



# Korean Art and Architecture during the Choson Dynasty

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# Korea: Art and Architecture during the Choson(Joseon) Dynasty

Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910)

**Neo-Confucianism:** developed during the late Tang China as a Confucian response to Buddhist metaphysics and scholastic philosophy. Revitalization of Confucian Philosophy that combined elements of Daoist and Buddhist philosophy within an overall controlling framework of Confucian logic.

*dancheong*: “cinnabar and blue-green,” Korean traditional decorative coloring on wooden buildings and artifacts for the purpose of style. Red, blue-green, yellow, black, and white used to correspond to the Five Elements (fire, wood, earth, water, and metal)

*hangul*: the Korean alphabet based on phonetic writing system, developed under the reign of King Sejong (r. 1418-1450)

*buncheong* ware: high-fired green-glazed stoneware coated with white slip and coated with green, translucent glaze

True-view landscape painting (*jingyeong san-su*): portrayal of Korean scenery as an alternative to Chinese landscape paintings

*Chaekgeori*: loosely translated as ‘books and things,’ books and other material commodities as symbolic embodiments of knowledge, power, and social reform

918-1392	Goryeo Dynasty	
1392-1897	Joseon (Yi) Dynasty	
	1418-1450	Reign of King Sejong
	1592-1598	Imjin Wars (Hideyoshi Invasions)
	1724-1800	Reigns of Yeongjo and Cheongjo
	1600-1850s	Two centuries of peace
1850s-1910	Foreign skirmishes threaten Korea	
1910-1945	Japanese colonial rule	
1945-1948	Northern Korea under Soviet Occupation; Southern Korea under American Occupation	
1948-present	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)	
	Republic of Korea (ROK)	
1950-1953	Korean War	



CHINA	JAPAN
Neolithic Cultures	
Shang (no earlier than 1766)	
Western Zhou (ca. 1027-771)	JŌMON CULTURE (ca. 14,500-300)
Confucius (ca. 551-ca. 479)	
Eastern Zhou (771-256)	
Qin (221-206)	
FORMER HAN (Emperor Wu (140-86))	YAYOI CULTURE (ca. 300 B.C.E.-250 C.E.)
XIN (Wang Mang) 9-23	
LATER HAN (25-220)	
Period of the Three Kingdoms (220-80)	
Jin (280-316)	TOMB PERIOD (ca. 250-552)
Northern Wei (386-534)	
Sui (581-617)	Asuka (552-710)
Li Bo (701-63)	
Du Fu (712-70)	
Rebellion of An Lushan (755-63)	Nara Period (710-94)
TANG (617-907)	
Five Dynasties (907-60)	HEIAN PERIOD (794-1185)
Northern Song (960-1127)	
SONG (960-1279)	
Southern Song (1127-1279)	Jin (1115-1324)
YUAN (1279-1368)	KAMAKURA PERIOD (1185-1333)
MING (1368-1644)	ASHIKAGA PERIOD (1336-1600)
QING (1644-1911)	TOKUGAWA PERIOD (1600-1868)
Chinese Republic (1912-49)	Meiji (1868-1912)
Guomindang (1928-49)	Shōwa (1926-89)
People's Republic (1949-)	Heisei (1989-)
	Modern Japan

Chinese Dynasty Timeline 중국어 왕조의 타임라인	Korean Kingdom Timeline 한국사 타임라인
Neolithic Period	
Xia Dynasty 夏朝 하나라 2100 BC - 1600 BC	
Shang Dynasty 商 신나라 1600 BC-1100 BC	
Western Zhou Dynasty 1100 BC - 771 BC	Gojoseon 고조선 2333BC - 108BC
Zhou Dynasty 周 주나라 1100BC-771BC	
Spring & Autumn Period 770 BC - 476 BC	
Warring States 475 BC	
Qin Dynasty 秦 진나라 221-207 BC	
Han 한나라 漢朝 206 BC - 25 BC	
Western/Early Han 206 BC - 25 BC	
Eastern/Later Han 후한 25 BC - AD 220	
Three Kingdoms 삼국 시대 (중국) 220 BC - 265 BC	
Wei 魏 220 BC - 265 BC	
Shu Han 蜀 221 BC - 263 BC	
Wu 吳 222 BC - 280 BC	
Jin Dynasty 晉나라 265 - 420	
Western Jin 265 - 316	
Eastern Jin 317 - 420	
Northern & Southern Dynasties 남북조 시대 420 - 581	
Northern Wei 北魏 386-534	
Eastern Wei 東魏 534-550	
Western Wei 西魏 535-556	
Northern Qi 北齊 550-577	
Chen 陳 557-589	
Sui Dynasty 隋나라 581-618	
Tang Dynasty 唐나라 唐朝 618 - 907	
Five Dynasties 五代 907-960	
Song 宋朝 960-1125	
Yuan Dynasty 元나라 1271 - 1368	
Ming Dynasty 明나라 大明 1368 - 1644	
Qing Dynasty 清나라 清朝 1644 - 1912	
Republic of China 中華民國 1912 - 1949	
People's Republic of China 中華人民共和國 1949 -	
Republic of China (Taiwan) 中華民國 1949 -	
	Unified Shilla 통일 신라 668 - 935
	Baekje 百濟 18 BC - AD 660 (absorbed by Shilla)
	Goguryeo 고구려 高句麗 37 BC - AD 668
	Joseon Dynasty 大조선국 大朝鮮國 1392-1897
	The Korean Empire 대한제국 大韓帝國 1897-1910
	Japanese Colonial Rule 일제강점기 1910 - 1945
	Military Government 한국의 군정기 1945 - 1948
	North Korea (북한) 조선민주주의인민공화국 1948 -
	South Korea 대한민국 1948 - present

