
Family Guide

Explore Asian Art
Good Guys and Bad Guys

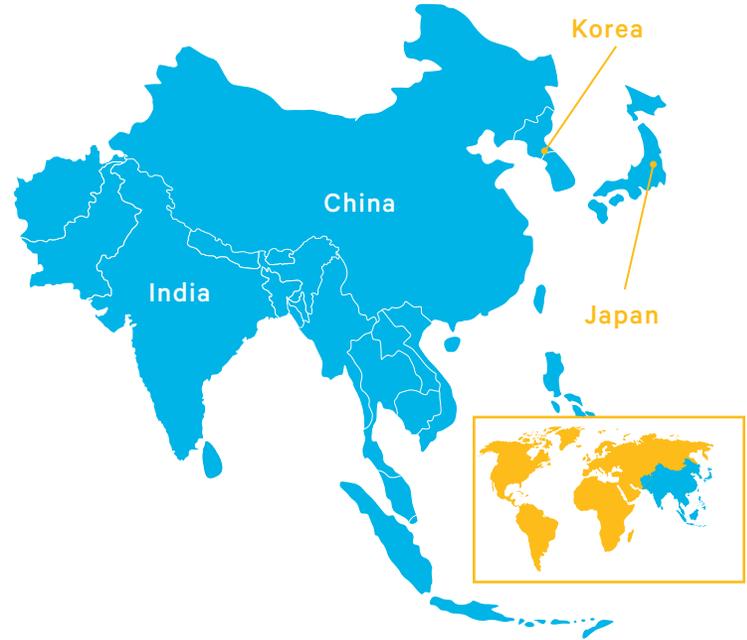


THE
MET

Discover powerful protectors and fierce figures in The Met's Asian art galleries. Are they good, bad, or both? You decide!

Use the cards in this guide to find the works of art. Turn the cards over for fun facts and activities.

This map shows the countries represented by the works of art in this guide.



Words to Know

Asia: the world's largest and most populated continent

Buddhism: one of the major world religions. Its beliefs and practices began in India and are based on the teachings of the Buddha.

Buddha: [BOO-dah] means "enlightened one"

Bodhisattva: [bo-dee-SAHT-vah] a Buddhist deity who guides others and who has the possibility of becoming a buddha

Chamunda: the ferocious form of the Hindu goddess Devi, the Great Goddess

Deity: a god or goddess

Enlightenment: the state someone achieves when they have full insight or understanding of everything

Fudō Myōō: a Buddhist deity, whose name in Japanese means "Immovable King of Wisdom"

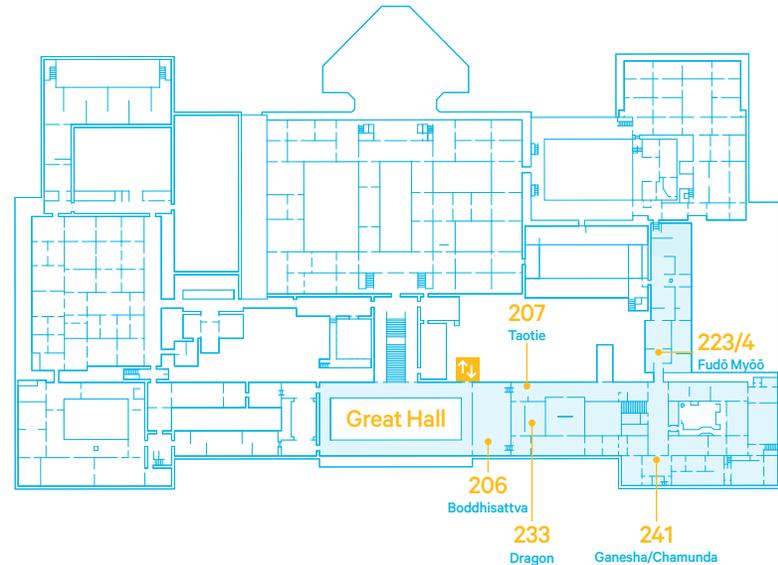
Ganesha (or Ganesh): one of the most popular Hindu gods, he is the remover of obstacles. His parents are Parvati and Shiva.

Hinduism: one of the major world religions. Its beliefs and practices began in India.

Parvati: the Hindu mother goddess. She is Shiva's wife and Ganesha's mother.

Shiva: the Hindu god of destruction and creation. He is Parvati's husband and Ganesha's father.

Asian Art Galleries Floor 2



Please keep in mind!
Sometimes we have to move works of art or even close galleries to renovate them or prepare for exhibitions.
When in doubt, ask a guard for help!

Bodhisattva
Compassionate and Kind



Gallery 206
The Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

Taotie
Greedy and Glaring



Gallery 207
Charlotte C. Weber Galleries

Taotie

Imagine

A frightening creature lurks on the surface of this vessel.

