WELCOME to the VRC’s
GUIDE to the ASIAN ART COLLECTION

The VRC’s Asian Art Slide Collection (AASC) features thousands of works of art & architecture, from diverse Asian cultures, produced in a variety of media, styles, periods and forms.
This guide to the AASC describes the VRC’s system for sorting this diverse collection of elements ...
...into cohesive groups for easy navigation.
Viewing the entire guide will take less than ten minutes and will assist you in your search for images.

**Note:** VRC staff are available to assist during their regular hours of operation.
SHORT CUTS

Overview
Applied Arts
Architecture
Sculpture
Painting
How to Find a Slide
Copyright Notice
Finding Images of Asian Art in UCR’s Visual Resources Collection

UCR’s Asian Art Slide Collection (AASC) is grouped together in one section of drawers near the east wall of the VRC (Arts 328).
Visual Resources Collection - Arts 328

- Architecture
- Sculpture
- Painting
- Photography & Film
- International File
- Asian Art
- Maps & Art Reference
- Manuscripts
- Theater & Dance
- Textbook Sets
- Authority Files
- Slide Return
- Reference Library

To VRC workroom
Maps, Charts & Diagrams

All Asian Maps, Charts and Diagrams are filed together in DRAWER # 1 of the collection.

They are organized by REGION or COUNTRY and then by TIME PERIOD
The rest of the AASC is organized in a hierarchical arrangement beginning with ...
Medium Has 4 Main Divisions

- Applied Arts
- Architecture
- Sculpture
- Painting

Note: Woodblock Prints are filed at the end of Painting
NOTE

The AASC holdings are largely from China, but other areas, listed under Country/Region are also represented in the collection.
Country/Region has 4 Main Divisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Far East</th>
<th>Mainland SE Asia</th>
<th>Central Asia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**South Asia**

- India
- Pakistan (Indus Valley/Harapan Valley civilization)
- Bangladesh
- Sri Lanka (Ceylon)
- Tibet

![Map of Asia](image)
Criteria for the Time/Period divisions vary with each Region, i.e.,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Time/Period Divisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Dynastic Periods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Historical &amp; Dynastic Periods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea &amp; India</td>
<td>Historical periods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE Asia</td>
<td>Not widely represented in our collection. Time/Period divisions are not used</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See the [Chronology Tables](#) for detailed information.
Sites include provinces and autonomous regions too numerous to name here.

See the Site Lists for a listing of the regions, provinces and sites represented in our collection.
Form or Subject

This category groups images by the **FORM** or **SUBJECT** that differentiates each object.

**For example**

In **ARCHITECTURE** it may be organized by:

- Type of building
- The building part
- A specific building view

In **APPLIED ARTS** it may be organized by:

- Type of ritual vessel
- Textile Use
Form or Subject

In SCULPTURE and PAINTING images are grouped by:

The figurative **subject** represented

Ex: Buddha (Buddhist), Siva (Hindu), Royal portraits, Masks, Mythological figures, figures from literature or history…

The **subject** or **theme/iconography** portrayed

Ex: Landscape, water study, still-life, architectural landscape, calligraphy, political posters, salvation, Hell…
Following is a brief review of how the 4 basic media in the AASC are organized.
Applied Arts are sometimes referred to as decorative arts.

The Applied Arts section includes artifacts from pre-history as well as ritual vessels, carvings, textiles, furnishings, etc.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applied Arts Categories:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Metalwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Ceramics &amp; Pottery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Lacquer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Jade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Bone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Ivory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Seals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Jewelry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Bamboo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Each Applied Arts Category is organized into groups of Form Types associated with their categories. Groups such as Metalwork have many Sub-types, others have simple divisions of one or two.
Applied Arts: Metal Works

...are arranged by Type:

• Bronze
• Gold
• Silver

...and then by Form/Function:

• Ritual Vessels and Bells
• Statuettes (Divinities, humans, animals, birds)
• Relief Works
• Seals
• Plaques
• Arms and Amour
• Jewelry
• Personal Ornaments
• Vessels & Containers (non-religious)
• Instruments
• Finials
• Musical Instruments (except bells)
Applied Arts: Lacquer Works

...are arranged by Technique:

- Plain lacquer
- Painted lacquer
- Carved lacquer
- Hollow, dry lacquer
- Inlays

...and then by Form

- Armor, weapons
- Bowls
- Boxes (cosmetic, document, food, ink, incense)
- Cups, goblets
- Dishes, plates, trays
- Figurines
- Jars, vases, vessels, ewers
- Furniture (chests, trunks, tables, trays, chairs)

A delicate Japanese gold lacquer
Applied Arts: Textiles

...are arranged by Type:

- Tapestry
- Embroidery
- Brocade
- Silk
- Damask
- Satin
- Linen, cotton
- Knits
- Carpets & Rugs

...and then by Form:

- Ceremonial Robe
- Accessories
- Court Robe
- Religious (Priest’s robe)
- Theatrical Costume
- Banner or *Tanka*
- Bag
- Cover
- Fragment
- Panel
- Fan
Applied Arts: Jades

...are arranged alphabetically by Function

- Adze
- Arrow, Ax
- Bells
- Beads
- Bi
- Bracelets, Bangles, Cho
- Combs
- Ceremonial Cuffs
- Congs
- Disks
- Gui
- Hairpins, Ornaments
- Pendants
- Plaques

...and by Sculptural Form

- Anthropomorphic
- Zoomorphic
- Vegetal
...are arranged by Technique:

