



Virtual Collection of Masterpieces

"It is indeed very remarkable, rich in content, broad in scope with an excellent choice of objects. What is interesting and important of course is the collaborative and inclusive aspect of the project."

Neil MacGregor, director of the British museum

An international cooperation project between museums

32 Asian and 35 European museums have contributed to gather together approximately 1300 masterpieces within the Virtual Collection of Masterpieces (VCM). The VCM is a Web-accessible selection of images and accompanying information on Asian masterpieces. It aims at promoting mutual understanding and appreciation between the peoples of Asia and Europe. This virtual collection is a considerable research tool for anyone interested in Asian art and cultural history.

The VCM is supported as a flagship project by the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) in Singapore and the Asia-Europe Museums Network (ASEMUS). It is led by a consortium of 7 Asian and European museums (VCM Board of Trustees): Museum Volkenkunde, Leiden (The Netherlands), National Museum of Korea, Seoul (Korea), Chester Beatty Library, Dublin (Ireland), National Museum of the Philippines, Manila (The Philippines), Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam (The Netherlands), National Museums of the World Culture, Gothenburg (Sweden) and Asia Pacific Regional Organisation of ICOM (ICOM-ASPAC).

Version 3.0 of the VCM has been launched by on November 6th, 2008 during ASEMUS General Conference in the National Museum of the Philippines.

Now on view: new contributors

- The British Museum, London, UK

The British Museum collections, which number more than seven million objects, are amongst the largest and most comprehensive in the world. 11 of its masterpieces are displayed in the VCM.

- The Kulturen Museum, Lund, Sweden

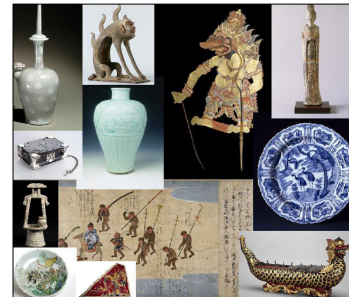
The museum was founded in 1882 by Georg Fredrik Johansson Karlin. Kulturen is next to Skansen in Stockholm the biggest Swedish open-air museum. 27 of its masterpieces are displayed in the VCM.

- The Museum of East Asian Art, Bath, UK

Since its opening in 1993, the Museum of East Asian Art has been a beacon of East Asian art and culture in the west of England and houses one of the most remarkable collections of art from this part of the world in the United Kingdom. 10 of its masterpieces are displayed in the VCM.

- The Gemeentemuseum (Municipal Museum), the Hague, the Netherlands

It owns a large collection of modern art and other collections covering disciplines such as fashion, music and arts & crafts. The museum owns an important collection of Asian Art. 26 of its masterpieces are displayed in the VCM.



To discover: new stories



- "Made in Japan"

To celebrate the 2009 Japan year, the Museum of Ethnology in Vienna has planned a yearlong program series, "Japan for All Seasons". The exhibition "Made in Japan," assembled from the most important Japanese collections in the Viennese Museum of Ethnology, illustrates cultural contacts between Austria and Japan during the two last centuries.

- "In northern Sumatra: the Batak"

This exhibition (musée du quai Branly) is an invitation to discover a collection of remarkable artefacts created by a people from the Sumatran highlands: the Batak. Highly finished works, created with an evident care for ornamentation, the artefacts in the exhibition invite the visitor to lose himself in the intricacy of their detail, to share in the secrets they contain.

- "The Smile of Buddha - 1600 years of Buddhist art in Korea"

The Belgian Center for Fine Arts in Brussels contacted the National Museum of Korea in Seoul in 2006 and proposed a special exhibition and other activities. "The Smile of Buddha" brought for the first time 130 extraordinary Korean pieces of art to Belgium and explained the history of the development of Buddhism.

New Asian lead partner



Steven Engelsman (Director of the Museum Volkenkunde, Leiden) and Manus Brinkman (VCM Content editor) held talks with the National Museum of Korea. Choe Kwang-shik, the director of the National Museum will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the VCM to become the VCM Leading Partner in Asia.

Chinese campaign

The Virtual Collection of Masterpieces is the beginning of a long commitment to cooperation between Asian and European museums. The extension of the VCM is specifically focused on those countries that do not yet have many participating museums (e.g., China, India, Pakistan and Mongolia). After a fruitful meeting between the VCM team and the Chinese authorities in Beijing in May 2009, the VCM will present the masterpieces of more than 30 Chinese museums before 2010.

