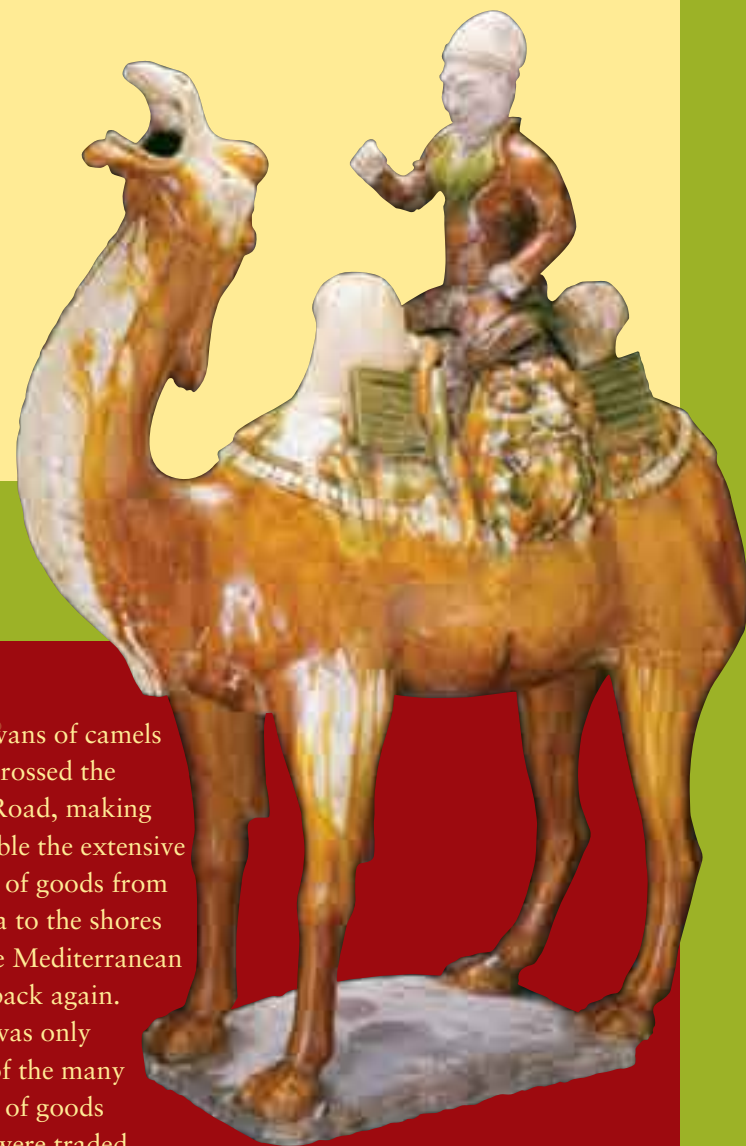


Pick up a floor plan to locate these works of art.

Traveling
the **SILK ROAD**
and Beyond



Caravans of camels crisscrossed the Silk Road, making possible the extensive trade of goods from China to the shores of the Mediterranean and back again. Silk was only one of the many types of goods that were traded. Ceramics, gold, jewels, spices, horses, textiles, and other valuable goods were also carried along the Silk Road.

Camel Caravan
Gallery 105

This camel's two humps tell us it's a Bactrian camel from today's Afghanistan. Bactrian camels can travel up to 30 miles a day, carry hundreds of pounds, and go for more than a week without water. Camels are known to have a bad temper! Look at the angry expression on this camel's face, as he stretches his long neck to complain.

Find:

- saddlebags in the form of large monster-face masks
- a large hole in the camel's belly showing that this sculpture is hollow

● *Camel and Rider*, A.D. 700–750 Chinese. Earthenware with three-color (*sancai*) lead glazes. Gift of Mrs. Bertha Thorne

