

Chinese Decorative Arts (Ming and Qing Dynasties)

1. Before the gallery talks on September 21, please review the information on jade, found in this excellent online exhibition from the National Palace Museum in Taiwan:

http://www.npm.gov.tw/exh99/chinese_jades/en1.html

(Focus particularly on reviewing the section titled “The Ingenuity of Jade Carving,” from the Ming and Qing Dynasties.)

Also, please watch this short video from the Asian Art Museum, on how jade is carved:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1oO1kbtt4s>

Now, find a jade work from the Ming or Qing dynasty currently in the gallery that displays superb craftsmanship. (Also be sure to look at the case of beautiful Mughal (Moghul) jades in the gallery.)

Describe the object:

What would be a good interpretive question to ask regarding your jade object?

2. Read this article on the symbol of lingzhi (mushroom symbol of longevity):

<http://www.sothebys.com/en/news-video/blogs/all-blogs/eye-on-asia/2013/03/lingzhi-chinese-art-magic-mushrooms.html>

Find an example of a mushroom symbol in a decorative arts object:

3. Explore the cases of Chinese lacquerware. Discuss how the workmanship changes from earlier to later work.

4. Look at the *Moon Flask with Dragon Design*, blue and white porcelain, L97.144.16. Describe how the surface design relates to the shape of the vessel:

Further Research Resources:

This article on Imperial robes includes a great variety of common symbols found in Chinese art.

http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/asianart/resources/pdf/AsianEduRes_DVD_Imperial_robe.pdf

This online resource also includes some great visuals of common symbols found in Chinese textiles: "Power dressing in Imperial China."

<http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org/rankandstyle/html/symbols.stm>