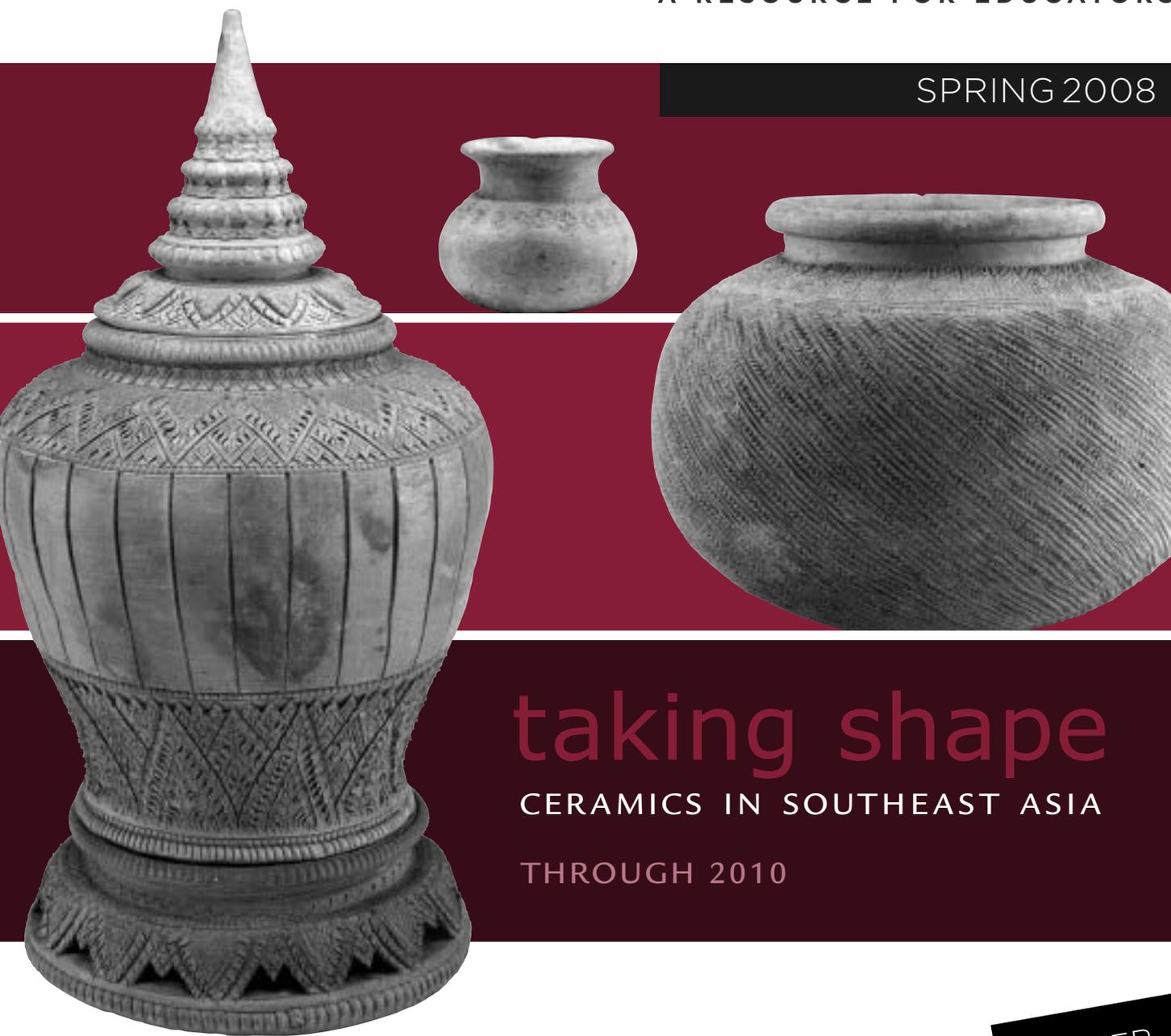


ASIAN ART

connections

A RESOURCE FOR EDUCATORS

SPRING 2008



taking shape

CERAMICS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

THROUGH 2010



Smithsonian
Freer Gallery of Art and
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

POSTER
INSIDE!

exhibitions

THE FREER GALLERY OF ART AND ARTHUR M. SACKLER GALLERY at the Smithsonian Institution together form the national museum of Asian art for the United States. The Freer Gallery also houses a collection of American art from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including the world's most important collection of works by James McNeill Whistler.

