Non-Western Art History

The Art of China
Part 2

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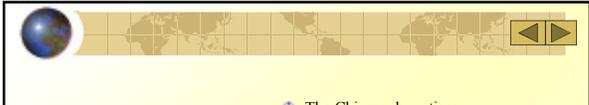
✠ The Chinese dynasties:
- ◆ Shang (1700-1045 BC)
- ◆ Zhou (1045-480 BC)
- ◆ Qin (221-209 BC)
- ◆ * Han (206 BC – 220 AD)
- ◆ * Tang (618-907 AD)
  - • Cultural Context Focus
- ◆ Song (960-1279)
- ◆ Yuan (1279-1368)
- ◆ Ming (1368-1644)
- ◆ Qing (1644-1911)

End

Han Dynasty 206 BC – 220 AD

End
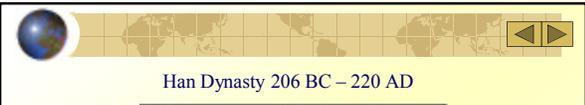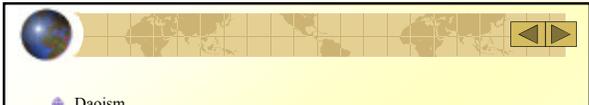
✠ Daoism
- ◆ Founded by Laozi, the author of the *Scripture of the Way and Virtue*
- ◆ Laozi lived about 550 BC
- ◆ Practiced as a religion in the Han Dynasty 206 BC – 220 AD.
- ◆ Representations of the deified Laozi began in the 6th century AD in response to the spread of Buddhism.

End

Laozi,
Late Tang, Early Song Dynasty
Unknown Artist,
Bronze, H: 9.5 inches
Metropolitan Museum of Art

End
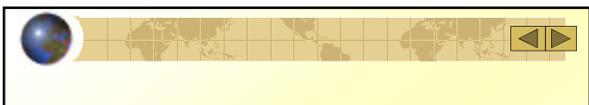
✠ Daoism
- ◆ Embedded in the heart of nature
- ◆ Animistic beliefs that stressed intuitive balance with nature
- ◆ One must release one's ego and become attuned to the flow of life
- ◆ The principal of *yin/yan*, opposite forces that represent the ultimate inward vision

End

Tomb of Liu Sheng (Cutaway View), Ca. 113 BC,
Han Dynasty Burial
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art of China 2

Jade Suits of Liu Sheng and His Wife Dou Wang (Left), Liu Sheng (Right),
Ca. 113 BC, Museum of the Mausoleum of the Nanyue King, in Guangzhou

Art of China 2

Coffin Cover of Lady Dai,
168 BC, H: 7 feet,
Unknown Han Artist, Painted Silk
Wikipedia: Hunan Provincial Museum

Art of China 2

Coffin Cover of Lady Dai,
168 BC, H: 7 feet,
Unknown Han Artist, Painted Silk
Wikipedia: Hunan Provincial Museum

Art of China 2

Horse and Rider,
2nd – 1st century BC, H: 22.5 inches,
Unknown Han Artist,
Earthenware with painted decoration
Kimbell Art Museum

Art of China 2

Animal Pen with Figures,
25 – 220 AD, H: 9.25 inches,
Unknown Han Artist,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art of China 2

Funerary Urn (hunping),
250 – 300 AD, H: 17.5 inches,
Unknown Jin Artist,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art of China 2
End

Art of China 2
End

THE SILK ROAD
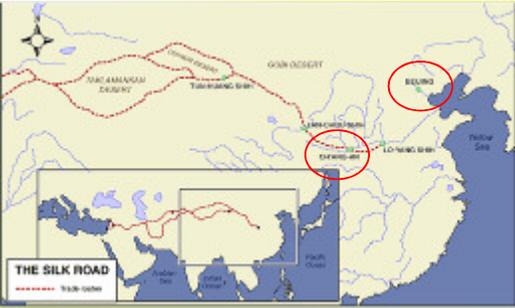
Art of China 2
End

- Tang Dynasty China
  - Emperors centralized political power in China from 618 – 907 AD with the capital at Chang-an, present day Xi'an
  - Tang territory was acquired through the military campaigns of its early rulers and later rulers kept the kingdom stable.
  - Buddhism and Daoism were the major religions
  - Tang economic power was rooted in the Silk Road. Trade was both export and import.
  - Considered a high point of Chinese civilization, a golden age of cosmopolitan culture.
  - Distinct social classes based on Confucianism
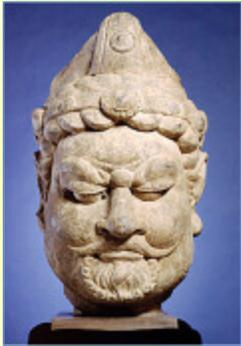
Art of China 2
End