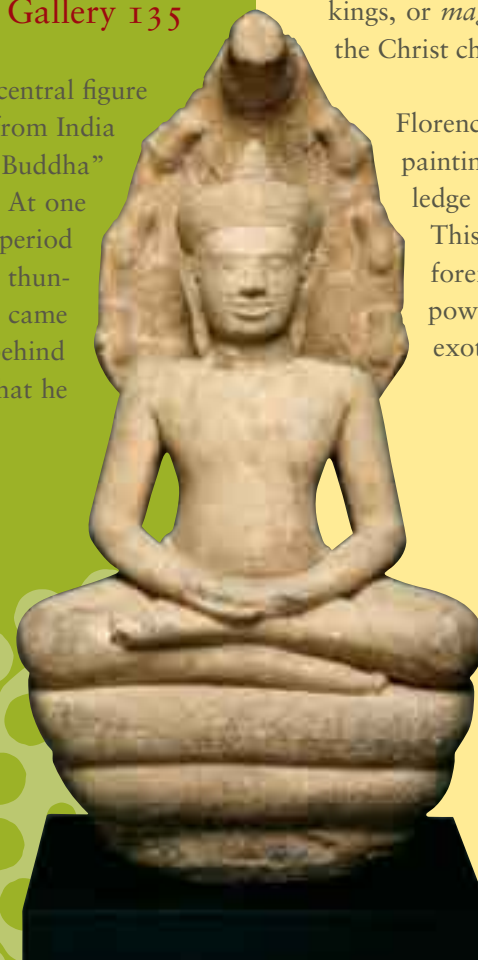
Peaceful Position
Gallery 135

This sculpture represents the Buddha, the central figure of the Buddhist faith. Buddhism traveled from India to China along the Silk Road. The word "Buddha" means "enlightened" or "awakened" one. At one time, while Buddha was meditating over a period of several weeks, there was a very violent thunderstorm. The serpent king Muchalinda came and puffed up his hood, the loose skin behind a snake's head, to shelter the Buddha so that he could meditate peacefully.

Find:

- the coils of the snake's body beneath the Buddha
- the snake's hood framing the Buddha's head

● *Buddha Sheltered with Muchalinda*, 1201–1300. Thailand or Cambodia. Sandstone. The James W. and Marilyn Alsdorf Collection.



Visitors from Afar
Gallery 208
(Gallery 141, September 30–December 3, 2006)

This Renaissance painting was made at a time of exploration and discovery. It tells a Christian story—of three kings, or *magi*, who travel to Bethlehem to bring gifts to the Christ child, a new king.

Florence was a prosperous center of trade, and this painting shows the influence of new ideas and knowledge made possible by trade with faraway places. This painting shows people and animals that were foreign to Florence. The Medici, a wealthy and powerful family from Florence, kept a zoo full of exotic animals.

Find:

- the parade of visitors traveling from the ship and along the curving path
- precious gifts offered to the Christ child
- a camel, giraffe, monkey, and peacock

● Attributed to Raffaello Botticini. *The Adoration of the Magi*, 1477–1520. Tempera on panel. Mr. and Mrs. Martin A. Ryerson Collection.

The Allure of Africa
Gallery 222

At the time these sculptures were made, slavery had just been abolished throughout the French colonies, and many Europeans were fascinated with Africa. These sculptures were made by Charles Henri Joseph Cordier, a French artist who worked from live models. He built these works from clay, carefully sculpting the details to accurately show their facial features, the textures of their hair, the soft drape of their garments, and the details of their clothing and jewelry. The clay models were later used as casts to create these bronze sculptures.

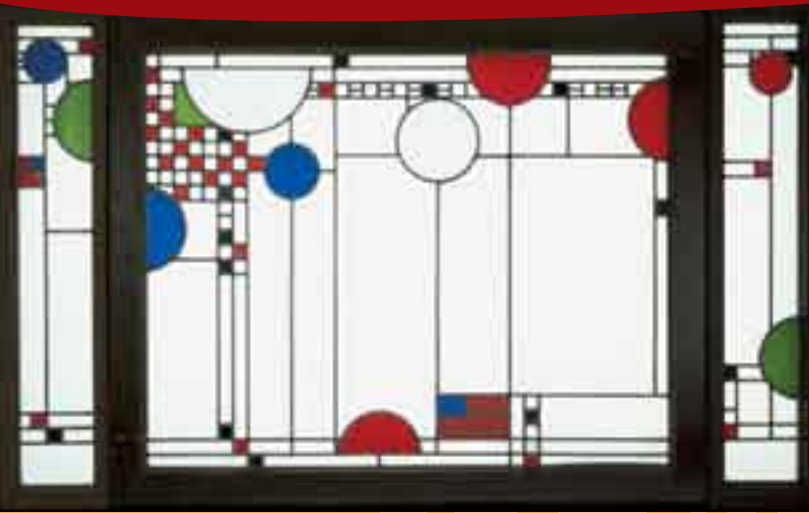
Look for:

- a feather plume flowing from the man's headpiece
- the woman's earrings that are like real earrings
- the serene and dignified expressions on the models' faces



● Charles Henri Joseph Cordier. *Bust of Said Abdullah of the Darfour People* (detail), 1848. Bronze. Ada Turnbull Hertle Endowment.