World History Timeline 세계사 타임라인
First Dynasty in Egypt 이집트 제1왕조 3100 BC
Great Pyramid of Giza 기자의 대피라미드 2560 BC
Dolmens built throughout Korean peninsula 고인돌(지석묘) 支石墓 c.2500 BC - 1500 BC
Hinduism in India 1500 BC
Onion Floor Heating Used in Korean Peninsula 온돌(구들) 1100 BC
Kingdom of Israel (united monarchy) 연합 이스라엘 왕국 1050-930 BC
Home's Iliad and Odyssey 호메로스의 일리아스와 오디세이아 890 BC
Founding of Ancient Rome 고대 로마 753 BC
The Roman Republic 로마 공화정 509 BC - 27 BC
Greco-Persian Wars 그리스-페르시아 전쟁 499 BC - 449 BC
Gautama Buddha 석가모니 d. 483 BC
Confucius 공자 d. 479 BC
Alexander the Great conquers Persia 알렉산드로스 3세 메가스 페르시아를 정복 331 BC
Socrates 소크라테스 470 BC - 399 BC
Woodblock printing in China 목판 인쇄 200 BC
Cleopatra 클레오파트라 74 BC - 70 BC
Aristotle 아리스토텔레스 384 BC - 322 BC
Roman Civil War between Julius Caesar 율리우스 카이사르 and Pompey the Great 폼페이 49 BC
Birth of Jesus 예수의 탄생 AD 1 - 5
Crucifixion of Jesus 예수의 십자가형 AD 34
Romans Merchants travel to China 로마서 상인 처음 중국에 도착 166
Buddhism spreads to China 불교가 중국으로 확산 250-299
Diocletian begins a large-scale persecution of Christians 디오클레티아누스의 기독교 박해 285
330 Capital moves from Rome to Byzantium
Huns 훈족 appear in Europe 370
Attila the Hun h. 434-453
Mayan Golden Age (Classical Period) 마야 문명의 문명 황금기 250 - 900
Justinian I, the Great Crowned Byzantine Emperor 유스티니아누스 1세 비잔티움 제국의 대황 527
Mohammed 무함마드 570 - 632
1st year of Muslim calendar 이슬람 달력의 1년 622
Vikings attack Britain 바이킹은 영국을 침공 797
Charlemagne Crowned 카롤루스 대제 즉위 800
The Crusades 십자군 1095 - 1291
1291
Italian Renaissance Begins c.1350 이탈리아 르네상스 시대 시작부터
Ottoman Empire 오스만 제국은 비잔틴 제국을 정복 1453
Columbus sails to the New World 콜럼버스 1회 항해 1492
Jamestown, VA 1st British Settlement in the New World 영국이 제임스타운 버지니아 식민지 1607
United States of America is formed 미국은 설립 1776
US Civil War 미국 남북 전쟁 1861-1865
China/British Opium Wars 1839-1860 아편 전쟁 중국 원나라/청나라
Napoleon Bonaparte 나폴레옹 1세 1804
British colonization of India 인도지 영국 식민지 1612 - 1947
World War I 제1차 세계 대전 1914 - 1918
World War 2 제2차 세계 대전 1939 - 1945

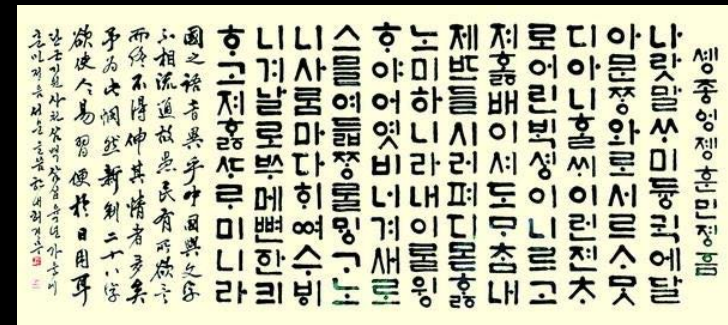


## Joseon Period

- Taejo of Joseon (1335-1408; r. 1392-1398), born Yi Seonggye, was the main figure in overthrowing the Goryeo Dynasty and the founder and the first king of the Joseon Dynasty, the final dynasty in Korea before it became a modern republic.
- Sejong the Great (May 6, 1397 – May 18, 1450; r. 1418 – 1450) was the fourth ruler of the Joseon Dynasty of Korea. Commissioned the creation of the phonetic Korean alphabet Hangeul. King Sejong also established a library and an institution for scholarly research and promoted men of talent to positions of authority in his government. Under his patronage Korean literature and culture flourished. He encouraged technological advances in weaponry and initiated the use of printing presses.



# Portrait of King Taejo of Joseon

Portrait of King Sejong the Great of Joseon (l) and *hangul* (r)

## Joseon Period

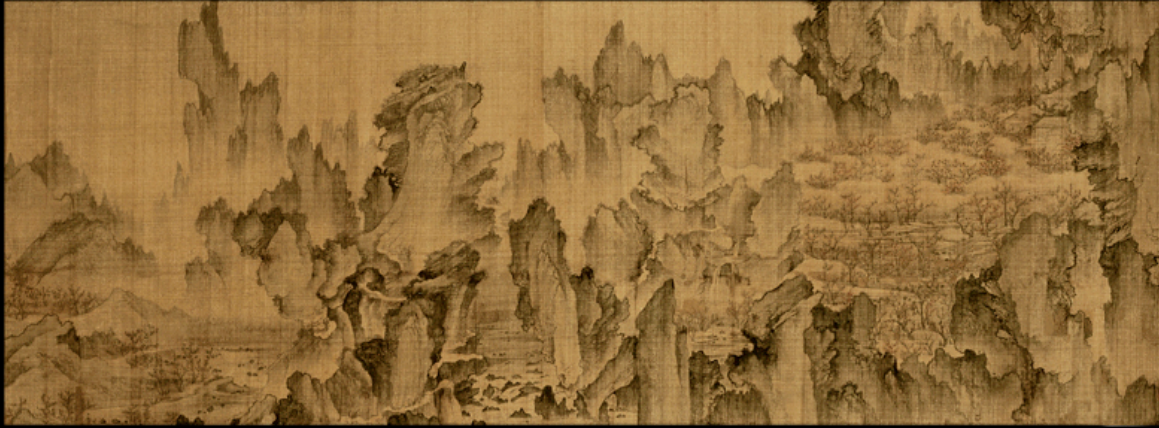
- *yangban*: the elite class of office holders or government officials who had passed the prestigious civil service examinations based on the Confucian classics and their neo-Confucian interpreters, worked mainly as civil officials, military officials, scholars, and other high-level positions
- *chungin*: professionals accountants, administrators, artists, astronomers, calligraphers, doctors, de facto rulers in their local area, interpreters, jurists, local magistrates, professional military officers, translators and other occupations. They were essentially yangban who had not completed the examinations necessary to gain the title and status of yangban. They were exempted from military service and taxes.
- *sangmin*: common people who worked as: craftsmen, farmers, fishermen, laborers, merchants, and peasants (tenant farmers) among other occupations and comprised approximately 75% of the population During the Joseon Dynasty, subject to military draft and often endured heavy taxes and had no family name
- *cheonmin* (low class): slaves and servants in the government offices actors, jail keepers and convicts, female entertainers (kisaeng), shamans, shoemakers, Buddhist monks and nuns, professional mourners, and executioners



Korean feudal class structure



# *Art in the Choson (Joeseon) Dynasty*



*Landscape painting*



*chaekgeori*



*Portrait painting*



*Genre painting*



*Bird and Flower Painting*





- The Five Grand Seoul Palaces date back to the 1300s – 1500s
- The majority of the buildings standing on them today are actually recent reconstructions
- Original structures were destroyed by Japanese invasion (16th Century), and the reconstructions then destroyed by Japanese during the Japanese colonial period (1910-45), and repeatedly by fire
- Changdeokgung and Changgyeonggung are the only ones with one-third of surviving pre-20th century buildings





INJEONGJEON (THRONE HALL), Changdeok Palace, SEOUL, Korea. Joseon dynasty, Korea, originally built in 1405. Periodically destroyed and restored. Current structure dates from 1804.