Head of a Heavenly King,
Unknown Tang Artist,
7th Century, China,
The Walters Art Museum

Art of China 2
End

Emperor Wu Di, Attributed to
Yan Liben, 7th century, China,
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Art of China 2
End

Later Painting of Changan Imperial Palace,
Scan: "Silk Roads, China Ships" Catalog

Art of China 2

End

Pair of Tomb Officials,
Unknown Tang Artist,
Late 7th century,
Scan: "Silk Roads, China Ships" Catalog

Art of China 2

End

Standing Youth,
5th – 4th century BC,
H: 11.75 inches,
Zhou Artist,
Museum of Fine Arts,
Boston

Standing Court Lady,
Mid-7th century, H: 15 inches
Unknown Tang Artist
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art of China 2

End

Silk Merchant's House,
Scan: "Silk Roads, China Ships" Catalog

Art of China 2

End

Braying Camel,
Unknown Qui Artist, 550-577,
Earthenware with pigment,
Asia Society

Art of China 2

End

- Tang Dynasty China Art
  - Royalty, religious institutions and merchants were major patrons of the arts.
  - Art flourished, fed by the extensive trade along the Silk Road.
  - Traders from Greece, Rome, India and Iran in the west and Japan in the east brought artistic ideas to the imperial court, urban elite and artists.
  - Visual arts were highly prized, including figure painting, tri-color ceramics and exquisite porcelains.
  - Tang artists were highly skilled and painters were held in high esteem
  - The horse and camel were revered; their figures were placed in the tombs of royalty and merchants.

Art of China 2

End

Buddha Vairocana,
Luoyang Temple,
Scanned Image from
"Sons of Heaven"
Exhibit Catalog

Art of China 2
End

Buddha Vairocana (Dari),
Early 8th century, H: 8 inches
Unknown Tang Artist
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art of China 2
End

Altar of East Main Hall
of Foguang Temple,
Scan: "Sons of Heaven"
Catalog

Art of China 2
End

Guardian Warrior of Heavenly King,
Unknown Tang Artist, 8th century,
The Asia Society

Art of China 2
End

Mirror Back,
8th century, H: 9.75 inches,
Silver, Unknown Tang Artist,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art of China 2
End

Night Shining White, ca. 750, Han Gan (Active 742-756),
Handscroll, Ink on paper, 12 x 13 inche,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art of China 2
End

Horse from a Tomb Retinue,
early 8th century,
Unknown Tang Artist,
Earthenware with polychrome glaze
Minneapolis Institute of Art

End

Phoenix Headed Ewer,
late 7th century, H: 12.75 inches
Unknown Tang Artist,
Earthenware with three-color glaze
Metropolitan Museum of Art

End

Bowl, Unknown Tang Artist, 700 - 750, Unknown Tang Artist,
Silver and Gilt, Freer & Sackler Galleries

End

Seated Female Musicians, Unknown Tang
Artist, Late 7th century, H: 5.75 inches
Metropolitan Museum of Art

End

Emperor's Procession,
Scan: "Sons of Heaven" Catalog

End

- Tang artists lived in an empire where:
  - the emperor ruled by the Mandate of Heaven and they considered themselves the "Sons of Heaven".
  - Confucian scholars and court officials assisted the emperor in managing the country.

End

Slide 37:

- Tang artists lived in an empire where:
  - There were two major religions – Buddhism, Daoism
  - Temples and monasteries commissioned major artworks
  - Confucian philosophy also shaped subject matter and composition

End

Slide 38:

- Tang artists lived in an empire where:
  - the elite grew wealthy from trade with India, Iran and Mediterranean cultures.
  - the emperor, temples and wealthy people were patrons for artists.
  - tomb goods were an important product of artists' workshops

End

Slide 39:

- Tang artists lived in an empire where:
  - artists, especially painters, were highly esteemed.
  - where artists borrowed designs from cultures 3,000 miles away.

End

Slide 40:

- This ends our presentation for the Art of China Part 2

End

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