**Glazed Wares**
- Celadon
- Green-glazed, etc.

**Unglazed Wares**
- White ware
- Yellow ware, etc.

...and then by Form

- Vase, Urn
- Burners (incense, etc.)
- Bowls, Cups, Plates
- Containers, Cooking Utensils
- Instruments
- Ornaments
- Bronze-inspired Forms
- Figurines
- Candlesticks, Lamps, Stands

Bottle, Edo Period
Asia Society: The Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection
The AASC also includes limited selections of works in paper, stone, wood, seals, jewelry, bone, glass, ivory and bamboo.
Architecture is organized first by REGION or NATIONALITY and then by SITE, i.e.,

India → Ellora  Thailand → Wat Mahathat

Within SITE it is organized by BUILDING TYPE, i.e.,

temple, palace, garden, tomb

Each BUILDING TYPE is then organized by VIEWS or parts of the building, i.e.,

NW view, aerial view, gateway, tower
Sculpture is organized first by REGION or NATIONALITY.

Within REGION it is organized by TIME PERIOD, DYNASTY or CULTURE.

Drum Hill Female Lion
Painting

Painting is organized first by **REGION** or **NATIONALITY**

Within each **REGION** it is organized by **TIME PERIOD, DYNASTY OR CULTURE**

If applicable, the works are organized by **ARTIST** and then by **SUBJECT**

Portrait of the Kangxi Emperor in Informal Dress Holding a Brush,
The Palace Museum, Beijing
Asian Artists Authority

The VRC’s Asian Artist Authority is a directory of Artists’ Names. The authority lists each artist’s Dynasty/Historical Period and birth/death dates when known.

A Romanization of the artist’s name is listed with cross references to earlier transliterations of their names (where applicable).

See the Wong References for the AASC’s Artists Authority.
Painting

Within each **ARTIST** or **DYNASTY** section individual works are organized by subject and grouped by one of 4 forms...

Handscrolls featuring long, horizontal and often narrative works, …
Hanging Scrolls with Vertical Orientation

Fans

Albums
Woodblock Prints

The AASC contains a small selection of woodblock prints from China & Japan filed at the end of Chinese or Japanese painting.

Ships transporting fish in high seas along the coast of Kanagawa. Early 1830's.
Unknown Artists/Creators

Works by anonymous creators, from a known time period are placed in the beginning of each Time/Period section.

for example…

Paintings created during the Song Dynasty by unknown artists are filed in front of all other Song Dynasty paintings. The paintings are then arranged into subject categories, i.e., portraits, landscapes, still-lifes …
By now, you’ve reviewed the different media collections (Applied Arts, Architecture, Painting and Sculpture) and where they are located.

Here’s a quick guide for finding slides in any media.

If the number STARTS with:          Then it’s located in:
0                Maps
1                Architecture
2                Sculpture
3                Painting

Remember, everything is in numerical order. So, just follow the numbers.

Applied Arts are located after Maps & in front of Architecture.

Exception: Applied Arts numbers start with country numbers, followed by codes for each medium.
Finding a Slide

Mancheng, Hebei

Type (1D/A) Ritual Vessel.

178332
W. (Former) Han Dynasty
206 B.C. - 9 A.D.
Bronze ding with bear

53C.4B
6.2
M142
1D/A

W. (Former) Han Dynasty
China

Cutter location (M142)

Dynasty (6.2)

Nationality (53)

continued
Artist is unknown, but influenced by Yun Shouping. These are still grouped with the artist.
Q: What Medium is it?
A: Painting

Go to That Section …
Q: Where was it created?
A: Japan.
When was it created?

During the Muromachi period.
Some Q & A’s to Guide Your Search

Who was the creator?

Josetsu was the creator.

Go to That Section ...
Some Q & A’s to Guide Your Search

What is depicted in the work?

A figure in a landscape setting.
Some Q & A’s to Guide Your Search

What is the title of the work?

Catching a Catfish with a Gourd.

Go to That Section ...
Some Q & A’s to Guide Your Search

Congratulations! You located the slide…
How to borrow slides (p.1)

The VRC uses a colored chip system to keep track of who has a slide at a particular time.

When a slide is removed from a drawer, the colored, cardboard chip is put in as a place marker to indicate that the slide is gone and a particular person has it.

Professors, guest lecturers, and teaching assistants have colored chips assigned to them.

Professors will often have a set of chips designated for seminar classes they teach so students can have a chip to borrow slides.
How to borrow slides (p.2)

Let a VRC staff person know you need to borrow slides.

You will be provided with:

- place-marker chips
- a slide loan form
- a slide carousel (if necessary)
1. Fill out name, date, course number, and other pertinent information. This helps us keep track of the collection.

2. Record all identifying information about each slide.
   a. Accession number
   b. Artist or Subject
   c. Title

3. Be sure to write down the color and/or design of the chip you use to borrow slides.

4. Add up the total number of slides you are borrowing.

5. Write down the carousel number you are using. This number is normally found on the bottom of the carousel.

6. Sign the loan form and return it to a VRC staff person.
Finding Images Online


Some image sources are available on the Wong Asian Art References page.
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All images made by or for UCR’s Visual Resources Collection become part of the collection. Slides or digital images belonging to the Visual Resources Collection will be used for educational purposes only such as projecting slides or digital images in the traditional face-to-face classroom setting or creation of class review websites that are accessible only by enrolled class members. The Visual Resources Collection does not authorize any person or group to duplicate collection images.
VRC HOURS

Monday 9:00 - noon
Tuesday 9:00 - noon  1:00 - 5:00
Wednesday 9:00 - noon  1:00 - 5:00
Thursday 9:00 - noon  1:00 - 5:00
Friday 9:00 - noon

Please note the Monday and Friday afternoon closures.
The End