- Construction of Changdeok Palace began in 1405 and was completed in 1412 with the construction of the main gate Donwhamun during the reign of King Taejong of Joseon.
- King Sejo of Joseon expanded the palace grounds by about 500,000 square meters, including the Biwon (Secret Garden).
- The Japanese army burnt the Palace to the ground during the Japanese invasions of Korea (1592-1598) and King Sonjo and King Kwanghaegun reconstructed the Palace in 1609.
- The next arson occurred in 1623 during the Injo Political Revolt against Kwanghaegun. The palace suffered damage throughout its history, but the rebuilders have remained faithful to its original design.
- Changdeokgung served as the site of the royal court and the seat of government until 1872, when the royal court rebuilt neighboring Gyeongbokgung. Korea's last king, King Sunjong lived here until his death in 1926.

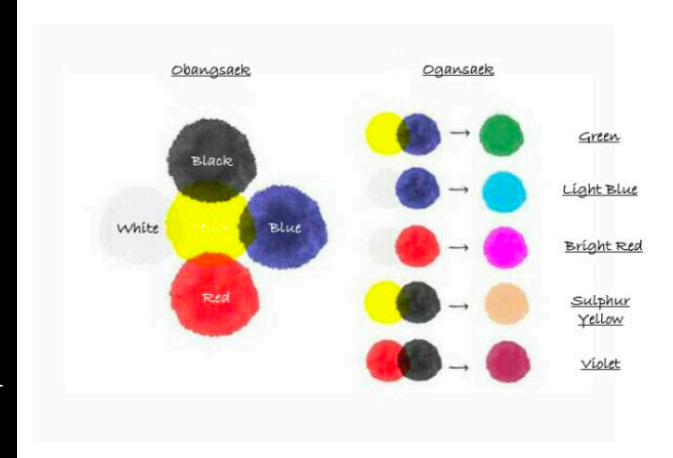


INJEONGJEON (THRONE HALL),  
Changdeok Palace, SEOUL, Korea.  
Joseon dynasty, Korea, originally built in  
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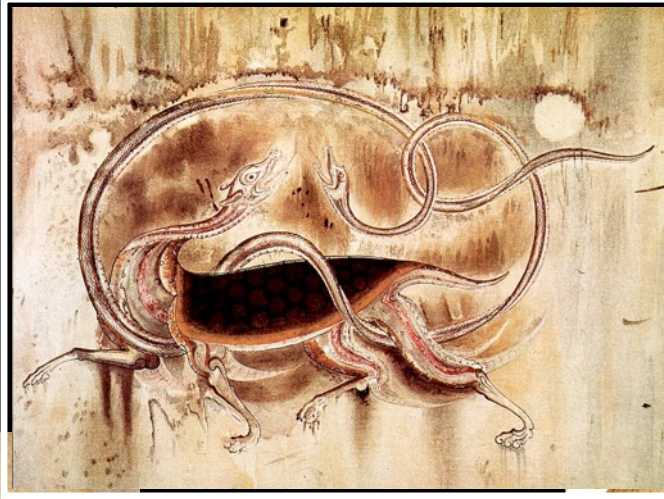


## Dancheong

- Literally means "red and green," refers to the beautiful five-colored designs found on the walls, pillars and eaves of traditional Korean wooden buildings
- It has a decorative function but also a protective one, preserving a building's wood from rotting due to wind, rain and vermin. The vibrant, bright colors were also believed to protect a building from evil spirits and emphasize the authority of its resident.
- Dancheong consists of five basic colors: blue, red, black, white and yellow. These basic colors, which can be mixed together to form countless other colors, are related to the traditional five elements theory.
- **Blue** represents east, the dragon, spring and the element of wood among the five elements, **Red** signifies the south, birds, summer, and fire, **White** symbolizes the west, tiger, fall, and gold, **Black** characterizes the north, *hyeonmu* (black warrior, turtle and part snake), winter, and water, **Yellow** represents the center, the periods between seasons, and Earth.
- The incorporation of the five elements theory into *dancheong* epitomizes the ancient Koreans' desire for stability and peace in the present life and a rewarding afterlife as well.



Great Tomb at Gangseo  
(*Gangseodaemyo*), near  
Pyongyang, 7<sup>th</sup> c., Three  
Kingdoms period,  
Goguryeo (Korea)



Black Tortoise of the North  
(turtle and snake)

