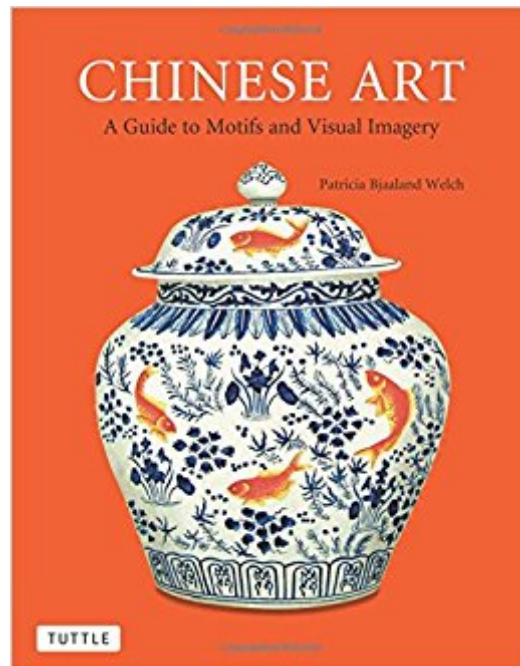




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Chinese Art: A Guide To Motifs And Visual Imagery



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This splendid, descriptive guide to the motifs and imagery of Chinese art will be valuable to scholars and students of all things visually Chinese." â "Choice" An 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." â "Arts of Asia" An ideal keepsake for collectors and art lovers, *Chinese Art* explores the meanings behind the plethora of common motifs and symbols found in all sorts of Chinese art." â "The Nation

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. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have been researching Korean Art symbolism for many years and have acquired many books that interpret symbolism in paintings. I thought I had found the best sources of motif interpretation that a researcher could find...UNTIL I found this book on while looking for something else. But, when I read the summary of the book I decided to buy it and add it to my collection. But, when I got it and read it I was absolutely amazed as to the depth and detail about Chinese symbolism that was contained in this book. For certain I can discard all my other books and use this single book to do any research on symbolism that I might want to indulge. C.A.S. Williams' book is good, but this book is GREAT!!! The photos and illustrations are great and very informative. The manner in which the motifs and symbolism are explained is more detailed than I have found anywhere else. This is the complete book and is now my main reference book for understanding motifs and symbolism in Oriental Art! This is a MUST HAVE for students and researchers of Asian Art!!!!!! I would recommend it be available, maybe even required, for every class of Asian Art, and especially Chinese Art. Every school and library should have this book so that amateurs and professional alike will obtain the ultimate understanding of what is represented in the Art Works they might be viewing/studying. I have found Chinese art to be very difficult to understand without a basic knowledge about the symbolism/motifs represented in the art. Chinese Art is never what it appears at first glance, and this book will allow every connoisseur to better understand Asian Art!! Kudos to the Author!!!

. The subjects are laid out topically and represent likely decades of research into Chinese art and literature. This book will help art students and collectors a great deal. It also contains many helpful

color pictures.

This is an excellent book. For anyone who has admired a painting on a Chinese vase, the carving on a Coromandel screen or even the costumes in a Chinese New Year's Day parade - and wondered about the significance or meaning of the flowers, animals, colours, symbols and everything else - you will find the answers in this beautifully organized, lavishly illustrated, comprehensive volume. The book can be read cover-to-cover as specialized art and cultural history or opened anywhere for a fascinating glimpse into a fascinating civilization. The author brings an immense academic understanding to her subject and writes clearly, concisely, eloquently; although the book can be read by any enthusiast for things Chinese it will undoubtedly find a place on the scholar's reference bookshelf as well. CHINESE ART tackles a complicated philosophical theme - the perception of a civilization through its imagery and designs - and succeeds wonderfully. A pleasure to read and to own, a remarkable achievement, and probably definitive. Five stars.

And again here this book has been a source of new information to me, I have learned so much in the meanings of Chinese symbols Thank you Patricia Bjaaland Welch

Thanks

Very useful for understanding Chinese art objects, Illustrations are very good. High quality paperback.

Very useful in understanding Chinese symbolism.

Excellent reference book to study Chinese imagery. Sections are clearly divided into subject matter, colors, media. Illustrations are beautiful with clear, vibrant colors. Very worthwhile book to keep in one's art library.

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