

Unit 2: The Art and Architecture of China

This unit introduces the art and architecture of China from the Shang (c. 1600-1050 BCE) through the Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. Examining art from first millennium BCE through second century CE tombs, it begins by looking at the “Great Bronze Age of China” and the role that art played in the founding of the first Chinese Empires. We will then focus on the introduction of Buddhism to China and its role in Chinese art through the Tang Dynasty (618-907). The unit concludes by exploring the development of three artistic traditions—calligraphy, painting, and porcelain—in the Song (960-1279) through Qing Dynasties. After completing this unit, you will have a comprehensive understanding of the major artistic traditions of China and their relationship to contemporary political, social, and religious developments.

Unit 2 Time Advisory

This unit should take you 45 hours to complete.

- Subunit 2.1: 10 hours
- Subunit 2.2: 7.5 hours
- Subunit 2.3: 10 hours
- Subunit 2.4: 10 hours
- Guided Observation 2 (subunit 2.4.3): 2-3 hours
- Subunit 2.5: 7.5 hours

Unit 2 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- Identify major pre-modern Chinese works of art and architecture.
- Identify, compare, and contrast major Chinese artistic and architectural developments.
- Recognize how Chinese political, social, economic and religious developments impacted artistic production.
- Look at and analyze Chinese landscape paintings.