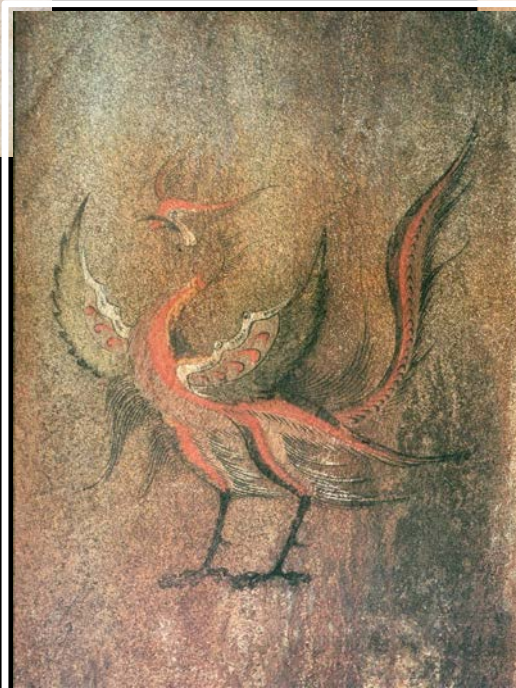


White Tiger of the West

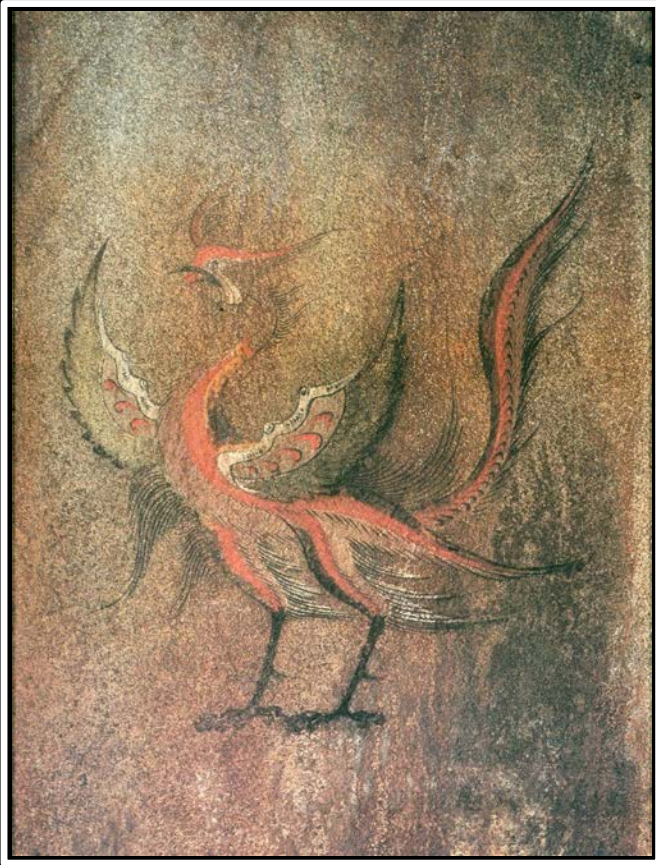


Azure (Blue) Dragon of the East

Vermillion Bird of the South







Vermillion Bird of the South  
주작 (朱雀)  
Related to Fire and Summer



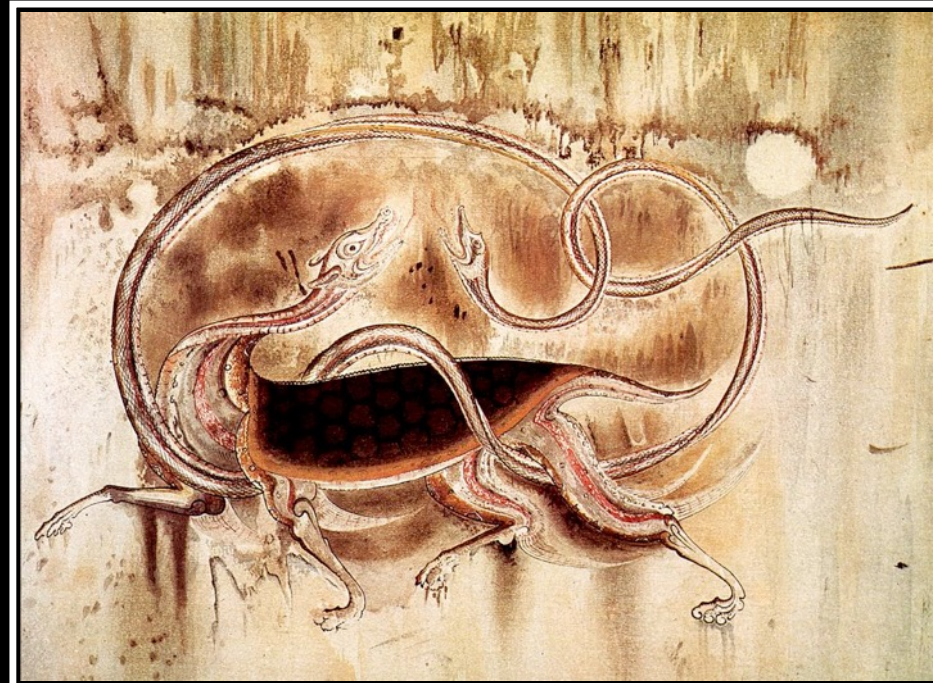
Azure (Blue) Dragon of the East  
청룡(靑龍)  
Related to Wood and Spring





White Tiger of the West  
 백호 (白虎)  
 Related to Metal, Autumn

Black Warrior of the North  
 (tortoise and snake)  
 현무 (玄武)  
 Related to Water, Winter  
 Turtle as female, snake as male



# Royal Palaces of Seoul:



*dancheong*

DETAIL OF PAINTING ON EAVES, INJEONGJEON (THRONE HALL), SEOUL.  
Joseon dynasty, originally built in 1405. Periodically destroyed and restored.  
Current structure dates from 1804.  
Richard Nebesky/Lonely Planet Images/Getty Images. [Fig. 11-18]





DETAIL OF PAINTING ON EAVES, INJEONGJEON (THRONE HALL), Changdeok Palace, SEOUL, Korea. Joseon dynasty, Korea, originally built in 1405. Periodically destroyed and restored. Current structure dates from 1804.





*Dancheong of the  
Changdeokgung Palace*



Dragons attached to the ceiling of  
*Daewoongjeon* (main Buddha hall  
of a temple)





DETAIL OF THRONE AND SCREEN PAINTING OF THE SUN, MOON AND FIVE PEAKS.

Joseon dynasty, 1405.

Injeongjeon (Throne Hall), Seoul. Photo Dale Quarrington. [Fig. 11-19]





DETAIL OF THRONE AND SCREEN PAINTING OF THE SUN, MOON AND FIVE PEAKS. Joseon dynasty, 1405 Injeongjeon (Throne Hall), Changdeok Palace, SEOUL, Korea.





### Irworobongdo (日月五峯圖 일월오봉도, Sun and Moon and Five Peaks)

- Painting of the five mountain peaks in front of the moon and the sun
- Illustrates the Joseon political cosmology.
- The red sun represents the king as the yang, while the white moon represents the queen as the yin
- Represents the blessing of Korea by Heaven, symbolized by the sun and moon in balance.
- When the king sat in front of this screen, he appeared to be at the pivotal point from which all force emanated and to which all returned.
- The screen manifests a political cosmology as evidence of Heaven's favor, mandate, and continued protection of the ruler



