it paved the way for one of the greatest dynasties in Chinese history, the Tang.

43  The new Sui emperor was a devout Buddhist & his reunification of China coincided with a fusion of several styles of Buddhist sculpture that had developed.

44  Nanchan Temple, 782 CE
- One of the few structures earlier than 1400 CE to have survived, the Nanchan Temple is the most significant, for it shows characteristics of both temples & palaces of the Tang dynasty.
Great Wild Goose Pagoda
- Another important monument of Tang architecture is the Great Wild Goose Pagoda at the Ci’en Temple in Chang’an, the Tang capital.

Figure Painting
- The Tang dynasty is looked upon as China’s greatest age of figure painting.

Two Equestrian Figures
- Two horses and riders, a man and a woman, made for use as tomb furnishings, reveal more of the robust naturalism and exuberance achieved during the Tang period.

Song Dynasty
- A brief period of disintegration followed the fall of the Tang dynasty before China was again united, this time under the Song Dynasty.

Song Dynasty

Seated Guanyin Bodhisattva
- In spite of changing political fortunes in the 11th & 12th centuries, artists continued to create splendid works.

Philosophy:
Neo-Confucianism
- Song philosophers continued the process, begun during the Tang, of restoring Confucianism to dominance.
- In strengthening Confucian thought, philosophers drew on Daoist & especially Buddhist ideas, even as they openly rejected Buddhism itself as foreign.

Northern Song Painting
- The Neo-Confucian ideas found visual expression in art, especially in landscape, which became the most highly esteemed subject for painting.

Fishing in a Mountain Stream,
mid-11th century CE.
- This is one of the finest handscrolls to survive from the Northern Song dynasty.
- Starting from the thatched hut in the right foreground, we follow a path that leads to a broad, open view of a deep vista dissolving into distant mists and mountain peaks.

Southern Song: Ceramics
- Most highly prized of the many types of Song ceramics is Guan ware, made mainly for imperial use.
- The inverted lip, high neck, and rounded body of this simple vase show a strong
set between China and Japan, Korea occupies a peninsula in northeast Asia. Inhabited for millennia, the peninsula gave rise to a distinctively Korean culture during the Three Kingdoms period.

A Gold Headdress
- Spangles of gold embellish the crown, as do comma-shaped ornaments of green and white jadeite— a form of jade.
- The branching forms resemble trees and antlers.

High-Fired Ceramics
- These tombs also yielded ceramics in abundance.
- Most are containers for offerings of food placed in the tomb to nourish the spirit of the deceased.

Bodhisattva Seated in Meditation
- At first, Buddhist art in Korea was a mere imitation of Chinese art.
- However, by the late 6th century, Korean sculptors had created a style of their own, as seen in the gilt bronze statue.