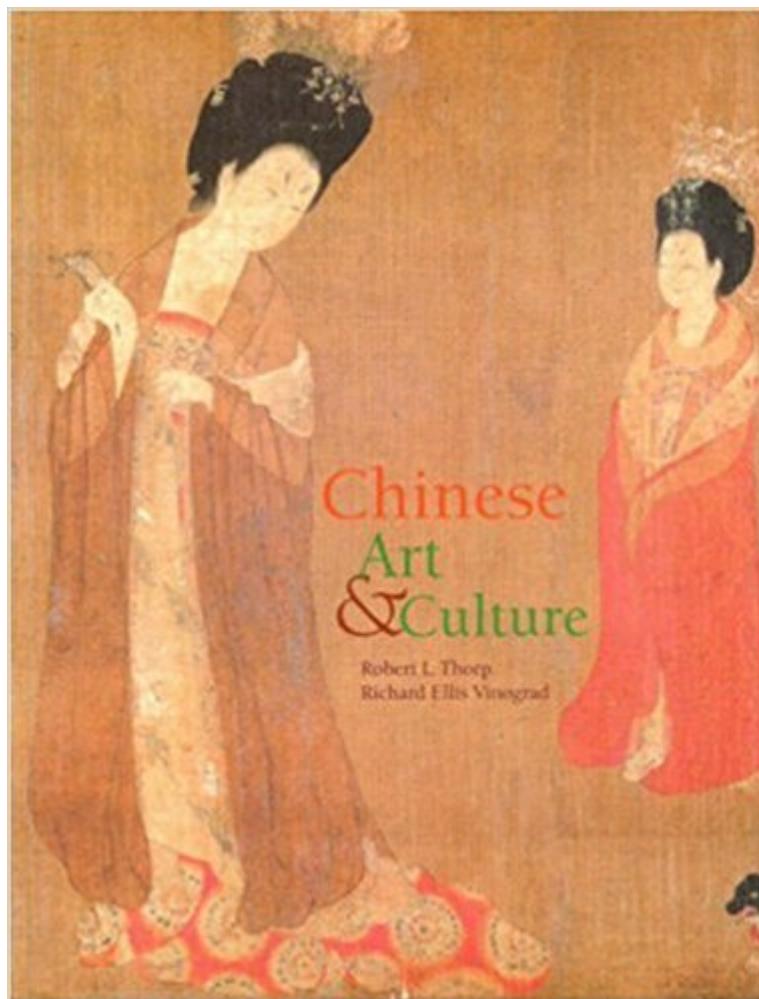


The book was found

Chinese Art And Culture



Synopsis

This book takes a look at Chinese art within a variety of contexts—archeological, cultural, historical, social, and ritual/religious. Organized both chronologically and thematically, it covers a full historical span and includes a wide range of media settings for art—from elite to popular. An emphasis on the dynamic processes that effect the history of Chinese art: social, economic, political competition, urbanization, markets and tastes, and quests for cultural authority, allows specific works of art to be discussed in extensive detail, while setting them within larger explanatory stories. A guide to Chinese art for individuals interested in one of the most abundantly artistic cultures in the history of the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Boasting a history of 7,000 years and counting from Neolithic jade carving to contemporary video installation China may be the world's most "abundantly productive, staggeringly artistic continuous culture," according to the authors of *Chinese Art & Culture*. In presenting 230 b&w and 128 color illustrations, Robert L. Thorp, Washington University professor of art history and archeology, and Richard Ellis Vinograd (*Boundaries of the Self: Chinese Portraits 1600-1900*) devote admirable attention to social, political and economic contexts for Chinese work, examining, for example, the imperial ethos detected in an earthenware figure. The book's release coincides with an exhibit of 19th- and 20th-century Chinese painting at New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art, which should help call attention to it. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Telling the story of Chinese art in the context of Chinese history and culture, Thorp (history and archaeology, Washington Univ.) and Vinograd (art history, Stanford Univ.) give this handsomely illustrated book a graceful, unpretentious ease that will be rare and refreshing to readers of art history. The book draws on the insights and approaches of recent scholarship and discoveries to explore the essence of Chinese art, examining the reasons for its creation, its relationship to political and social development, its economic functions, and its connection to personal rituals. Taking in over 7000 years, from late Neolithic cultures to the 20th century, this book provides a fine introduction to Chinese art for students, historians, and art lovers. It is especially poignant in its examination of contemporary Chinese art from the vantage points of identity and community, two fundamental bases of life for the Chinese people. Highly recommended to all public and academic libraries. Lucia S. Chen, NYPL Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

If you need a concise synopsis of 3500 years of art.. this is it! Mind you, it's not 5 pages, and can't be used as a cheat sheet, but it gives an overview of the various art forms that characterize Chinese life. It thoroughly fulfilled my purpose.

This is a great book for a serious survey of Chinese art and also for common readers interested in Chinese art and culture. The first six chapters by Robert Thorp deal with the period between the Neolithic and the Tang, and the rest of four chapters by Richard Vinograd cover from the Song to the 20th century. Both scholars offer succinct yet comprehensive historical and cultural backgrounds, and also the images are discussed in terms of important concepts and themes in Chinese art, rather than traditional categories of architecture, sculpture, painting, and decorative arts. This approach works effectively in avoiding any imposition of the art historical concepts derived from European tradition, and also enable readers to be fully engaged in the subject. When comparing with other survey books on Chinese art, it takes a middle path between the traditional style of Arts of China by Michael Sullivan and an intense and provoking style of Art in China by Craig Clunas.

This book is no different from what you'd typically get in a school bookstore. Except this one is much cheaper, due to the fact that it's been previously used. But it served its purpose. When the class ended, I sold it back to a local bookstore and made a couple \$ in profit.

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