FREER CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

Closing Soon!

**The Potter's Mark:
Tea Ceramics and Their Makers**
THROUGH FEBRUARY 24, 2008

**Japanese Arts
of the Edo Period 1615-1868**
THROUGH FEBRUARY 24, 2008

**Tales of the Brush Continued:
Chinese Paintings
with Literary Themes**
FEBRUARY 9-JULY 27, 2008

**Tea for Everyone: Japanese Popular
Ceramics for Tea Drinking**
MARCH 8-SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

**Surface Beauty: American Art
and Freer's Aesthetic Vision**
OPENS FEBRUARY 23, 2008

Ongoing Freer Exhibitions

Ancient Chinese Pottery and Bronze
Arts of the Indian Subcontinent
and the Himalayas
Arts of the Islamic World
Black & White: Chinese Ceramics
from the 10th-14th Centuries
Buddhist Art
Charles Lang Freer and Egypt
Freer & Whistler: Points of Contact
Japanese Screens
Korean Ceramics
The Peacock Room
The Religious Art of Japan
Small Masterpieces: Whistler Paintings
from the 1880s
Vietnamese Ceramics from
the Red River Delta

SACKLER CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

Closing Soon!

**Wine, Worship, and Sacrifice:
The Golden Graves of Ancient Vani**
THROUGH FEBRUARY 24, 2008

**Patterned Feathers, Piercing Eyes:
Edo Masters from the Price Collection**
THROUGH APRIL 13, 2008

**Muraqqa: Imperial Mughal
Albums from the Chester
Beatty Library, Dublin**
MAY 3-AUGUST 3, 2008

**Yellow Mountain:
China's Ever-Changing Landscape**
MAY 31-AUGUST 24, 2008

Ongoing Sackler Exhibitions

The Arts of China
Contemporary Japanese Porcelain
Sculpture of South and Southeast Asia
Taking Shape: Ceramics in Southeast Asia



TOURS

We offer a variety of tours related to the museum's ongoing and temporary exhibitions. For detailed information about offerings for school groups, please visit our website at www.asia.si.edu/education/ToursForStudents.htm.

To request a tour, please submit a tour request form online at www.asia.si.edu/education/TourRequestForm.htm. For more information, call 202.633.1012 or write to asiatours@si.edu.

TEACHER RESOURCES 2007–2008

Free Semiannual Newsletter

Asian Art Connections: Resources for Educators

To subscribe, please send your postal mailing address to fsgasiaeducation@si.edu.

Online Resources: General E-Gallery

Create your own exhibition using objects from the Freer and Sackler online collection. Visit www.asia.si.edu/collections/csscollections.asp

Online Educational Resources

www.asia.si.edu/education/onlineguides.htm

Freer and Sackler Collections

www.asia.si.edu/collections/default.htm

Online Exhibitions

www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions/online.htm

Tour Information

www.asia.si.edu/education/ToursForStudents.htm

Online Resources: Publications

Asian Art Connections: A Resource for Educators

www.asia.si.edu/education/onlineguides.htm
Previous newsletters available in PDF format.

The Art and Archaeology of Ancient China: A Teacher's Guide

www.asia.si.edu/education/onlineguides.htm

The Art of Buddhism: A Teacher's Guide

www.asia.si.edu/education/ArtofBuddhism.pdf

Arts of the Islamic World: A Teacher's Guide

www.asia.si.edu/education/islam.pdf

The Arts of Japan: A Teacher's Guide

www.asia.si.edu/education/onlineguides.htm

Devi: The Great Goddess (Hinduism)

www.asia.si.edu/education/devi/index.htm

Japan: Images of a People

smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson_plans/japan_images_people/index.html

Puja: Expressions of Hindu Devotion

www.asia.si.edu/education/pujaonline/puja/start.htm

Teacher Resources for Sale Sackler Gallery Shops

All teacher resources listed below are for sale in the Sackler shops. Order these materials online at www.freersacklershop.com, by phone at 202.633.0535, or by fax at 202.633.9838. In addition to Freer and Sackler publications, the shops also stock children's books on Asia that our education department has recommended.