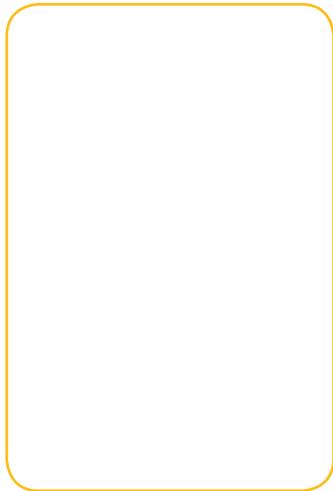
Sneak up to it to find its head, but watch out—it's hungry!

Look

This ancient Chinese container is known as a *fangding*, meaning “square cauldron.” It was used for cooking meats as a ritual offering to honor gods or ancestors. Spot a masklike face on the front. It is called a *taotie* [ta-oh-TYAY], a mythical beast that was a greedy eater and guarded the food in the vessel. What animal characteristics can you find on this *taotie*?

Draw

Design your own animal-inspired mask.



Bodhisattva

Imagine

This is probably Guanyin [guan-YIN], the most well-known and admired of all the bodhisattvas. Guanyin represents compassion and helps others when they are in need. **When have you helped others?**

Did You Know?

Buddhism is practiced in many countries. Deities are known by different names in different places. For example, this bodhisattva, originally known as Avalokiteshvara in India, is called Guanyin in China, Kannon in Japan, and Gwaneum in Korea.

Look

Two strands of pearls and beads, necklaces of gold and gemstones, and a crown adorn Guanyin, just like a prince. His hands are gone, but he probably made a symbolic gesture with his right hand and held a lotus flower in his left. This sculpture was once brightly painted and partly covered with a coating of gold. Walk around it to find traces of paint.

Dragon **Magical and Mighty**



Gallery 233
Arts of Korea Gallery

Fudō Myōō **Fierce and Unmoving**



Gallery 223/4
The Sackler Wing Galleries

Fudō Myōō

Imagine

Fudō Myōō [foo-DOH-MYO-oh] used to stand in front of a large carving shaped like flames.

Picture this sculpture in the dark, lit only by candles.

How would it make you feel?

Look

In one hand, Fudō Myōō holds the sword of wisdom—it can cut through ignorance and misunderstanding. In the other hand he holds a lasso of truth to rescue anyone who needs help on the path to enlightenment. One of his eyes looks outward and one looks inward—he's keeping an eye out for trouble that might come from any direction!

Pose

Try to imitate Fudō Myōō's face.

Did You Know?

Fudō Myōō may look fierce and dangerous, but his job is a good one: to frighten away danger. Buddhists in Japan believe that he guards and protects them from anything that may threaten their beliefs. Who protects you, and how?

Dragon

Imagine

You're standing before a palace hall or Buddhist temple in Korea, where this dragon head and bell once hung from a roof beam.

What do you hear when the wind blows?

Look

Dragons are imaginary creatures with the characteristics of real animals. Look closely at this dragon's head to find horns like a stag, a neck like a snake, scales and gills of a fish, and ears of a cow. What other details do you notice?

Did You Know?

While dragons can be scary in many cultures, Asian ones are considered good luck.

They are thought to be powerful water spirits that control the rain, rivers, and seas.

Write

East Asian legends tell of a Dragon King who lived in a magical underwater kingdom. Below, write the first sentence for your *own* story about a dragon. Finish it at home!

Ganesha
Helpful and Powerful



Gallery 241, Florence and Herbert Irving
South Asian Galleries

Chamunda
Destructive and Terrifying



Gallery 241, Florence and Herbert Irving
South Asian Galleries

Chamunda

Imagine

This sculpture once decorated the outside walls of a temple with other carvings just like it. Imagine walking by these skeletal figures looking down at you with their bulging eyes.

What might you say as you walk (or run!) past them?

Look

Get closer to the ferocious Hindu goddess Chamunda, if you dare! How many skulls and snakes can you find? Look for a scorpion on her stomach, a symbol of sickness and death. She once had twelve scrawny arms and hands, each holding threatening objects like a sword, trident, thunderbolt, cleaver, and skull cup.

Did You Know?

Devi, the Great Goddess, takes the form of Chamunda when she fights Chanda and Munda, the demons of evil and ignorance.

Make

If you were to transform yourself into something frightening, what form would you take and why? At home, create a costume that transforms you.

Ganesha

Imagine

People believe that the elephant-headed god Ganesha can remove obstacles, or problems, from their lives. **What obstacle would you ask him to remove?**