Gyeongbok Palace, Seoul



Forbidden City, Beijing

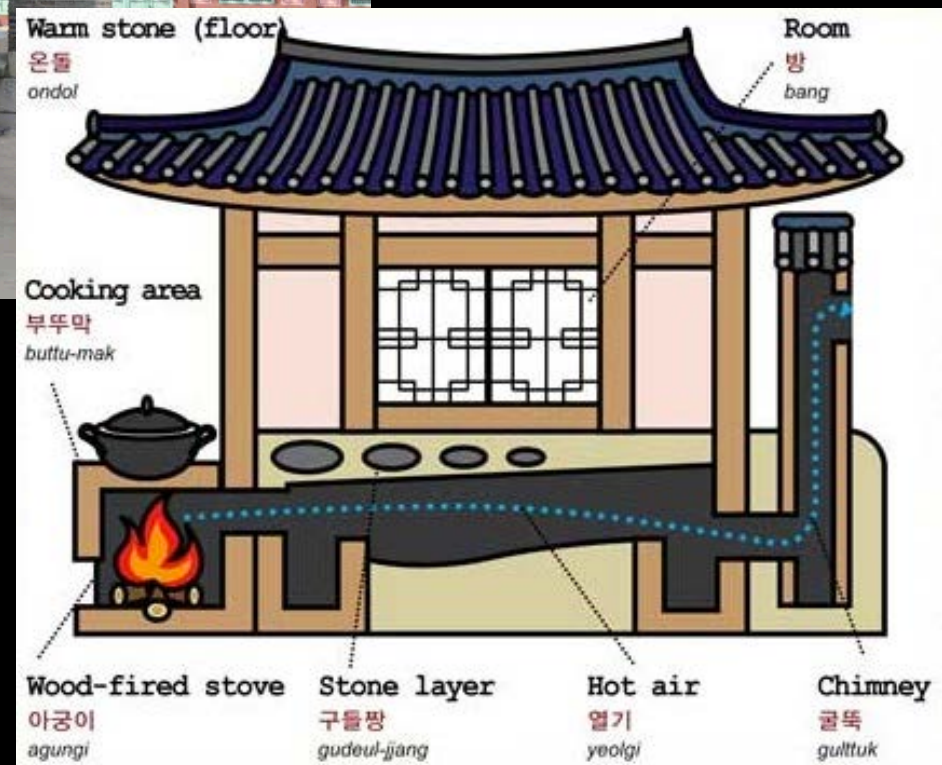






*Korean hanok*





*Korean heating system ondol*





JONGMYO, THE ROYAL ANCESTRAL SHRINE. Seoul. Joseon dynasty, originally constructed in 1394; rebuilt in 1608 after destruction by Japanese invaders.

Photo Barry Shell. [Fig. 11-21]





## Jesa

- ceremony commonly practiced in Korea
- functions as a memorial to the ancestors of the participants.
- usually held on the anniversary of the ancestor's death





*Buncheong* ware: high-fired green-glazed stoneware coated with white slip and coated with green, translucent glaze



DRUM-SHAPED WINE BOTTLE DECORATED WITH BIRD, FISH, AND LOTUS.

Joseon dynasty, 16th century.

Buncheong ware; light gray stoneware with decoration painted in iron-brown slip on a white slip ground. 6-1/10" × 9" (15.5 × 24.1 cm).

Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka, Japan. Gift of the Sumitomo Group. [Fig. 11-22]



BOTTLE WITH ABSTRACT DECORATION. Joseon dynasty, early 16th century.  
Buncheong ware; light gray stoneware with incised design on a white slip ground.  
Height 8-1/8" (20.5 cm), diameter of body 5-7/8" (15 cm).  
Lee'um, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul. [Fig. 11-23]





JAR WITH GRAPEVINE DECORATION. Joseon dynasty, 17th century.  
Porcelain with decoration painted in underglaze iron-brown slip. Height 22- $\frac{1}{5}$ " (53.8 cm).  
Ewha Women's University Museum, Seoul. [Fig. 11-25]



Attributed to Yi Myeong-gi (Rank: Ilpum). *PORTRAIT OF OH JAESUN*. Joseon dynasty, Korea, 1791. Hanging scroll, ink, color on silk. 59-7/8" × 35-1/4" (152 × 89.6 cm).



Ch'ae Yong-sin (1848-1941, Portrait of Emperor Gojong, Late Joseon period, Korea. Hanging scroll, ink and colour on silk.

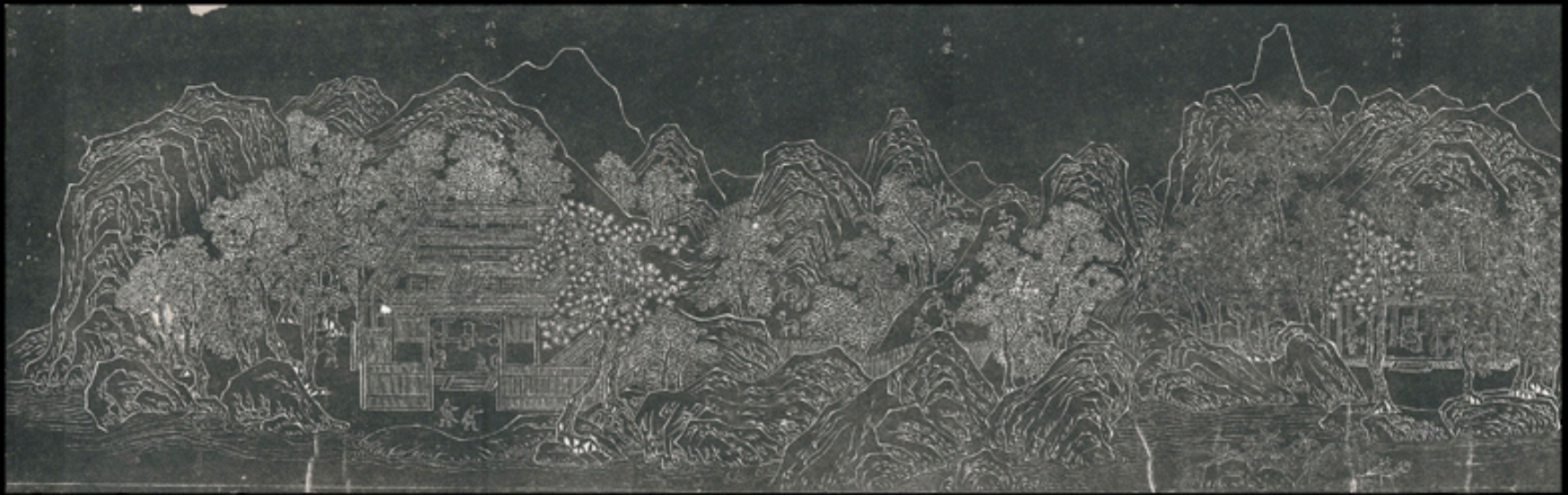


Hubert Vos (Dutch), *Emperor Kojong*, 1899, oil on Canvas.