Intersections: Japanese Art and the West A Teacher's Guide

Appropriate for grades 9–12, \$20
Explore the ways that Japanese art and Western art have intersected, beginning in the late nineteenth century.

The Arts of Japan: A Teacher's Guide

Appropriate for grades 4–12, \$20

The Art and Archaeology of Ancient China: A Teacher's Guide

Appropriate for grades 3–12, \$20

The Art of Buddhism: A Teacher's Guide

Appropriate for grades 4–12, \$20

The Arts of the Islamic World: A Teacher's Guide

Appropriate for grades 4–12, \$20

Silk Road Resource Packet

Appropriate for grades 4–12, \$12

Video

Puja: Expressions of Hindu Devotion

Appropriate for grades 6–12, \$10
This award-winning video introduces Hindu worship through moving images and interviews. 1996. 20 min. (close captioned)

CD-ROM

Chi's Adventure in Ancient China

Appropriate for grades 3–6, \$10
Join Chi the chimera as he introduces viewers to ancient Chinese civilization through objects from the Freer and Sackler collections.

CD

Silk Road Stories

An audio CD of stories told by Freer and Sackler volunteers who have cultural ties to countries along the ancient Silk Road. Features stories from China, Japan, Turkey, and Bangladesh. \$10

Slides and Digital Images

Slides and digital images are available from our rights and reproductions department. To preview the sets or to order online, go to www.asia.si.edu/visitor/rnr.htm and click on *Slide Sets Now Available!* Order sets by fax at 202.633.9770. \$100 for a set of 40 images; individual slides or digital images available for \$5 each.

taking shape

CERAMICS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

THROUGH 2010

In mainland Southeast Asia clay pots and jars form one of the most enduring records of human activity from the prehistoric period to the present. Approximately two hundred diverse and visually appealing ceramic vessels from Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos are on view in *Taking Shape*. These remarkable objects range from prehistoric unglazed earthenware pots to glazed stoneware decorated with blue floral designs inspired by Chinese ceramics. Crafted for rituals, burials, domestic use, and trade, these vessels convey the diversity, inventiveness, and extensive history of exchange of ceramics in Southeast Asia, whether between two villages or across a thousand miles.

In Southeast Asia, “soft” porous earthenware—produced primarily by women—is used to cool drinking water, cook rice and curries over a wood fire, and heat water for reeling silk thread. Jars made of “hard,” watertight stoneware—crafted mostly by men—are utilized to store grains, transport goods for long-distance trade, and brew the rice beer that is essential for hospitality and ceremonies in mainland Southeast Asian cultures.

Taking Shape draws upon a collection of more than eight hundred ceramics from Southeast Asia donated to the Sackler Gallery by brothers Osborne and Victor Hauge and their wives, Gratia and Takako. Unless otherwise noted, the works illustrated here and on view in the exhibition are the gift of Osborne and Gratia Hauge, and Victor and Takako Hauge.

Potter's paddles
Southern Thailand, Satun province, 1990s
Wood
Anonymous loan



classroom activity

Suitable for Grades 3–5

Social Studies and Visual Arts

OVERVIEW

This lesson plan requires five or six class sessions of sixty to ninety minutes. Students will explore traditional earthenware ceramics in mainland Southeast Asia and the ways in which cultural exchange affects the look and function of clay pots and other objects.

Essential Question

What happens when people trade objects and ideas?