Look

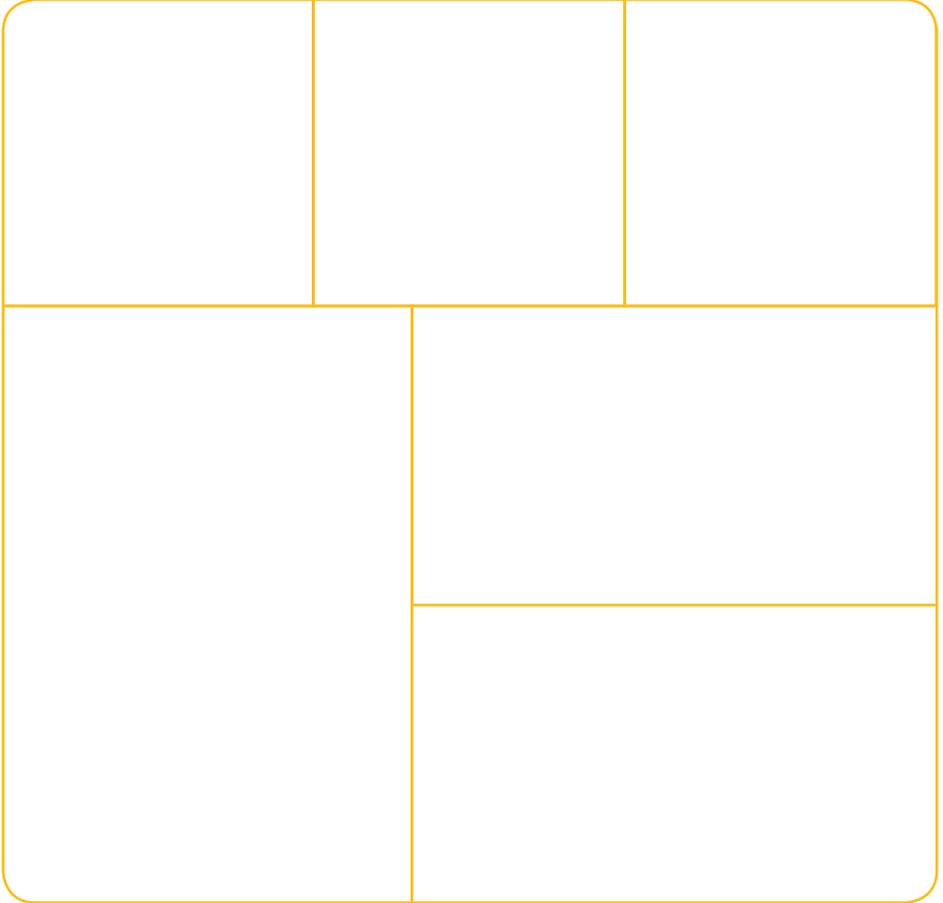
Ganesha has many arms and hands showing his power and ability to do many things at the same time. Each hand would have held something meaningful to him, including a bowl of irresistible sweets and his broken tusk.

Did You Know?

How did Ganesha get his elephant head? Legends say that his mother, Parvati, became lonely and created a son while her husband, Shiva, traveled. One day, Parvati asked Ganesha to guard her door while she bathed. Shiva returned unexpectedly. When the boy wouldn't let him enter, he angrily cut off his head. Parvati was so upset that Shiva promised to replace Ganesha's head with the head of the first living creature he saw—an elephant!

Draw

In the boxes below draw a comic inspired by the characters in this guide.



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Cover: Illustration by Rebecca Clarke based on **Fudō Myōō**, Heian period (794–1185), 12th century, Japan, joined-woodblock construction with traces of color and cut-gold; The Harry G. C. Packard Collection of Asian Art, Gift of Harry G. C. Packard, and Purchase, Fletcher, Rogers, Harris Brisbane Dick, and Louis V. Bell Funds, Joseph Pulitzer Bequest, and The Annenberg Fund Inc. Gift, 1975 (1975.268.163)

Inside (left to right, top to bottom): **Bodhisattva, probably Avalokiteshvara (Guanyin)**, Northern Qi dynasty (550–577), about 550–560, China; sandstone with pigment; The Sackler Collections, Purchase,

The Sackler Fund, 1965 (65.29.4). **Ritual Cauldron (Fangding)**, Shang dynasty (about 1600–1046 B.C.); 12th–11th century B.C.; China; bronze; Bequest of Addie W. Kahn, 1949 (49.135.2). **Rafter Finial in the Shape of a Dragon Head and Wind Chime**, early Goryeo dynasty (918–1392), 10th century; Korea; gilt bronze; Purchase, The Vincent Astor Foundation Gift, 1999 Benefit Fund, and The Rosenkranz Foundation Inc. Gift, 1999 (1999.263a,b). **Fudō Myōō**, Heian period (794–1185), 12th century, Japan; joined-woodblock construction with traces of color and cut-gold; The Harry G. C. Packard Collection of Asian Art, Gift of Harry G. C. Packard, and Purchase, Fletcher, Rogers, Harris Brisbane Dick, and Louis V. Bell Funds, Joseph Pulitzer Bequest, and The Annenberg Fund Inc. Gift, 1975 (1975.268.163). **Dancing Ganesha**, 10th century, India (Madhya Pradesh), Kalacuri; mottled red sandstone; Gift of Florence and Herbert Irving, 2007 (2007.480.2). **Chamunda, the Horrific Destroyer of Evil**, 10th–11th century; India; sandstone; Purchase, Anonymous Gift and Rogers Fund, 1989 (1989.121).

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