

## ***Jade: Beauty, Wealth, and Power***

A Guided Tour of the Asian Art Museum's Galleries

Spanning some 5,000 years, the Asian Art Museum's jade collection is one of the best in the world, with more than 1,200 jade pieces carefully selected over decades of patient and systematic research.



Jade has always fascinated the Chinese people. It is the only stone to which they have paid unflinching respect throughout their long history. By the time of Confucius (551–479 BCE) jade was the favorite stone of the perfect gentleman because it embodied all the cardinal virtues. When examples of Mughal jades were presented to an eighteenth-century emperor of China, he was so impressed that he composed poems in their praise and ordered the imperial Chinese workshop to imitate them. Over time, jade came to be associated in popular Chinese belief with everything that is noble, pure, powerful, beautiful, and precious.

Join us on this tour and explore the fascinating world of Chinese jade. Trace the complex history of its use from powerful burial talismans to treasures prized by emperors, and learn about the dedication, patience, and years of training artisans must possess in order to produce objects of such beauty.

The *Jade: Beauty, Wealth, and Power* tour is conducted by specially trained museum docents. To reserve this tour for your group please call (415) 581-3624 or email [groupvisits@asianart.org](mailto:groupvisits@asianart.org). General information about group visits and private tours can be found at [www.asianart.org/visit.htm](http://www.asianart.org/visit.htm).

