

A GOLDEN AGE  
of CHINA  
QIANLONG EMPEROR, 1736–1795

盛世乾隆



Chinese Portrait of Emperor Qianlong in ceremonial robe 清人画弘历朝服像轴 (detail) Qing dynasty, Qianlong period 1736–1795 / coloured ink on silk / 242.2 x 179.0 cm (image) The Palace Museum, Beijing

27 MARCH –  
21 JUNE 2015

LOOK AND FIND

## IN CHINESE ART OBJECTS OFTEN HAVE SPECIAL SYMBOLIC MEANING

The meanings are almost all auspicious.

Auspicious wishes play a very important role in the traditional Chinese way of life. They help ensure luck, good fortune and harmony with the environment.

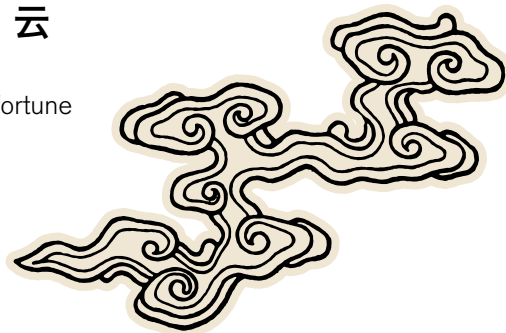
### Dragon 龙

- Symbol of the Emperor
- Adaptability



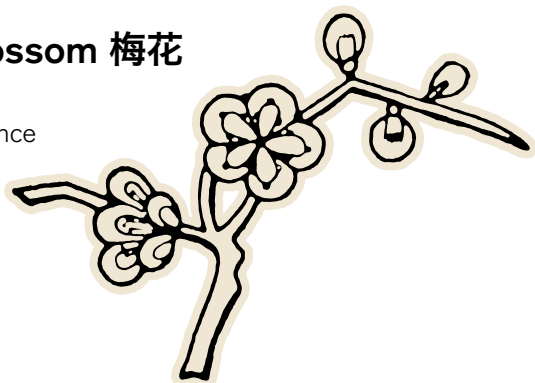
### Cloud 云

- Peace
- Good fortune



### Plum blossom 梅花

- Winter
- Perseverance
- Purity



### Butterfly 蝴蝶

- Summer
- Happiness in marriage



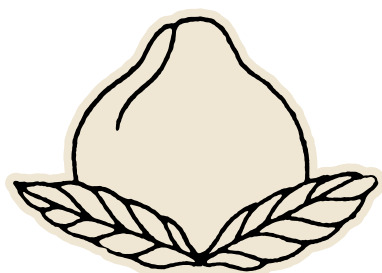
### Bat 蝙蝠

- Happiness



### Peach 寿桃

- Long life



### Peach and Bat 寿桃和蝙蝠

- 'May you live long and be happy'

