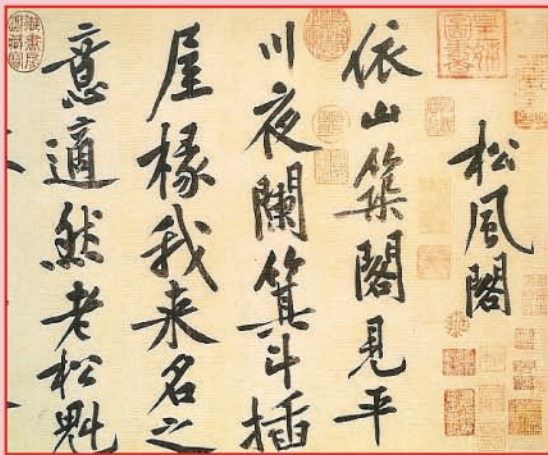




FURNITURE • TERRACOTTA • STONE

Arts & Crafts of China :
Calligraphy



Calligraphy in China was historically recognized as the most valued art form. The earliest form of the Chinese script first appeared in oracle bones.

As the writing script evolved, it developed into five major styles: Seal script (zhuan shu), Clerical script (li shu), Regular script (kai shu, zhen shu or zheng shu), Cursive script (xing shu) and Drafting script (cao shu).

In the Shang and Zhou periods, Chinese script was more than a vehicle for communication - it was also believed to have spiritual power. By the time of the Han Dynasty the written script had evolved and attained important literary and artistic status.

Reference:

<<Art in China>> by Craig Clunas

Poem 'Pine Wind Pavilion' by Huang Tingjian

Product Highlights

Furniture

Mid-to-Late Qing
(1750-1850 A.D.)
Pear Wood
Shanxi Region
68.5 x 35 x 84 cm H



This half-table was fashioned from hard pear wood - a timber of fine texture and pale tonality with excellent characteristics for carving. A warm sunset-like patina radiates from the solid-board tabletop, where scars and blemishes from generations of use are in evidence. The vertical surfaces below retain thin lacquer finishes.

Types of Wood: Jichimu



Jichimu is a hardwood with strong grained patterns and lines of purple and yellow. It also has deep brown and gray patterns which, when cut tangentially, are said to resemble bird feathers.

Old jichimu (laojichimu) was rarely seen after the middle of the Qing dynasty.

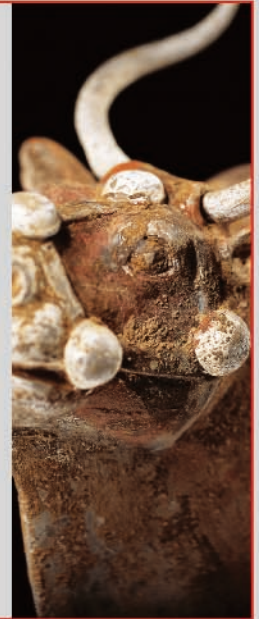
Product Highlights

Terracotta



Northern Qi (550-577 A.D.)
Hebei Province

This beautiful sculpture of a bull is made of a type of dense clay generally referred to as grey pottery. The bull is depicted standing straight on its four legs on a plinth with decoration of "Tihua" on the body. The horns are detachable and were fired separately during making. The "Tihua" decoration of this bull corresponds to the Buddhist influence of this period. The artistic style of this period sees a gradual transition from the expressive Han style to the more realistic style which dominated the Tang period. The bone structure and muscle are well expressed. The preference of riding on a bull instead of a horse during this period also conveys the strong Daoist influence as much as the relative scarcity of horses.