Materials

Poster with *Taking Shape* vessels
Handout 1
Handout 2
Crayola® Air-Dry Clay (approximately 1.25–1.5 lbs per student)
Popsicle sticks, plastic forks and knives, etc. for clay decoration
Wooden paint stirrers
String
Water
Cups or mugs
Plastic table covers or newspaper
Pencils
Tape
Dental floss
Drawing paper

Vocabulary

Ceramics	Objects made of clay that has been fired (hardened at high temperatures)
Decorate	To add a pattern or design
Earthenware	Objects made from clay that tends to be “soft” and porous; can be red or brown in color depending on the type of clay used

ACTIVITIES

Looking, Describing, and Thinking

Direct students to look closely at the clay jars and pots on the poster. Ask them to describe the shapes, relative sizes, colors, and decorations of each. Have students brainstorm about different ways they might use the jars and pots. Record their responses on a large piece of paper or on the board.

Understanding Materials

If useful, refer to a world map to show students where the country of Thailand is located in Southeast Asia. Explain that the pots they see on the poster are all from Thailand.

Introduce the terms “ceramics” and “earthenware.” Explain to students that because pots and jars made of earthenware are not watertight (moisture can slowly seep out), they are used in Southeast Asia for cooking, storage, and cooling water. The “earthenware” most familiar to students might be a flowerpot. On another sheet of large paper or on the board, record their responses to the question: What are some things for which earthenware could NOT be used? Compare these responses with their original ideas for using pots and jars.

Exploring Decoration

Have students brainstorm about different tools they could use to decorate the pots. (Define decoration if necessary, or ask your students to define it.) Explain or demonstrate how they might use plastic forks or popsicle sticks to create patterns and textures in the soft clay. Ask them to think of other materials and ways to decorate their pots. Record their ideas on a large piece of paper or on the board.

Point out the patterned paddles and explain how they were used in Southeast Asia to decorate earthenware pots before they were fired. In Thailand, for example, women who made clay pots used to wrap rope or string around a wooden paddle, and then used the paddle both to shape the pot and to add texture to it. Demonstrate a version of this technique by tightly wrapping string around the upper third of a wooden paint stirrer and then pressing the paddle into the clay or striking the paddle against the clay.

Students might ask about other ceramic objects they have seen or used (for example, porcelain dinnerware or stoneware mugs). For more information on ceramics, go to www.asia.si.edu/education/ArtsofJapan.pdf (pages 50–52).

Learning Techniques

Divide students into groups of four or five. Explain that they will each make their own clay pot as part of a team. Be sure to make clear that they will use a special kind of clay that dries in the air, whereas traditional earthenware is fired (hardened at high temperatures). Each team must decide what kind of pots they want to make and how they want to decorate them. Students should fill out Handout 1 as they agree upon answers to all the questions.



Left: Man delivers pots to market, Vietnam; Right: Woman uses a paddle to add patterns to a pot in Vietnam. Photographs by Louise Cort, 1998.

Tip: If you have access to the Internet, check out: www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions/current/TakingShape.htm# for a video that shows an earthenware pot being made in northeast Thailand. It also shows how clay is prepared, shaped, and fired into earthenware or stoneware. Please explain to students who watch this brief video that they will make their pots in a different way, and they will not fire them (put them in high heat to harden them).

Since they will use a special air-drying clay, they should NOT use their pots to hold food, drink, or other liquids.

Crafting a Pot

Demonstrate for students the coil method of shaping a pot. Have students assist in placing and taping down plastic tablecloths or newspaper over tables and desks. Give each student approximately 1.25–1.5 pounds of clay.

- To form the base of the pot, press the clay into a slab about one-half inch thick, and then use a cup to trace a circle. Cut out the circle of clay with a plastic knife.
- Students should prepare a “slip” by mixing clay and a little bit of water in a cup until it is smooth. This will help different parts of the pot stick together during construction.
- To make a coil, roll a lump of clay on the table until it is like a piece of rope and long enough to reach around the clay base.
- To add the first coil, use a plastic knife to cut shallow lines along the outside of the clay base. Add a little of the slip and then place the coil around the edge of the base. Press into place.
- To add more coils, cut shallow lines on top of the last coil, add a bit of slip, and then place another coil on top. Press into place.
- When the pot shape is complete, smooth the outside and inside of the pot. Slip can help this process, but students should be careful about using too much slip. It can make the clay very sticky and unmanageable.
- Students can then decorate their pots.
- To release the pot from the table, use a taut piece of string or dental floss to cut it carefully from the base.
- Have students add their initials to the bottom of their pots to help identify them later.

