



Chinese Art: A Guide to Motifs and Visual Imagery

By Patricia Bjaaland Welch

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With over 630 striking color photos and illustrations this Chinese art guide focuses on the rich tapestry of symbolism which makes up the basis of traditional Chinese art.

Chinese Art: A Guide to Motifs and Visual Imagery includes detailed commentary and historical background information for the images that continuously reappear in the arts of China, including specific plants and animals, religious beings, mortals and inanimate objects. The book thoroughly illuminates the origins, common usages and diverse applications of popular Chinese symbols in a tone that is both engaging and authoritative.

Chinese Art: A Guide to Motifs and Visual Imagery is an essential reference for collectors, museum-goers, guides, students and anyone else with a serious interest in the culture and history of China.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This splendid, descriptive guide to the motifs and imagery of Chinese art will be valuable to scholars and students of all things visually Chinese."—*CHOICE*

"[A]n intelligent yet friendly text by an extremely well-informed and generous author and the result is a book which will be a valued addition to the libraries of all who are interested in Chinese art."—*Arts of Asia*

"An ideal keepsake for collectors and art lovers, *Chinese Art* explores meanings behind the plethora of common motifs and symbols found in all sorts of Chinese art."—*The Nation*

"Patricia Welch's *Chinese Art* is the Rosetta Stone for students of Chinese symbology."—*Singapore American Newspaper*

From the Inside Flap

This book contains the meanings behind the hundreds of common motifs and symbols found in all forms of Chinese art, exposing their linguistic, metaphoric or historic origins, common usages, and diverse applications. Plants, flowers, real and imaginary animals and birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians, colors, numbers, and a myriad of inanimate images and personages communicate auspicious and benevolent messages in the Chinese vocabulary of decorative art. Many of the symbols are easily recognizable, and thanks to China's love of the past, reappear almost continuously.

A perfect reference for collectors, museum-goers, docents, students of Chinese art, and anyone else with a serious interest in the culture and history of China, the book includes both Chinese and Pinyin text, over 630 illustrations (including references to on-line collections), an extensive index in both Chinese and English, a bibliography, and a list of recommended museums and other places to visit with interesting collections of Chinese art.

About the Author

Patricia Bjaaland Welch is a former lecturer in Chinese philosophy and art at Boston University. She is a frequent lecturer on subjects relating to Chinese art and history, and currently resides in Singapore.

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