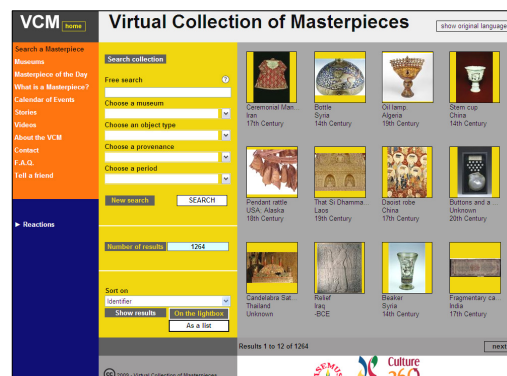
New sponsor

Gerlach Art Packers and Shippers is a Dutch company specialised in art shipping. Gerlach is fully engaged in the cultural world in art handling and shipping. They are known for their customer-oriented approach and expertise. Gerlach's president, Fred Weijertse, has underlined Gerlach's commitment to culture by sponsoring the VCM Chinese campaign.

www.gerlachgroup.com



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Search a masterpiece

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List of contributing museums



Austria, Vienna, Museum für Völkerkunde
 Brunei, Kota Batu, National Museum
 China, Beijing, Palace Museum
 China, Hong Kong, Museum of Art, Kowloon
 China, Shanghai, Shanghai National Museum
 Czech Republic, Prague, Náprstek Museum
 Finland, Helsinki, Didrichsen Art Museum
 Finland, Helsinki, Kulttuurien Museo
 France, Paris, Musée du quai Branly
 France, Paris, Musée Guimet
 Germany, Göttingen, Ethnographic Collection of the University of Göttingen
 Germany, Hamburg, Museum für Völkerkunde
 Germany, Munich, Staatliches Museum für Völkerkunde München
 Hungary, Budapest, Ferenc Hopp Museum of Eastern Asiatic Arts
 Indonesia, Jakarta, Museum Basoeki Abdullah
 Indonesia, Jakarta, Museum Kebangkitan Nasional
 Indonesia, Jakarta, Museum Nasional Indonesia
 Indonesia, Jakarta, Museum Sumpah Pemuda
 Ireland, Dublin, Chester Beatty Library
 Italy, Rome, Museo "Giuseppe Tucci"
 Italy, Rome, Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico "Luigi Pigorini"
 Japan, Nagasaki, Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture
 Japan, Tokyo, National Museum
 Korea, Busan, Busan Museum
 Korea, Seoul, Hanyang University Museum
 Korea, Seoul, National Museum
 Korea, Seoul, Sejong University Museum
 Korea, Yongin-city, Kyonggi-do, Gyeonggi Provincial Museum

Laos, Vientiane, Hong Prakaew
 Laos, Vientiane, National Museum
 Laos, Vientiane, Sisaket Museum
 Laos, Vientiane, That Luang Museum
 Latvia, Riga, Museum of Foreign Art
 Netherlands, Amsterdam, Rijksmuseum
 Netherlands, Amsterdam, Tropenmuseum
 Netherlands, Leeuwarden, Keramiekmuseum Princessehof
 Netherlands, Leiden, Museum Volkenkunde
 Netherlands, the Haye, Gemeentemuseum Den Haag
 Philippines, Dasmariñas, Museo De La Salle
 Philippines, Makati City, Ayala Museum
 Philippines, Manila, National Museum
 Poland, Krakow, National Museum in Krakow
 Poland, Torun, District Museum Torun
 Poland, Warszawa, National Museum in Warsaw
 Poland, Warszawa, Muzeum Azji i Pacyfiku w Warszawie
 Portugal, Lisbon, Calouste Gulbenkian Museum
 Portugal, Lisbon, Palácio Nacional da Ajuda
 Singapore, Singapore, Asian Civilisations Museum
 Singapore, Singapore, National Museum of Singapore
 Singapore, Singapore, National Archives of Singapore
 Singapore, Singapore, NUS Museum
 Singapore, Singapore, Singapore Art Museum
 Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovene Ethnographic Museum
 Spain, Madrid, Museo Nacional de Antropología
 Sweden, Lund, Museum of Cultural History
 Sweden, Gothenburg, Museum of World Culture
 Sweden, Stockholm, Museum of Ethnography
 Sweden, Stockholm, Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities
 Sweden, Stockholm, Medelhavsmuseet
 Thailand, Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai National Museum
 Thailand, Chiang Rai, Rai Mae Fah Luang
 Vietnam, Hanoi, National Museum of Vietnamese History
 Vietnam, Hanoi, Vietnam Museum of Ethnology
 Vietnam, Hanoi, Vietnam Fine Arts Museum
 United Kingdom, London, Victoria and Albert Museum
 United Kingdom, London, British Museum
 United Kingdom, Bath, Museum of East Asian Art