

The Cleveland Museum of Art

The collection at the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) includes nearly 40,000 works of art from around the world and throughout history. Most are on permanent exhibition (except for light-sensitive works on paper or textiles). The CMA is especially renowned for the breadth and quality of its collections. Of greatest interest to ASIANetwork members is its comprehensive Asian collection of some 4,800 works. The Museum's most recent Asian acquisitions include two major Chinese Tang dynasty sculptures, *Pair of Tomb Guardians*, dating from the late 7th to early 8th century (see photos on pages 6 and 7). This is the first set of tomb guardians to be owned by the Museum.

The CMA has long cultivated connections with



Krishna Govardhana
Cambodia, PhnomDa.
Pre-Angkorean period, A.D. 500-550
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scholars and institutions in Asia. In particular, the CMA's ties with the Nara National Museum, which began around 1915, have allowed the CMA unique access to some of the best Japanese historical art works. The CMA was also chosen as one of only three museums in the world to participate in a Japanese government sponsored exhibition exchange program.

CMA is also known for its Asia-related publications. Most recently they released *Masterworks of Asian Art*, in which more than one hundred of the greatest artistic achievements of the Asian continent are represented in full color. This book was created to enhance the general reader's appreciation of Asian art, especially the most renowned objects in the CMA's Asian collection. It includes examples from China, Japan, Korea, India, Central Asia, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal, Kashmir, and Tibet.

In the book's foreword, museum director Robert P. Bergman writes: "The art of these societies, encapsulating centuries of ritual, belief, legend, cultural archetype, and self-definition, is a key for Westerners to developing understanding of the Asian world. Moreover, the aesthetic and spiritual rewards of viewing, contemplating, and studying the often staggeringly subtle expressions of Asian art cannot be overestimated."



The Ivy Lane (Tsuta no Hosomichi) from "*The Tales of Ise (Ise Monogatari)*"
Fukae Roshu, Japan, 1699-1757, Edo Period
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