BIBLIOGRAPHY

China


Provides an overview of the evolution and context of architecture and design of Chinese furnishings in the 16th and 17th centuries. The illustrated volume accompanied an exhibition at the MFA, but the details and literary excerpts are useful for any reference to Chinese furnishing within an Asian Art tour.


This Companion explains key aspects of modern Chinese culture without assuming prior knowledge of China or the Chinese language. Invaluable for students of Chinese studies, this book includes a glossary of key terms, a chronology and a guide to further reading.


Written by the Curatorial staff of the department of Oriental Antiquities at the British Museum, this text encompasses virtually every aspect of Chinese artwork. The book is organized by type of artwork, and a helpful introduction and bibliography are included if one is interested in learning more on a specific topic mentioned.


Written by the Director of the department of Oriental Antiquities at the British Museum, this book provides insight into the use of different decorative motifs in Chinese artwork, for example on scrolls and ceramics. She also documents the evolution of meaning of different symbols from specific purposes to being generally visually pleasing.


This is a fourth edition of The Arts of China by Michael Sullivan, and is a detailed account of classic Chinese art throughout history beginning in the Neolithic era. Sullivan uses recent archaeological and research discoveries in order to document a fresh account of Chinese art.


A brief companion to ancient Chinese art written for the MET, but easily used as a reference for other Chinese artwork. Encompasses short descriptions of artwork from each Chinese dynasty.

Japan


A good introductory read for individuals new to Japanese artwork. Documents sixty different Japanese pieces of artwork which are accompanied by a description, illustration and account of how the item is used in Japanese culture.

An MFA publication, which describes 300 different Japanese miniatures and explains their purpose and significance within Japanese culture. It is illustrated and references pieces used in the MFA’s own collection.

An MFA publication which describes 150 different Japanese sword fittings and explains their purpose and significance within Japanese culture. It is illustrated and references pieces used in the MFA’s own collection.

Full color, illustrated survey of Japanese artwork from the Jomon period through World War II. Easy to read with an index for quick reference.

A guide to the MFA’s collection of Japanese art, with essays on the art of the temple, the art of the ruling class, the art of the town, and Japan and the outside world.

An MFA publication which describes the influx of the use of photography within Japanese culture at the rise of the twentieth century.

A comprehensive survey of Japanese artwork in two volumes which is considered to be a standard reference in the field of Japanese art. Virtually every topic within the framework of Japanese artwork is included and the title is world renowned for its scholarly acclaim.

An illustrated history of artwork from the Jomon through the Meiji period. The book is organized chronologically in chapters with each chapter including sub-categories of Architecture, Sculpture, Painting, Calligraphy, Textiles, Lacquer Ware, Ceramics and Metal Ware, and discusses each piece within the larger historical and cultural scope of events.

Korea

Portal, Jane, with Suhyung Kim and Hee Jung Lee, MFA Highlights: Art of Korea (Boston: MFA Publications, 2012) 
A guide to the MFA’s collection of Korean art, with an introductory essay, catalog entries arranged chronologically, a timeline and maps.

General

A very detailed survey of all Asian artwork. The book is organized both chronologically and thematically rather than regionally or geographically.
McArthur, Meher. The Arts of Asia: Materials, Techniques, Styles (London: Thames and Hudson, 2005). Ten chapters, each dedicated to an important material used in the creation of Asian art. Each chapter includes a history of the material, etymology, and social significance. Includes 400 illustrations.


Selected Masterpieces of Asian Art (Boston: Museum of Fine Arts Publications, 1992). A large-format catalogue highlighting the MFA’s collection of Asiatic art. Includes color illustrations of artwork from China, Japan, India, Tibet, Southeast Asia, and the Islamic world. Considered to be the most comprehensive overview available of the MFA’s collection.