Transfer the finished vessels to newspaper or wax paper to dry. Full drying time is approximately two days.

Going to Market

When the vessels are dry, have the students set up a “market day” in the classroom. Each team will set up a shop with their pots available for exchange.

- Each team selects one person to be a shopper.
- The team decides which pot from the group they will trade. (They will get it back later!)
- The other students stay with their shop to assist shoppers from other teams.
- Each shopper looks at the pots in the other team shops and exchanges their ceramic vessel for a different one. All exchanges are one-to-one and must be accepted.

Finding Inspiration

When all the teams have finished their exchanges, they should look closely at their new pot. What do they like about it? How is it useful? How would they use this vessel to create a new set of pots? Have them answer the questions in Handout 2 to focus their thinking.

Reflecting

Ask students to think about the process of making their first pots, exchanging them, and then being inspired to create other ones. How did the vessel they got through exchange differ from the first set they made? Why did they make certain choices? When was another time the students changed the way they thought about or made something because of some new thing they saw or heard? What does that tell them about what happens when different people with different ideas come together?

**Did you try this activity—
or a variation of it—in the classroom?**

If so, send us information and high-resolution images, and they might end up on our website!

Please send examples to fsgasiaeducation@si.edu, subject line “Taking Shape: Classroom Activity.”

HANDOUT 1

Making a Pot

What is the name of your team?

How will you use your pots?

What shape will your pots be? Draw an example on a separate sheet of paper.

How will your pot be decorated? Draw an example on a separate sheet of paper.

HANDOUT 2

Trading Pots

Look closely at the pot that your team shopper picked. What is it used for?

What shape is it? Draw the shape on a separate sheet of paper.

How big is it?

How is it decorated?

Pick one or two things about the new pot that you like. If you were to make another ceramic pot, which things would you add to it? What would you take away? You could add decoration from the new pot to your pot; mix decorations together to make one new decoration; or change the size or shape.

How would you decorate your new pot? Draw an example on a separate sheet of paper.

Cover from left to right: Jar for drinking water. By Thongrochana Boonpong (1832–1913). Central Thailand, Ko Kret kilns, ca. 1882. Earthenware. Gift of Pisarn Boonpong, S1994.16; Pot used for burial of cremated remains. Southern Thailand, Songkhla province, 12th century. Earthenware. S2005.347; and Cooking pot with carved paddle impressions. Central Thailand, Chao Phraya River network, 16th–mid-20th century. Earthenware. S2005.385.



ImaginAsia

In our popular family program, children ages six to fourteen accompanied by an adult use an activity book to explore an exhibition and then create a related art project to take home. Family programs take place on the dates and times listed at www.asia.si.edu and do not require a reservation.

This winter and spring ImaginAsia offers programs related to the arts of Japan and the exhibition *Patterned Feathers, Piercing Eyes: Edo Masters from the Price Collection*, on view at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery through April 13, 2008.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Freer Gallery of Art
Jefferson Drive at 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20560-0707

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
1050 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20560-0707

Hours

10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily;
closed December 25
Admission is FREE to the museum,
exhibitions, and programs.

Information

www.asia.si.edu
202.633.1000
202.633.5285 TTY
Information desks open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Food Service

For information on food services
at the Smithsonian, please visit
www.si.edu/dining/default.htm

Transportation

Ride the Metro's orange or blue line to
Smithsonian Station. Parking on the Mall
is extremely limited.

Library

The museum's non-circulating research library
specializes in Asian art as well as American
painting at the turn of the twentieth century.
It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays,
except for federal holidays.

Accessibility

Accessible entrances to the Freer and
Sackler galleries are located at Independence
Avenue SW. Wheelchairs are available at
the guard's desk at each museum entrance.
For more information on accessibility, please
call 202.633.2921 (202.633.4353 TTY)
or email ziebarth@si.edu.

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