



Along the Silk Road: Trade, Travel and Transformation

A Guided Tour of the Asian Art Museum's Galleries



The Silk Road was an ancient network of trade routes that extended across Asia, linking powerful civilizations as diverse as China, India, Persia, Egypt, and Rome. Caravans heading toward China carried gold and other precious metals, ivory, precious stones, and glass; in the opposite direction came silk, furs, ceramics, jade, bronze objects, lacquer and iron. Along these goods, traveled knowledge, techniques, cultural traditions, and religions.

Evoking images of lush desert oases and distant crossroad settlements teeming with merchants, pilgrims, and adventurous travelers from many regions, the Silk Road has become in our time a metaphor for cultural exchange among people of exotic locales and diverse societies

Delve into the cross-cultural artistic legacy of this ancient network of overland and maritime trade routes between northern China and the Mediterranean Sea. Examine works from the museum's collection whose creation by sculptors, engravers, jewelers, painters, potters, printmakers, and textile artists offer responses to the question "What happens when strangers meet?"

The *Along the Silk Road: Trade, Travel and Transformation* 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. General information about group visits and private tours can be found at www.asianart.org/visit.htm.

