Universität Zürich[UZH]

Chair in East Asian Art History

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Rämistrasse 73
8006 Zurich
www.khist.uzh.ch/ostasien



L: *Saekdong*, Darcygom, 2022. © Jihoon Jung courtesy Darcygom
M: *Seokguram* Shakyamuni Buddha, Silla Dynasty, 774. © Bulguksa, Gyeongju.
R: Melon-shaped ewer with bamboo decoration, Goryeo Dynasty, 12th c. © MET

Introduction to Korean Art History

Spring 2025

Tomoe Steineck, Dr.

**Excursions will be announced and include the gallery and depository of the Rietberg Museum, including a guide with the curator, and the special exhibition "Hallyu! The Korean Wave" and the accompanying Conference: "Korean Wave(s)? Global Itineraries of Korean Art and Culture"*

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"INTRODUCTION TO KOREAN ART HISTORY"

Instructors:	Tomoe Steineck, Dr.
Contact:	tomoe.steineck@aoi.uzh.ch
Class time:	**Wednesdays, 14:00-15:45**
Location:	N.N.
Language:	English and German
Format:	on campus, excursions to the Museum Rietberg Zurich

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the context of visual cultural studies, this course provides an introduction to the study of Korean art history. The course examines Korean art and culture from the Neolithic period to the 21st century, focusing on the relationship of art to its historical contexts. We will consider tangible and intangible cultural heritage, the semantic content of which is linked to cultural history and its intercultural relations in the world. A wide range of representative examples - archaeological objects, sculpture, ceramics, architecture, paintings, prints, crafts, installations, performances, contemporary art, etc. - will be used to examine changing concepts of function, meaning, style, subject, medium, artist, art and Korea itself.
By the end of the course, students will be able to identify key works of Korean art, place them in their historical and social context, and articulate their significance within broader cultural developments. They will be able to describe and critically analyse these works and use appropriate terminology in both oral and written communication. A "mapping jam" will be held in the last 10 minutes of each session, encouraging a quick visual identification in gamified style.
During the introductory session, deadlines and styles for assignments and topic options will be discussed (students are expected to show initiative in their topic choices and express their interests). A brief overview of the different types and cultures of object description will be given.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course aims to:

- develop students' critical and historical awareness of the development of Korean art;
- cultivate their understanding of the role and function of art within its religious, political, social and economic contexts in the specific region;
- assist them in developing "visual literacy" in interpreting Korean art objects;
- develop students' general knowledge of key art historical terms, methods, and issues relevant for the study of this culture's art;
- to foster both individual and collective learning, develop research skills including ability to find, evaluate, organize relevant research sources for written assignments, and articulate ideas effectively in class discussions.

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION:

Teaching:
The required readings for the course are listed in the syllabus and are uploaded to OLAT. Further readings may be added during the semester. Any changes to the required reading will be

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announced in class and on OLAT. The following volumes are required minimum reading for the class:

- Park, J.P., Burglind Jungmann, and Juhyung Rhi, eds. *A Companion to Korean Art*. Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley-Blackwell, 2020.
- Portal, Jane. *Korea. Art and Archaeology*. London: British Museum Press, 2000.

- Active participation in discussions on all assigned material and registration to OLAT is expected.
- The course language will be adapted according to the needs of the class, while the assignments can be completed individually in English or German.
- The KHIST Course / Assignment Rules serve as a guide, and students are expected to know and understand these: http://www.khist.uzh.ch/de/chairs/ostasien/Studium/Richtlinien.html. Failure to comply will result in your paper being returned ungraded

Examination:
To receive the 9 ECTS credits for this class, the following assignments must be completed satisfactorily and by the given deadline:

- Oral presentation with PowerPoint of 5 to 8 minutes.
- Object analysis paper (Objektanalyse), 3-4 pages (9'000-12'000 characters incl. spaces, without counting footnotes, bibliography and image captions), academic format required Deadline: 31.05.2025.
  - A signed *Selbständigkeitserklärung* must be submitted with each written assignment.
- Final exam on 28.05.2025 (during regular class time). Exam questions will be based on content of the class lectures, PDF handouts and the required readings, covering all sessions of the course.

! Students are expected to meet all assignment deadlines without reminders. If you anticipate a delay due to a valid reason (e.g., illness), please contact the instructor before the deadline. Failure to submit an assignment on time, without prior approval, will result in grade deductions ! Given the comprehensive scope of the material covered in this course, regular class attendance is essential. Students are required to complete the assigned readings and be prepared to participate in discussions.

Generative AI tools are NOT allowed for course assignments. The use of Grammarly or DeepL for spelling and grammar checks is allowed. However, do not use the generative AI extension of these tools. Include a cover sheet with your details and the course title with your written assignments!

Object analysis paper
For the object analysis, you can choose an art object from those shown in class or independently researched material as will be discussed in the first session. Please choose an object that is different from the one in your presentation to diversify your knowledge. Depending on the number of participants, multiple images can be chosen and oral descriptions trained in class or during excursion.

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Please read and follow the KGOA Guidelines for Object Analysis on the KGOA website: http://www.khist.uzh.ch/de/chairs/ostasien/Studium/Richtlinien.html. It must follow the KGOA Guidelines for Academic Writing (e.g. formatting, referencing, etc.) posted on the above website. Please submit your written assignment until 23:59 of deadline date, via *email attachment*.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Date	Topic	Dates
Session 1	Never say "Korea": Introduction into area studies in art and cultural history Formal issues: Syllabus & OLAT, requirements, course preparation and instructions for assignments	19.02.
Session 2	Prehistory: early pottery on the peninsula; tumuli and excavated burial objects; mural paintings and golden crowns in interregional context	26.02.
Session 3	Three Kingdoms period: The emergence of Korea	05.03.
Session 4	Buddhist art on the peninsula and its primary characteristics: an overview of the genre with a focus on sculptures and ritual objects	12.03.
Session 5	Silla, Unified Silla & Balhae: dynamics across East Asia	19.03.
Session 6	Dance! Shamanism in the tangible and intangible cultural heritage	26.03.
Session 7	"Best under Heaven": Celadon and major stoneware and ceramics	02.04.
Session 8	Illuminated manuscripts and the Tripitaka Koreana	09.04.
Session 9	Joseon Dynasty: Literati and court art	16.04.
Session 10	Minhwa: Symbols of magic and humour in everyday life	30.04.
Session 11	The Colonial period: resistance and assimilation	07.05.
Session 12	Excursion: Rietberg Museum. *Hallyu! The Korean Wave*	14.05.
Session 13	*Lee Bul*: Close up of Korean contemporary art Group project with all participants and lecturer	21.05.
Session 14	Exam	28.05.
	Object Analysis deadline	31.05.