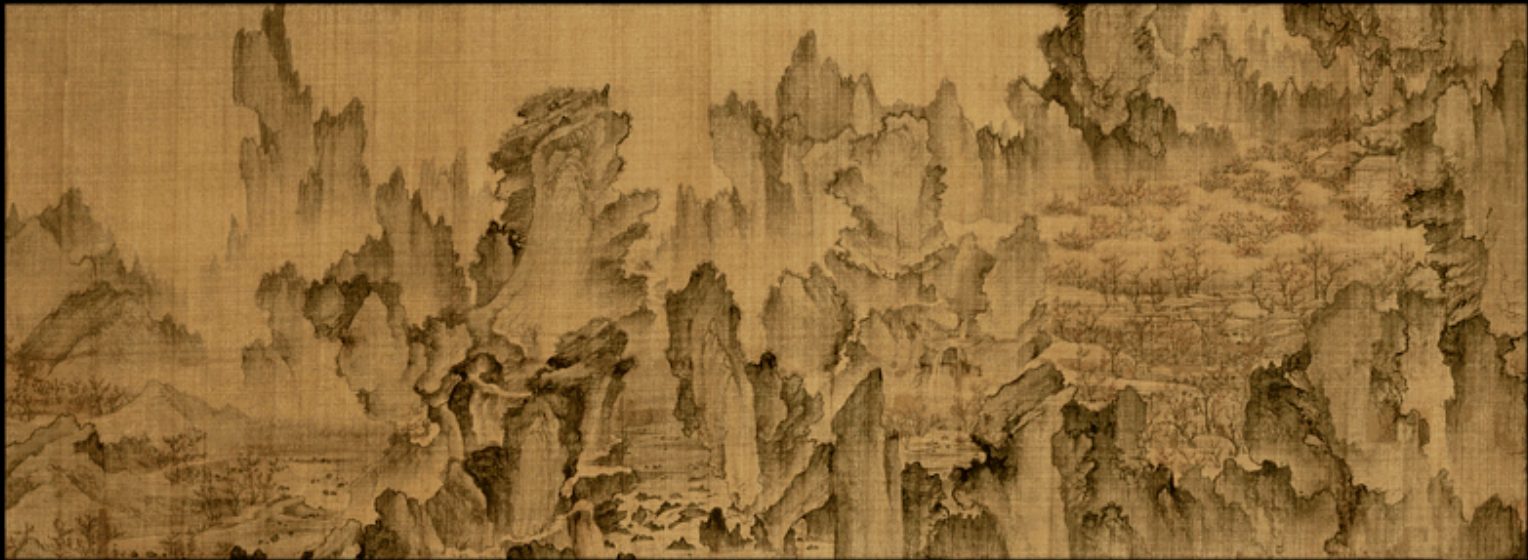


Ch'ae Yong-sin (1848-1941, Portrait of Emperor Gojong, Late Joseon period, Korea. Hanging scroll, ink and color on silk.



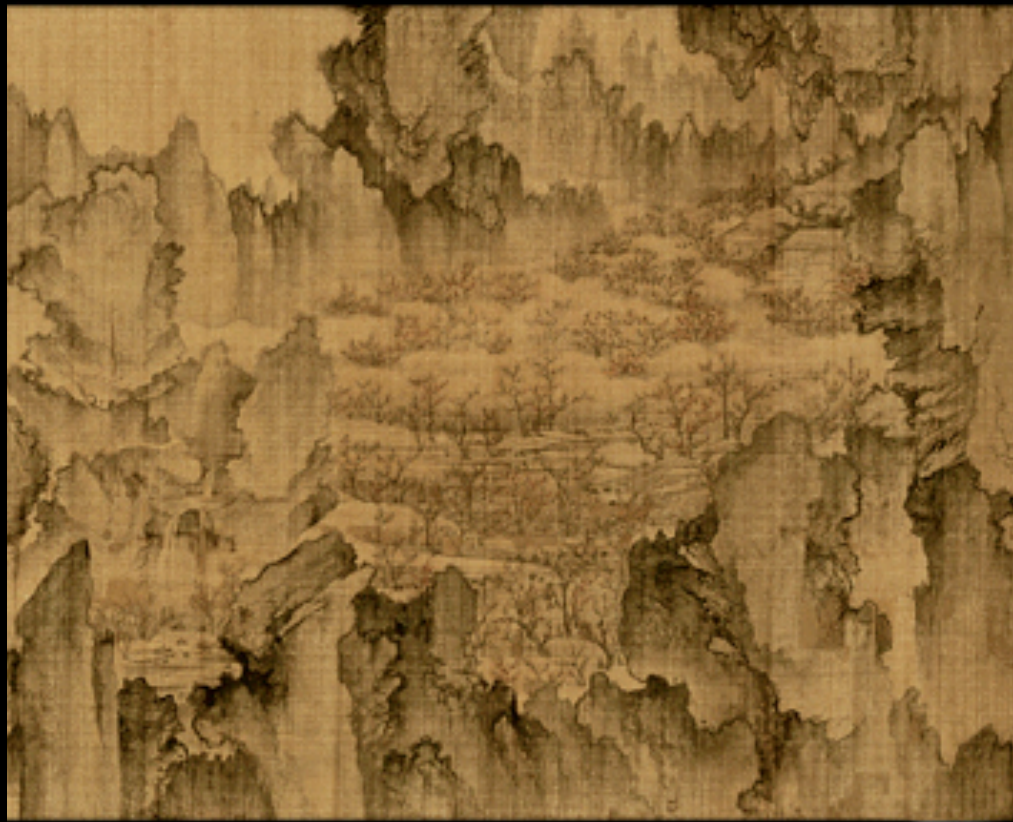
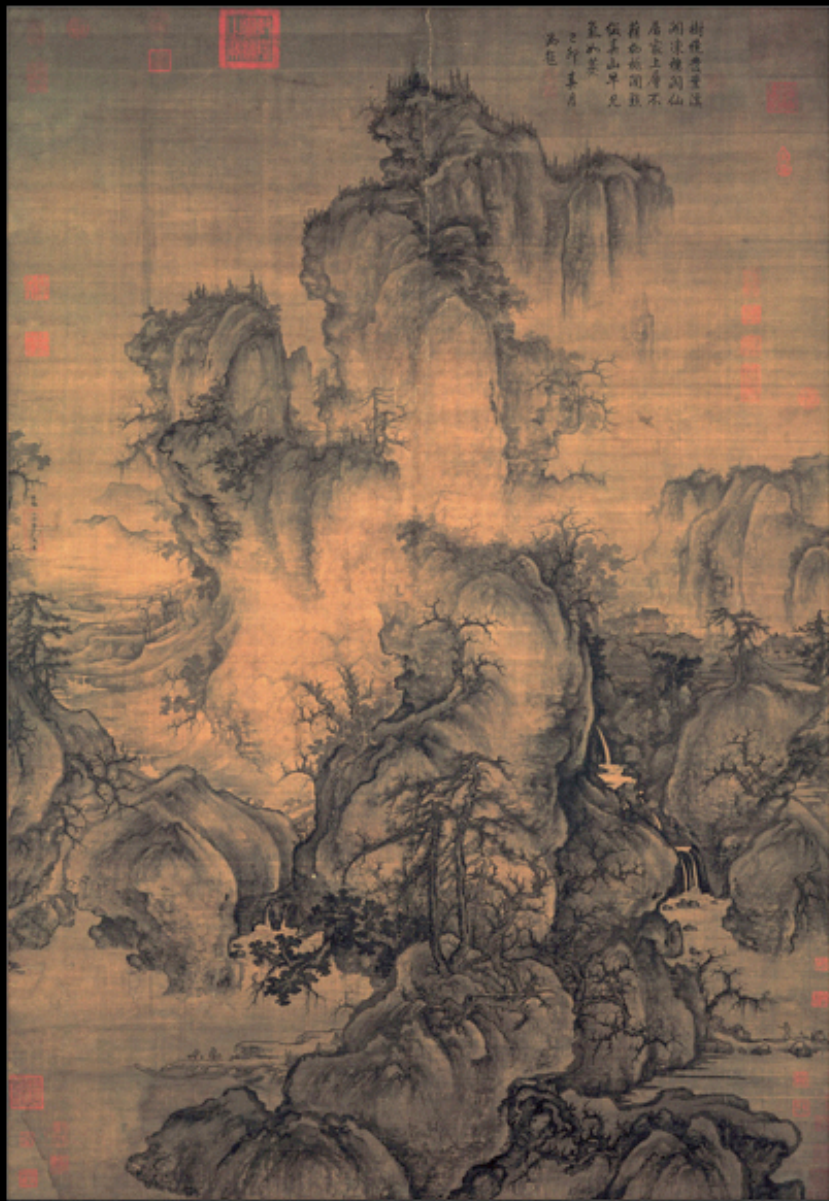


