

## Passing Down Traditions: China Outreach Suitcase

*"This week, I felt like I was really teaching something more. I was opening up more of the world to my students."  
—Special Education Language Arts Educator*



### ABOUT THE SUITCASE

This suitcase introduces the art and culture of traditional and modern-day China. The objects in this suitcase are reproductions or mass-produced items intended to give students a way to examine aspects of Chinese art, culture, and history, such as geography, population, religion, and language. Using these objects and additional resources included in the suitcase, students can discuss how China became what it is today and what we can learn from China's rich history.

Book this suitcase online at <http://www.seattleartmuseum.org/programs-and-learning/schools-and-educators/education-resource-center/outreach-suitcase-reservation>.

### LOOKING QUESTIONS

Encourage your students to look closely at the objects in the suitcase and images from SAM's Collection with questions like:

- What kind of group(s) do you participate in and why do you think you belong to the group?
- How is one culture different from another?
- What kinds of things do you consider art?
- Why do we think certain things are art and other things are not?

## WHAT'S IN THE CHINA OUTREACH SUITCASE?

### Educator Resource Guide

- A list of relevant objects in the suitcase
- A list of images on the CD and prints that relate to these objects
- Background information on the topic
- Questions to consider
- Grade level information
- Activity ideas
- Related materials and glossary
- Relevant Washington State, Common Core, and National Core Arts Standards

### Objects in the Suitcase (Pictured on Front)

- Embroidery panel
- Shadow puppet
- Calligraphy panel
- Brush stand
- Calligraphy kit
- Chinese seal and ink
- Porcelain bowl
- Chopsticks
- Maps, books, and other art materials
- Poster, books, maps, and music CD

### Supplemental Images from SAM's Collection (on CD and 11 X 17" Prints)

#### Object: Embroidery Panel

- [Ancestor Portrait of an Official](#), 9th rank, 17th–18th century, Gift of Miss Elizabeth Hargear, 47.24

- [Mandarin Square \(puzi\)](#), early 17th century, Eugene Fuller Memorial Collection, 33.139

#### Objects: Shadow Puppets

- [Shadow figure: Chinese woman](#), Eugene Fuller Memorial Collection, 56.62

#### Objects: Calligraphy

- [A Feast](#), 2001, Li Jin, Purchased with funds from Rebecca and Alexander Stewart, John and Shari Behnke, and the Modern Art Acquisition Fund, and partial gift of Meg Maggio and the Courtyard Gallery, Beijing, 2003.119, © Li Jin
- [Farewell Landscape for Mr. Wuweng](#), 1689, Shitao, Gift of Karen Wang and partial purchase with the Trubner Asian Purchase Fund and the Margaret E. Fuller Purchase Fund, 97.81
- [Brush Rest](#), 1573–1619, Eugene Fuller Memorial Collection, 51.86
- [Brush and Cover](#), ca. 1420–1500, Gift of the Robert B. and Honey Dootson Collection, 89.170
- [Nine Dragon Seal for Imperial Painting Collection](#), 1736–1795, Eugene Fuller Memorial Collection, 50.140

#### Objects: Porcelain Bowls and Chopsticks

- [Guyuexuan type bowl](#), early 18th century, Eugene Fuller Memorial Collection, 33.55
- [Dish with design of camellia and flowering plum](#), early 18th century, Gift of Mrs. Ruth Trubner in memory of Henry Trubner and the Gates Acquisition Fund, 2004.22
- [Beaker](#), ca. 18th century, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. S. Allison Creighton, 95.101

## SAMPLE ACTIVITY: PAINTING YOUR WORDS

- With the calligraphy materials included in this suitcase, have students discuss the kinds of instruments and materials used to create the scroll painting and the calligraphy panel. Ask questions about the brushstroke lines. Then tape the large pieces of paper to the wall. Find the Chinese character book called *Nature of the Chinese Character* in the suitcase. Using a document camera (or photocopy or draw a few characters on transparencies), project characters onto the wall over the paper. Have students practice writing Chinese characters by tracing the projected images on to paper taped to the wall.
- Extension: Get enough calligraphy pens for your class. Have students find a Chinese character that symbolizes something that they feel represents themselves. On a long vertical sheet of paper, have students write their names in English (using the calligraphy brush) on one side and then have them write their Chinese character on the other side. Students can choose whether or not they want to translate the meaning of their character into English on their hanging scroll.