

## Korea, Chosŏn/Joseon Dynasty 1392-1910

### Key Ideas

During the Chosŏn/Joseon dynasty Koreans embrace Neo-Confucianism as the official state ideology. Male of the court practiced Neo-Confucianism, while women and commoners practiced Buddhism.

Long known as the “Hermit Kingdom,” Korea during the Chosŏn/Joseon dynasty pursued a policy of isolationism, closing its borders to most of the world, except China, until 1876.

Korea’s rich artistic heritage has been formed by a remarkable blend of native tradition, foreign influence, and sophisticated technical skill. Korean art is characterized by “vitality and spontaneity.”

### Timeline

Korea	China	Japan	Europe
Unified Silla 668-935	Tang 618-907	Nara 710-794 Heian 794-1185	Middle Ages c. 500-1400 Romanesque Gothic
Koryŏ/Goryeo 918-1392	Song/Sung 960-1279 Yuan 1272-1368	Kamakura 1185-1333 Nambokucho 1336-1392	
Chosŏn/Joseon 1392-1910	Ming 1368-1644 Qing/Ch’ing 1644-1911	Muromachi 1392-1615 Edo 1615-1573	Renaissance c. 1400-1550 Baroque (1600-1750)

*yangban*, or literati class

Ye song-gye

King Sejong the Great (reigned 1418-50)

Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1536-1598)

*punch’ong/buncheong*, (poon-chong) Mt. Keryong

'Rice Bale' Bottle, 15th century, Chosŏn dynasty Punch’ong ware, glazed stoneware with painted slip decoration, 97.121.2

Mishima Bowl, 15th century, Chosŏn dynasty Punch’ong ware, stoneware with inlaid designs under glaze, 76.72.15

Flask, 15th century, Chosŏn dynasty, stoneware with iron black glaze, 99.7

Flask, 17th century, Chosŏn dynasty, white porcelain, 99.6

Maebyeong Jar, 18th century, Chosŏn dynasty, white porcelain with celadon glaze, 99.5

Dragon Jar, 18th century, Chosŏn dynasty, porcelain with cobalt underglaze, 99.168 (China, Imperial Dragon Vase, Ming dynasty, 1426-1435, 2001.139.2)

Dragon Jar, 18th century, Chosŏn dynasty, stoneware with iron red underglaze, 81.113.6

Vase, 18th century, Chosŏn dynasty, porcelain with underglaze cobalt blue and copper red décor, 76.72.29

Ksitigarbha and the Ten Kings of Hell, 18th century, Chosŏn dynasty, ink and colors on silk, 97.70

Kundika (Buddhist Water Sprinkler), Chosŏn dyansty, 14th century, porcelaneous ware with celadon glaze, 76.72.42

Attendant to the King of Hell, 19th century, Chosŏn dynasty, polychrome wood, 97.122.2

Hatbox (Tanggeontong), 19th century, Chosŏn dynasty, wood, lacquer, abalone shell, metal, 2002.219.1

Yang Ki-hun, *Crane with Autumn Grass*, 19th century, Chosŏn dynasty, ink on silk, 97.121.4

Like a dream,  
the wind blows from the south  
bringing cold rain.

Currently not on view

Kuo Tzu-i's Banquet, 19th century, Chosun dynasty, ink and colors on silk, 97.121.3

Kayagum (12 string instrument), 19th century, Chosŏn dynasty, wood, lacquer and inlaid mother-of-pearl, 97.124

**Terms**

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) Plaza Hotel in New York City

*Silhak* Movement, *Sil* means "actual" or "practical," and *hak* means "studies" or "learning."

*Taenghwa*, painted banner

*Ksitigarbha* (sih-teh-gar-bah)/ Jizō/ Ti Tsang

Emperor Ming Huang

*Tanggeon*, *gat/kat*

Japan's annexation of Korea in 1910 (1910-1945)

**Resources**

Elizabeth Hammer, Edited by Judith G. Smith, *The Arts of Korea: A Resource for Educators*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

<http://www.metmuseum.org/explore/publications/korea.htm>

Teaching the Arts: Korean Dragon Jar

[www.artsconnected.org/resource/112397/1/korean-dragon-jar-teaching-the-arts](http://www.artsconnected.org/resource/112397/1/korean-dragon-jar-teaching-the-arts)

Art Adventure entry from *Cultural Reflections in Art*: Korean Dragon Jar

Jane, Portal, *Korea: Art and Archaeology*, The British Museum, Thames and Hudson, 2000

Kat, the Korean Horsetail hair hat

[www.asien-zuhause.ch/Korea Allgemein/Story about kat.htm](http://www.asien-zuhause.ch/Korea>Allgemein/Story%20about%20kat.htm)