● Charles Henri Joseph Cordier. *Bust of an African Woman* (detail), 1851. Bronze. Ada Turnbull Hertle Endowment.



Light and Color

Gallery 200

(Gallery 141, December 9, 2006–
January 29, 2007)

Frank Lloyd Wright, America's most famous architect, traveled to Japan, collected Japanese prints, and was influenced by Japanese art and architecture.

Wright paid a great deal of attention to the details of his projects, often designing windows, furniture, and sometimes even the landscape plants around his buildings. He designed this window for the Avery Coonley Playhouse, a small schoolhouse in suburban Chicago. Imagine the effect of the light shining through the colored glass on the walls of the classroom. The design of this window is said to have been inspired by a parade.

Find:

- colored glass shapes that suggest balloons, flags, and confetti
- three separate leaded-glass panels that make up this window

Frank Lloyd Wright. *Triptych window from a niche in the Avery Coonley Playhouse, Riverside, Illinois, 1912.* Clear and colored leaded glass in oak frames. Dr. and Mrs. Edwin J. DeCosta and the Walter E. Heller Foundation.

The Story of Silk

Gallery 142

This woodblock print is from a series of 12 by the famed Japanese printmaker Kitagawa Utamaro. This print series shows the actual tasks involved in making silk—a technique that the Japanese imported from China. Rather than showing the laborers who would have been involved in this process, the artist shows us beautiful women dressed in fine silk kimonos.

Silk production is a long and difficult process. In the month between the time the silkworm eggs hatch and the silkworms spin their cocoons, they must be fed day and night with chopped mulberry leaves, the only food they will eat. Silkworms will eat up to 10 times per day right before they spin their cocoons. After the moths are released from their cocoons, the silk thread can be harvested.

Find:

- the silkworm cocoons boiling in a hot water bath
- a woman unwinding the silk thread from a cocoon
- skeins of silk thread hanging to dry

Kitagawa Utamaro. *Women Engaged in the Sericulture Industry, No. 9, about 1800.* Color woodblock print. Clarence Buckingham Collection.



Transformation

Gallery 140

The rich blue color of this bottle's decoration comes from cobalt, a mineral that was imported in large quantities into China from Persia, now known as Iran. China was well known for manufacturing attractive blue-and-white porcelain wares, and this style became very popular throughout Europe. This vessel was made in China with the intention of sending it to the Middle East for sale as a hookah, or water pipe. The bottle was brought to England by someone who purchased it, and its function was transformed into a ewer, or wine pitcher, with the addition of the silver mounts.

Find:

- clusters of cobalt blue flowers, leaves, and branches
- the silver-hinged top for pouring liquid into the ewer
- the silver head of a bird used as a spout

Ewer. Porcelain: China, Ming Dynasty, Wanli Period, 1573–1619; Mounts: England, London, 1610. Hard-paste porcelain, cobalt blue, silver. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Medard W. Welch.

Join us throughout the year for free family programs related to the Silk Road exhibition, including the highlights below.

Exhibitions

Stories from the Silk Road

Through May 28, 2007

Galleries 10, 16

On view are original illustrations from picture books about the people who traveled the Silk Road, including Muslim scholar Ibn Battuta, Mongolian leader Ghengis Khan, and Marco Polo. Illustrations from Chinese, Indian, and Middle Eastern folktales are also displayed.

Family Programs

Wreathing of the Lions

November 24, 10:00–3:30

All ages

Holly Days

December 27, 10:30–3:30

December 28–30, 12:30–3:30

All ages

Silk Road Family Day

April 14, 10:00–3:30

All ages

For more information on family programs at the Art Institute, call (312) 857-7161 or visit www.artic.edu/aic and click on “Families.”

SILKROAD project
Art Institute of **Chicago**
Symphony Orchestra

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