

Exhibition from 20 October 2023 to 22 January 2024  
Dijon Museum of Fine Arts

## ASIA NEAR AND FAR. CONNOISSEURS, COLLECTORS AND DEALERS OF ASIAN ART IN FRANCE (1750-1930)



Chōkōsai Eishō, *The Courtesan Shinateru of the House of Okamoto*, Japan, 1795-1797, Strasbourg, cabinet des Estampes et des Dessins, (former Langweil collection) © Musées de Strasbourg/ M. Bertola - *Nambam cabinet*, Japan, early 17<sup>th</sup> century, (Jehannin de Chamblanc collection) © Musée des Beaux-Arts de Dijon/ François Jay - *Manju netsuke*, Japan, late 19<sup>th</sup> century, (Henri and Sophie Grangier bequest, 1905) © Musée des Beaux-Arts de Dijon/François Jay - *Pair of vases*, China, Qianlong period (1736-1795) and Paris, 1770-1780, (Anthelme and Edma Trimolet bequest, 1878) © Musée des Beaux-Arts de Dijon/ François Jay - *Pair of ewers*, Japan, circa 1680, and Paris, circa 1770, Paris, Musée du Louvre, Département des Objets d'art, (Marie-Antoinette collection) © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée du Louvre) / Martine Beck-Coppola

**The Dijon Museum of Fine Arts presents *Asia near and far. Connoisseurs, collectors and dealers of Asian art in France (1750-1930)*, an exhibition recognised as being of national interest by the French Ministry of Culture.**

In partnership with the French National Institute for Art History (INHA), this new and ambitious project offers the public a chance to discover two centuries of enthusiasm for Asian art in France, from the royal collections of Louis XV and Marie-Antoinette to the commercial and scientific collecting done in Asia from the 1850s to the 1930s - not to mention the craze for Japonism shared by artists, collectors and simple enthusiasts of 'knickknack hunting' in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

As an extension of the INHA's vast research programme of the same name, the exhibition will bring together national collections from France and Far Eastern regional holdings, in a scenography that is both contemporary and evocative of the imaginations that have crystallised around the many objects brought from Asia over the ages.

Featuring more than 300 works of great technical diversity (lacquers, porcelains, ivories, bronzes, screens, prints and illustrated books, silk paintings, and theatre masks), historical and geographical diversity (China, Japan, Korea, and Cambodia), the exhibition is supported by prestigious loans from numerous French national institutions: Musée Guimet, Musée du Louvre, Château de Versailles, Musée des Arts décoratifs, Musée du Quai Branly, etc.

Regional Asian collections are also well represented (Florine Langweil in Colmar and Strasbourg, Jules Adeline in Rouen and Adhémard Leclère in Alençon), especially with the Dijon Museum of Fine Arts benefiting from the museum's restoration work completed ahead of the exhibition.

The large-scale restoration of a Coromandel lacquer screen, a masterpiece from "Chinese collection" of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Dijon parliamentarian Jehannin de Chamblanc, was the subject of a call for donations, representing 15% of the total restoration budget. Thanks to this campaign and to the donors, almost 10,000 euros were raised to complete the restoration of this exceptional work, which will be on display at the exhibition.

This exhibition is organised by the City of Dijon, in partnership with the Institut national d'histoire de l'art (INHA). It is part of the framework partnership agreement between the museums of the city of Dijon and the Louvre Museum. This exhibition is recognised as being of national interest by the French government (Ministry of Culture/Prefect of the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region), which is providing exceptional financial support.

### Exhibition curators :

**Catherine Tran-Bourdonneau**, head curator of the non-European collections at the Dijon Museum of Fine Arts

**Pauline d'Abrigeon**, head curator of the Chinese collections at the Fondation Baur, Museum of Far Eastern Art in Geneva

**Pauline Guyot**, research fellow at the INHA, head the "Connoisseurs, collectors and dealers of Asian art in France, 1700-1939" programme

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive catalogue of 272 pages and over 220 illustrations, co-published by Liénart éditions and INHA (retail price 35 euros).

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