

A Golden Age of China: Qianlong Emperor, 1736–1795

NGV INTERNATIONAL

27 MAR – 21 JUN 2015

Ground level

Exhibition entry fee waived for pre-booked school groups.



Giuseppe Castiglione
Italian 1688–1766, worked in China
1714–66
*Portrait of Qianlong Emperor in ceremonial
court robe* 清人画弘历朝服像轴 Qing
dynasty, Qianlong period 1736 (detail)
coloured inks on silk
238.5 x 179.2 cm
The Palace Museum, Beijing

A Golden Age of China tells the story of the fourth Emperor of the Qing dynasty (1644–1911), Qianlong Emperor, (1711–1799) who was a captivating ruler and China's preeminent art collector. It examines the life of one of China's most fascinating rulers through a display of over 120 precious works including paintings on silk, imperial seals made from jade, gold, ivory and sandalwood, silk court robes, ceremonial hats, court beads, and jewellery. The finest decorative arts will be represented including porcelain ceramics, vibrantly painted enamel and statues.

On his accession to the throne at the age of twenty-five, the Qianlong Emperor vowed to heaven that he did not intend to reign longer than his grandfather the Kangxi Emperor who ruled for sixty-one years. During Qianlong's reign from 1736–1795, China was the wealthiest and most populous nation in the world and China was the largest territory in the entire history of China. The Forbidden City in Beijing was the Emperor's imperial palace where he resided and ruled.

Student programs

Introductory talk

All levels

Enter the Forbidden City and discover hidden treasures. Explore the world of the Qianlong Emperor who was descended from the Manchu rulers and became the sixth Manchu emperor, the fourth Emperor of China and Son of Heaven during the Qing dynasty. Examine the external self of the emperor to discover his inner self. What led the Emperor to become a scholar, art collector and connoisseur of cultural heritage? What were his interests and what legacy did he leave?

Cost \$7

Imperial robes workshop

All levels

Become an Emperor for a day. The Qianlong Emperor's robes were sumptuous, embroidered with auspicious symbols and made of yellow silk reserved for the Son of Heaven. Create your own design for a ceremonial robe, headdress or court shoes inspired by the symbolism imbedded in the treasures of the Forbidden Palace. Includes introductory talk.
Cost \$18 (2 hours)

Calligraphy and painting workshop

All levels

Become a scholar for a day. The Qianlong Emperor studied Chinese painting, loved to paint and particularly loved to practice calligraphy. He was also passionate about poetry and added inscriptions to the paintings in the Imperial collection. Create your own poem and practice brush painting to produce your own scroll painting. Includes introductory talk.
Cost \$16 (2 hours)

Collection Connections: Ancient History

Recommended for Year 7

The NGV Asian collection spans objects and artworks from Neolithic China, and the Shang dynasty to the last great dynasty of the Ming. Trace the ancient history of China through bronze vessels and ceramic and jade artefacts, as well as paintings on silk and other textiles. Gain an understanding of how these objects reflect the society in which they were produced, as well as a rich resource for insights into rituals, philosophy, religion and cultural beliefs.

Cost \$13 (2 hours)

NGV Schools

Virtual Excursion

All levels

A video conference introduction to *A Golden Age of China* for school groups who are not able to attend the exhibition. This interactive illustrated introductory talk with an NGV Educator will explore key works and themes in the exhibition and will be tailored to the level of the participating students. For information about how to participate in an NGV Virtual Excursion via videoconference please contact our Education Booking Office.

Cost \$110 (45 mins)

Professional Learning

Teacher Morning

Sat 28 Mar, 8–11.30am

Meet the Senior Curator of Asian Art, Dr. Mae Anna Pang, who will introduce the exhibition and the themes of the exhibition in an introductory talk. Exhibition viewing, light refreshments and resources provided.

Cost \$70

A Golden Age of China webinar

Wed 15 Apr, 4–5.15pm

Join NGV Educators for a free online professional learning program. Programs include an overview of the exhibition, and interactive discussion about resources and learning activities related to the exhibition.

Cost Free

The Schools Access program is generously supported by Mrs Krystyna Campbell-Pretty and the Campbell-Pretty Family

Bookings and enquiries

03 8620 2340, 12–5pm weekdays

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