

Anonymous

Bowl

Korea, Joseon dynasty, 16th century

Porcelain

Gift of Damon Giffard, 1951 (1211.1)

Anonymous

Vase

Korea, Joseon dynasty, early 20th century

Porcelain

Gift of Damon Giffard, 1951 (1234.1)

Anonymous

Grapes

Korea, Joseon dynasty, 18th century

Eight-panel screen; ink on paper

Purchase, Richard Lane Collection, 2003 (2010.0007)

Grapes were first introduced as an artistic motif from Central Asia into China, where they became a popular motif during the Tang dynasty (618–907). From China, they eventually spread to Korea. Since they have many seeds, grapes were associated with fertility; here, the artist has cleverly indicated this symbolism by working images of children into the composition. Although they are not immediately apparent, if you look closely, you can see that in several places the plants outline youthful faces that appear to be hiding amidst the vineyard.

Anonymous

Jar with Scrolling Design

Korea, Joseon dynasty, early 16th century

Buncheong ware; stoneware with iron glaze, white slip
and iron oxide underglaze decoration

Purchase 1965 (3353.1)

Anonymous

Jar with Dragon Design

Korea, Joseon dynasty, late 17th–early 18th century

Stoneware with glaze and iron oxide underglaze decoration

Purchase, 1967 (3457.1)

Anonymous

Flask Bottle

Korea, Joseon dynasty, late 15th century

Stoneware with iron glaze

Purchase, in memory of W. Damon Giffard, 1967

(3482.1)

Anonymous

Jar with Dragon Design

Korea, Joseon dynasty, late 17th century

Porcelain with iron oxide underglaze decoration

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore A. Cooke,

in memory of Mr. Robert Allerton, 1967 (3499.1)

Anonymous

Circular Moon Flask with Bamboo Design

Korea, Joseon dynasty, 17th century

Porcelain with iron oxide underglaze decoration

Gift of Lt. General Oliver S. Picher, USAF (Ret.), 1969

(3565.1)

Anonymous

Eight-faceted Bottle

Korea, Joseon dynasty, late 18th century

Porcelain

Purchase, 1935 (4038)

Anonymous

Barrel-shaped Bottle

Korea, Joseon dynasty, 17th century

Porcelain

Gift of Lt. General Oliver S. Picher, USAF (Ret.), 1975

(4299.1)

Anonymous

Saucer

Korea, Joseon dynasty

Stoneware

Gift of Damon Giffard, 1951

(1208.1)

Anonymous

Tiger and Magpies (Hojakdo)

Korea, Joseon dynasty, 19th century

Hanging scroll; ink and color on paper

Purchased with funds from the Beatrice Watson Parrent

Acquisition Fund, 2001 (9502.1)

A popular subject in Korean folk painting (*minwha*), the tiger and magpie motif refers to a well-known Korean story. A woodcutter passing through a forest encountered a tiger stuck in a deep pond. The tiger pleaded with the woodcutter to save him, offering in return to grant the man a wish. However, when the woodcutter freed the tiger, it promptly tried to eat him. The man first called upon a nearby ox as witness, but the ox, bitter at the servitude of its kind to humanity, encouraged the tiger to kill him. The man then called upon a magpie, and the magpie tricked the tiger into reentering the pond, thereby saving the man. From that point on, magpies were allowed to build their nests in people's homes, and were considered auspicious symbols (Yeolsu Yoon, *Handbook of Korean Art: Folk Painting*).

Anonymous

Two Tigers Under a Pine Tree

Korea, Joseon dynasty, 19th century

Hanging scroll; ink and color on paper

Gift of Milne Henderson, Ltd., 2001 (11713.1)

One of four sacred animals representing the four directions, the four seasons, and four of the five fundamental elements that make up all things, tigers have a rich symbolism that dates back several thousand years. Tigers are associated with the western direction (traditionally considered a wild, untamed barbarian region), with autumn and the decline of the year (when executions were held), as well as with the metal element (representing military affairs). Additionally, the tiger is used to signify *yin* (paired with the dragon for *yang*) in the *yin-yang* dichotomy that characterizes East Asian cosmological beliefs.

Tigers are potentially dangerous animals with strong underlying associations of violence and death, yet they are also considered to be powerful protectors when properly worshipped; paintings such as this one would have been hung at the front entrances of homes during New Year ceremonies to help defend the residents against negative influences.

Anonymous

Placenta Jar

Korea, Joseon dynasty, early 15th century

Buncheong ware; stoneware with glaze and white slip inlay

Gift of Anna Rice Cooke, 1927 (106)

Anonymous

Flask Bottle with Fish Design

Korea, Joseon dynasty, 15th century

Buncheong ware; stoneware with glaze and white slip inlay

Gift of Lt. General Oliver S. Picher, USAF (Ret.), 1958

(2522.1)

Anonymous

Bowl

Korea, Joseon dynasty, early 15th century

Stoneware with celadon glaze and white slip

Gift of Lt. General Oliver S. Picher, USAF (Ret.), 1958

(2520.1)

Anonymous

Bowl

Korea, Joseon dynasty, early 15th century

Buncheong ware; stoneware with celadon glaze
and white slip inlay

Gift of Lt. General Oliver S. Picher, USAF (Ret.), 1958

(2521.1)