Attributed to Guo Zhongshu after Wang Wei. *WANGCHUAN VILLA* (DETAIL). Original painting dates to tenth century; rubbing dates to 1617. Rubbing, ink on paper. 12-1/2" × 325" (31.8 × 826 cm).



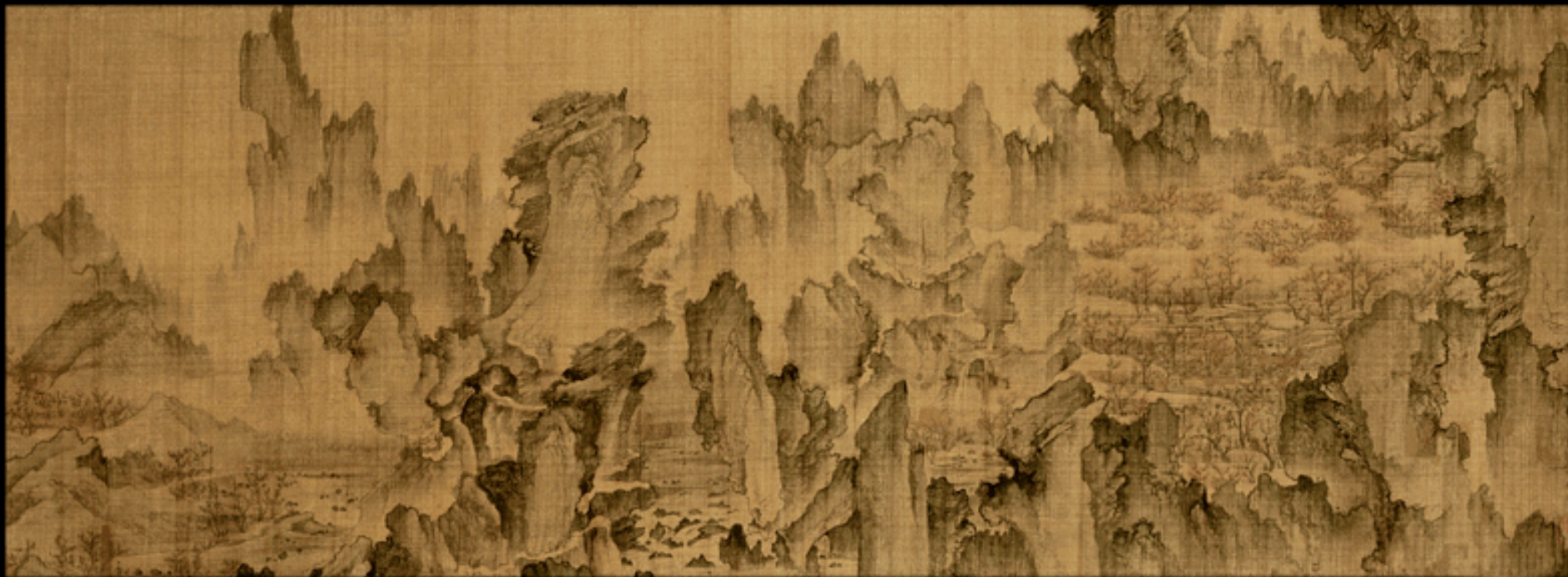
An Gyeon. *DREAM JOURNEY TO THE PEACH BLOSSOM LAND*. Joseon dynasty, 1447. Handscroll, ink and light colors on silk. 15" × 41-3/4" (38.7 × 106.1 cm). Central Library, Tenri University, Tenri (near Nara), Japan. [Fig. 11-28]





Guo Xi (1001-90). *EARLY SPRING*. Northern Song dynasty, 1072.  
 Hanging scroll, ink and color on silk. 5'2-1/4" × 3'6-1/2" (1.58 × 1.08 m).  
 National Palace Museum, Taipei. © Corbis. [Fig. 8-6]





Landscape of the Four Seasons in the collection of Tokyo National Museum, attributed to Tenshō Shūbun (died c. 1444–50), Muromachi period, Japan



True-view landscape painting (*jingyeong san-su*): portrayal of Korean scenery as an alternative to Chinese landscape paintings

Inner Diamond Mountains (left)

Outer Diamond Mountains (right)

*yin-yang*

Top: Vairocana Peak (*Birobong*)

Abstraction  
&  
Idealization



Geumgangsan, Korea

Jeong Seon. *PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE DIAMOND MOUNTAINS (GEUMGANG-SAN)*. Joseon dynasty, 1734. Hanging scroll, ink and colors on paper. 40-5/8" × 37" (130.1 × 94 cm).

Lee'um, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul. [Fig. 11-29]





Jeong Seon, *Clearing After Rain in Mt. Inwangsan or After Rain at Mt. Inwang*, 1751. Joseon Dynasty, Korea. Ink on paper, 79.2 cm × 138.2 cm (31.2 in × 54.4 in). Hoam Art Museum.



Kim Hongdo (1745–ca. 1806; sobriquet Danwon), a court painter from the jung-in (“middle people”) class, is most credited for this florescence. Favourite of kings Yeongjo (r. 1724–76) and Jeongjo (r. 1776–1800)



“He (Kim Hong-do) was great at depicting the hundreds, the thousands of incidents and customs of daily life, and when he started painting the road over there and the ferry landing over there, the shop and the outdoor stall, the official exam sites and the outdoor mask-dance theaters, all the people would start to clap and exclaim in wonder. This praise came from approval of the way Kim painted not the noble or the rich but the ordinary people that one meets everywhere in day-to-day life.”