Stone

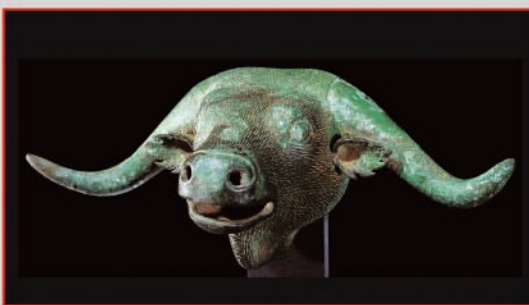


Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.)
Hebei Province

This panel is one of a pair of stone panels featuring a pair of Lokapalas. Lokapalas are called "Heavenly Kings" in Chinese. In the Buddhist cosmos, a Lokapala is in fact a guardian for direction. Very often the image of Lokapala is seen next to the image of a Buddha. Therefore Lokapalas are also considered to be types of Bodhisattvas. In the Tang Dynasty, the image of Lokapalas became sinicised and took on the image of a military general who put on the full armour of a warrior ready to guard the territories of his country with all his might.

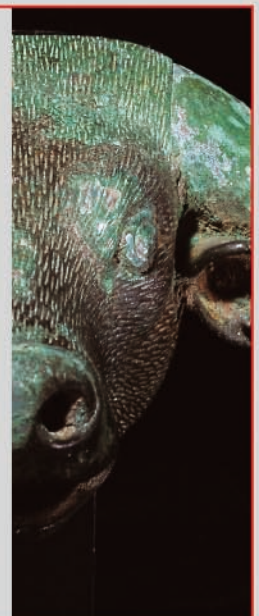


Bronze



Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.)
Dian Kingdom, Yunnan Province

The Dian were first mentioned historically in Sima Qian's Shiji; some Chinese sources identified Chu general Zhuang Qiao as the founder of the Dian Kingdom. The Dian were subjugated by the Han Dynasty under the reign of Emperor Wu of Han in 109 BC. The Han Dynasty incorporated the territory of the Dian Kingdom into the Yizhou Command, but left the King of Dian as the local ruler. The Dian people were sophisticated metal workers. Most of the bronze items made depicted animals to which the Dian people were exposed daily. This bull head is an exceptional example of Dian metal work.



Gallery News

News from Oi Ling

We are pleased to announce that the **International Asian Art Fair in New York** was a resounding success for Gallery Oi Ling and Santa Monica-based partner **Ming Mai**! Just the number of curators of world-renowned museums who visited our stand made it all worthwhile! In addition, we met a lot of old friends and acquaintances and made some important new contacts. Sales were good in both furniture and terracotta and we came back from New York with lots of follow-up work to be done! Of course, as well as 'being at work' at the show, it is wonderful being in New York during Asia Week - that's a thrill in itself. We hope to be back again next year.



Gallery Oi Ling's stand at the uptown show - Park Avenue Armory

Answers From The Expert

How is a Chinese garden different from a Western garden?

Our Expert's Answer: A Chinese garden is said to represent the cosmic view of a scholar gentleman in ancient China. The arrangement of the interior space of a Chinese mansion is confined by rites and formality dictated by traditional Confucian philosophy while the garden allows individual expression and taste to take form in a spatial conception.

A scholar gentleman's refined taste can be found in his curio collection and his garden. In a Chinese garden, one always finds elegant stone furniture pieces for the owner of the garden and his friends to get together to appreciate arts, culture, and the wonder of nature. A banana tree might be carefully positioned and planted against the wall at a corner so that at different times of the day, its shadow on the wall will give a different view and feeling to the whole picture.



Submit your questions to our expert c/o expert@galleryoiling.com

We will do our best to answer them in future issues of Gallery News.

Special Event

Hong Kong Exhibition

Encouraged by the response to the show in New York, Oi Ling is busily putting together a themed exhibition for the **International Asian Antique and Art Fair** in Hong Kong. The fair will commence with a gala opening on May 25th and then run from May 26th through to the 29th. Gallery Oi Ling's stand will showcase a stunning exhibition of stone pieces and expectations of a good show are high given that the fair will attract collectors and dealers from all over the world. If you would like an invitation, please contact events@galleryoiling.com



International Asian Antique and Art Fair Hong Kong, 2006

Information



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