

# CONFUCIUS



SHAPING VALUES THROUGH ART

SEPTEMBER 18, 2008–JANUARY 11, 2009

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## SHAPING VALUES THROUGH ART

The teachings of the philosopher Confucius (Kongzi or Kongfuzi) have permeated Chinese culture for 2,500 years. They also spread to Korea, Japan and Vietnam, so that East Asian society is united in part by Confucian values. A fundamental goal of Confucianism is to order human society by instilling in each person a code of behavior, emphasizing such concepts as virtue, humanity and respect for elders. Over the centuries, art has played a critical role in giving form to these concepts, and much of what we consider to be “Confucian art” reflects the propriety and sobriety of the philosophy.

This exhibition demonstrates how some of the most fundamental teachings of Confucius have been expressed visually. Some representations are direct, such as the bold calligraphic characters that promote the virtues of benevolence and loyalty. Others are more subtle: filial piety is inspired by scenes of loving children helping their parents, while depictions of bamboo signify moral integrity. Such Confucian motifs often appear on art for the wealthy and powerful, but also decorate items made for daily use by the general population. In both cases, their meanings permeate the cultural consciousness helping instill moral values at all levels of society.

This exhibition first introduces Confucius’ teachings. Subsequent sections highlight reverence for parents and ancestors, the concept of the virtuous ruler and administrator, and the “gentleman” who embodies self-cultivation through study and artistic pursuits. This exhibition concludes with images of Confucius in California and the voices of Asian Americans—testimony to Confucius’ global significance today.

*Meher McArthur, Guest Curator*

# 孔子：以藝術形塑價值

兩千五百年來，孔子的教誨在中國文化中廣為人知，並傳播到韓國、日本與越南，故可說東亞社會有部份是由孔子提出的價值觀所結合。儒家的基本目標之一，是以一行為準則規範人類社會，強調仁善、德行與孝道。而藝術向來在形塑這些概念時扮演重要角色，許多被視為「儒家藝術」的作品都反映儒家思想中的禮儀與節制。

本展呈現最基本的儒家教誨如何以視覺表現。有些是直接傳達，如粗體書法字直接宣揚人性與忠誠的價值；較隱約者，例如疼愛子孫的繪畫有助於促進孝道、竹則象徵道德的完善。這些儒家主題常出現在權貴人家的奢華收藏品上，不過許多一般大眾的日常什物也以此為裝飾。總之，這些圖像的意義超越社會階級，被人們潛意識地吸收，有助於灌輸道德價值。

本展首先介紹孔子思想，其餘各展區則著眼於敬重父母與祖先、賢明君臣的概念，以及藉由學習與藝術形塑自我修養的「君子」，最後以加州的孔子圖像與各族群的聲音做結——這正是今日孔子全球性影響力的明證。

客座策展人梅爾·麥克亞瑟

# 공자: 미술로 보는 그의 교훈

현인 공자의 가르침은 지난 2500여년동안 중국 뿐 아니라 한국, 일본, 그리고 베트남에도 큰 영향을 주어 동아시아 문화권을 하나로 묶어주는 토대가 되었다. 유교사상의 가장 중요한 본질은 사회윤리, 즉 삼강오륜과 대의명분을 강조함으로써 인간사회의 질서를 확립하고 사회안녕을 유지하는 것이다. 이에 지난 수세기 동안 미술은 유교의 추상적인 관념에 형상을 부여하는데 중요한 역할을 해왔다.

본 전시회는 공자의 교훈이 시각예술을 통해 어떻게 표현되어 왔는가를 보여주고자 한다. 유교사상을 반영하는 미술은 문자를 통해 직접적으로 유교의 근본이념을 가르치는 서예로부터 간접적으로 윤리와 도덕규범을 가르치는 그림에 이르기까지 다양하게 이루어져 있다. 예를 들어 대나무를 소재로 하는 묵화를 통해 절개와 지조를 강조하였으며 아버이를 모시는 자녀를 묘사하는 그림으로 효행을 가르쳤다. 또한 유교를 소재로 하는 미술품은 지배 계층의 호사품에서 보여지기도 하지만 일반대중을 위한 소박한 장식품에서도 쉽게 찾아볼 수 있다.

본 전시회는 유교사상을 소개한 후 부모와 조상에 대한 도리, 후덕한 군주와 관리, 군자와 그들의 선비정신을 함양하는 문인화를 살펴본다. 마지막으로 캘리포니아에서 찾아볼 수 있는 공자의 모습과 사회의 목소리를 통해 현대사회에 자리잡고 있는 공자의 중요성을 되짚어 보고자 한다.

메허 맥아터, 객원 큐레이터

All events are free with admission; call 626-449-2742 ext. 31 to RSVP.

**SEPTEMBER 17–30** FREE TEACHER ADMISSION

Pacific Asia Museum is honoring teachers in celebration of Confucius's Birthday.

**SEPTEMBER 27, 1PM** Curator's Tour with Meher McArthur

**OCTOBER 3, 8PM** FILM At the center of the world's attention, China has arguably the most vital, imaginative, and uncontrollable art scene. The Rising Tide investigates China's meteoric march toward the future through emerging artists whose work captures the social and aesthetic confusion of a rapidly changing society. Live introduction by director Robert Adanto.

**OCTOBER 4, 10:30AM** SILK ROAD STORYTIME Gather in the travelers' tent to hear stories from China, the home of Confucius.

**OCTOBER 12, 1PM** "CONFUCIANISM IN CALIFORNIA: PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION, THE SECULAR AS SACRED" Dr. Jonathan H.X. Lee will discuss the role of Confucianism in Chinese immigrant communities historically and today, as well as its current revival in China.

**NOVEMBER 1, 2PM** "Christianity and Confucian Values in Korea" with Jonghun Joo of Fuller Seminary.

**NOVEMBER 1, 10:30AM** SILK ROAD STORYTIME Gather in the travelers' tent to hear stories from China, the home of Confucius. Free with admission.

**NOVEMBER 2, 2PM** "ANCESTORS AND ART" Open-house demo & display of Chinese and Latino cultures and arts; learn about ancestor altars and enjoy amazing paper-cutting folk arts!

**NOVEMBER 9, 2PM** LECTURE/DEMO Appreciate the art of Chinese calligraphy, its different styles, and how it is practiced with Dr. Hung-hsiang Chou of UCLA.

**DECEMBER 6, 10:30AM** SILK ROAD STORYTIME Gather in the travelers' tent to hear stories from China, the home of Confucius.

**DECEMBER 6, 2–4PM** "CONFUCIUS IN MODERN ASIA" Confucian scholars, including Dr. David Schaberg, Dr. Robin Wang and Dr. Samuel Yamashita, come together for a panel discussion, then break into small group discussions with the audience.

**JANUARY 10, 2–4PM** "Confucian Values in Professional & Personal Life" Community leaders discuss the role of Confucianism in daily life, then join in small group discussions with the audience.

These programs are made possible through the additional support of the National Endowment for the Arts and Pacific Asia Museum's Chinese Arts Council.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### 致謝

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### 감사

본 박물관은 본 전시회를 가능하도록 작품을 대여해 준 클레어몬트의 스크립스 대학, 김 순욱 박사, 제이 폴 게티 박물관과 오로빌 시에게 감사를 전하는 바이다.

본 전시회는 제임스 얼바인 재단, 박물관 도서관 협회, 캐롤린 르네 발서, 그리고 조지 하우스너에 의해 후원되었다.



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