- Kang Se-hwang (姜世晃 1713-1791)

Kim Hongdo , Teacher and pupils at *Seodang* (서당, village school). Album leaf, ink and light color on paper. ), one of 25 paintings in the 'Album of Danwon's Genre Paintings.' Late Joseon dynasty, Korea. 18th century





Kim Hongdo. "ROOF TILING". Late Joseon dynasty, 18th century.  
 Album leaf, ink and light color on paper. 11" x 9" (28 x 24 cm).  
 National Museum of Korea, Seoul. [Fig. 11-30]



Kim Hongdo , Teacher and pupils  
 Seodang (서당:書堂). Album leaf, ink and  
 light color on paper. . Late Joseon dynasty,  
 Korea. 18th century



Sin Yunbok (ca. 1758–after  
1813; sobriquet Hyewon).



Sin Yunbok,  
Portrait of a Beauty  
(미인도 美人圖), Joeson  
Dynasty, late 18th–early  
19th century.





Sin Yunbok, Portrait of a Beauty  
(미인도 美人圖), Joseon Dynasty, late 18th–early 19th century.



Woman Visiting the Shrine in the Night  
by Suzuki Harunobu (1725–1770), Edo  
Period, Japan





Sin Yunbok. "WOMEN ON TANO DAY". Joseon dynasty, late 18th–early 19th century.  
Album leaf, ink and colors on paper. 11-1/8" × 13-7/8" (28.3 × 35.2 cm).  
Gansong Museum of Art, Seoul. [www.gansongmuseum.org](http://www.gansongmuseum.org)/VISIOARS.





Attributed to Lady Sin Saimdang. *MICE NIBBLING AT A WATERMELON.*

Joseon dynasty, 16th century.

A panel from a screen painting, ink and color on silk. 13-3/8" × 11-1/8" (34 × 28.3 cm). National Museum of Korea, Seoul. [Fig. 11-32]





BANKNOTE (50,000 WON) FEATURING SIN SAIMDANG. 2009.  
Bank of Korea. © Glyn Thomas/Alamy. [Fig. 11-33]



## *Chaekgeori* (the Scholar's Accoutrements, *chaekgado*, *chaekgeorido* and *munbangdo*)

- Chaekgado was a painting genre that emerged in the eighteenth-century when many intellectuals devoted themselves to the collection and appreciation of antiquities, particularly old stationery items and other decorative household objects.
- Depicts usually books and items in the study of a Joseon Confucian scholar, and is usually mounted as an eight-panel screen
- The use of Western techniques of perspective, possibly under the influence of Jesuit painters in Beijing such as Giuseppe Castiglione
- Used by less affluent people to enable them too to decorate their ordinary homes with depictions of Confucian scholarly objects
- Customized to signal the personality of the owner and what he believed himself to be
- Includes auspicious fruit, animals and non-scholarly objects which had significance in the context of Korean folk beliefs
- Scholarly Confucianism + sensual materialism



Eight-panel table-type *chaekgeori* Screen, showing books and objects associated with scholars. Ink and colors on paper, late 19<sup>th</sup> c - early 20<sup>th</sup> c, Joseon dynasty, Korea.



# THE POWER AND PLEASURE OF POSSESSIONS IN KOREAN PAINTED SCREENS

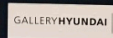
## CONTEMPORARY PRACTICES

### The Legacy of *Chaekgeori*, Korean Still-Life Painting

For the first time in United States, more than twenty-four screens dating from the eighteenth to nineteenth centuries of Korea's Joseon dynasty (1392-1910) are on view at the Charles B. Wang Center. A diverse body of artists continues this painting tradition into the twenty-first century, coming together to examine contemporary Korean society and its social, cultural, and political attitudes and ideals. By drawing on a long artistic and historical lineage, as well as by making contrasts and comparisons to the traditional forms and objectives of *chaekgeori*, modern works by Seongmin Ahn, Kyoungtaek Hong, Patrick Hughes, Airan Kang, Young-Shik Kim, Stephanie S. Lee, and Sungpa, shine a light on Korea's diverse society, a society that, from the Confucian Joseon era to the hyper-materialistic culture of today, is in constant flux.

The contemporary exhibition is curated by Jinyoung Jin (Director of Cultural Programs, Charles B. Wang Center), and is organized by Byungno Chung (Gyeongju University) and Sungmin Kim (Dartmouth College).

The exhibition is co-hosted by the Korea Foundation and Gallery Hyundai.



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*Chaekgeori, the Scholar's Accoutrements*

Late nineteenth-century Korea

Ink and color on paper

Eight-panel screen, 30" (H) x 129" (W)

Private Collection

Left four panels





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## *Chaekgeori, the Scholar's Accoutrements*

Late nineteenth-century Korea

Ink and color on paper

Eight-panel screen, 30" (H) x 129" (W)

Private Collection

- Off-center placement of the books and the furniture
- Furniture, perfume bottle, women's shoes made of leather, pottery – possibly a female owner
- Watermelon: symbol of fecundity
- Watermelon stabbed with a knife: passive yet powerful resistance to the limited social role of women during the Joseon dynasty







Various fruits and vegetables: symbol of abundance and fertility, such as peach, grapes, pomegranate, and watermelon

Mushroom motif and in the character decorating the ceramics: longevity

Auspicious animals (carp, goldfish, hawks, cranes, mandarin ducks, turtles): longevity, success, and marital harmony









Yi Eung-nok (Korea, b. 1808, Court painter), Scholar's accoutrements (*Chaekgeori*), ca. 1860. Eight-panel screen, ink and color on paper, 162.8 33.5 cm (each panel). Late Joseon Dynasty, Korea. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Acquisition made possible by the Korea Foundation, the Connoisseurs' Council and Korean Art and Culture Committee, Re-mounting funded by the Society for Asian Art, 1998.111.





*gu* bronze vessel with two peacock feathers and coral branch: combination of Chinese and Korean paintings (the peacock is a cultured bird of nine virtues and represents one of the three top ranks of civil service positions. Coral is a precious object, and in China civil officers of the first rank wore coral buttons on their hats), usually interpreted as an aspiration to achieve the highest official rank

Buddha's hand citrons: symbol of wealth  
 Pomegranate: fertility or abundance  
 Hope for wealth, many blessings,  
 long life, and many sons



Yi Eung-nok (Korea, b. 1808), Scholar's accoutrements (*Chaekgeori*), ca. 1860. Eight-panel screen, ink and color on paper, 162.8 33.5 cm (each panel). Late Joseon Dynasty, Korea. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Acquisition made possible by the Korea Foundation, the Connoisseurs' Council and Korean Art and Culture Committee, Re-mounting funded by the Society for Asian Art, 1998.111.



*Additional Readings*

Jungman, Burglind. *Pathways to Korean Culture: Paintings of the Joseon Dynasty, 1392-1910*. London, Reaktion Books, 2014 .

Kim, Sungrim. “Chaekgeori: Multi-Dimensional Messages in Late Joseon Korea,” *Archives of Asian Art* 64, no. 1 (2014): 3-32.



*Thank you*