

THE ARTS OF KOREA

A Resource for Educators

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

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Foreword

Korea's rich artistic heritage has been formed by a remarkable blend of native tradition, foreign influence, sophisticated technical skill, and exuberant human spirit. Yet, of all the cultural and artistic traditions of East Asia, those of Korea have, until recently, received the least attention in the West. With the establishment of its permanent Arts of Korea gallery in June 1998, The Metropolitan Museum of Art undertook to present the best examples of Korean art and bring to the Western audience an awareness and understanding of the important role that Korea has played in the development of East Asian culture and art.

The Arts of Korea: A Resource for Educators is designed to assist educators in presenting Korea's distinctive artistic legacy to students of all ages, both in the classroom and in visits to the Museum's Arts of Korea gallery. The core of this publication is the discussion of works that illustrate the diversity and beauty of Korean art. Drawn from the Museum's permanent collection, they include elegant celadon wares and white porcelain vessels, exquisite Buddhist paintings, landscapes, inlaid lacquerwares, and traditional musical instruments. These works—together with a full complement of orientation materials—will enable a rewarding exploration of Korean art and culture.

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