

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

FAMILY SELF-GUIDE

TAOISM

AND THE ARTS OF CHINA



Come **JOIN ME** and travel back in time

..... to meet **GODS AND ANIMALS** from ancient China!



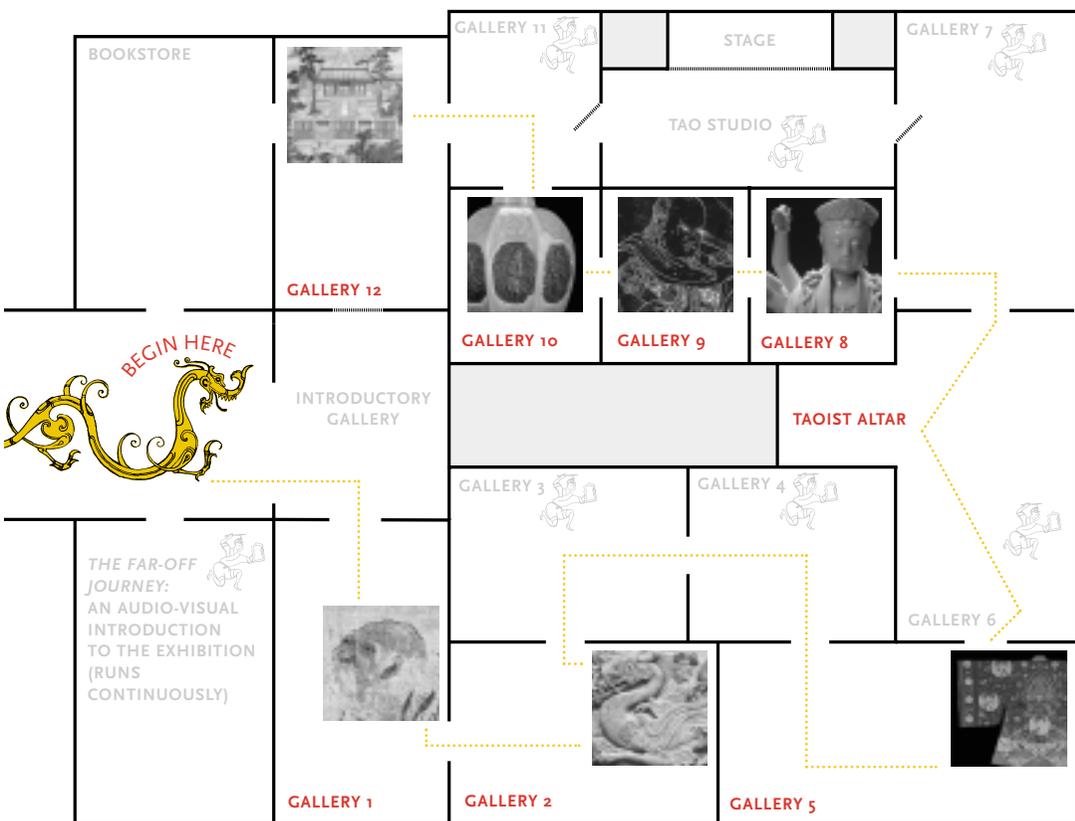
FAMILY SELF-GUIDE

Taoism and the Arts of China
THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

November 4, 2000–January 7, 2001
Regenstein Hall
Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Building

TAOISM

AND THE ARTS OF CHINA



EXPLORE THESE AREAS ON YOUR OWN



TAOISM FACT

Taoism comes from the word Tao ("dow"), which means the Way. To follow the Tao is to follow the path of nature and to try to live in harmony with it.

What is TAOISM?





Begin by finding LAOZI riding an OX



Zhang Lu. *Laozi on an Ox*, Ming dynasty, early/mid-16th century. Hanging scroll; ink on paper. National Palace Museum, Taipei

Meet Laozi!

Laozi (“la-o-dzh”) was a wise man who lived 2500 years ago in China. He founded the religion now known as Taoism (“dow-ism”).

Can you find these things in the picture? Write the matching numbers in the boxes:

BEARD

Since Laozi means “old master,” the beard shows him as a wise old man who knows everything.

OX

Laozi decided to leave China because of corrupt rulers. He mounted an ox and traveled west. But before he could leave China, the border guard asked this wise man to write down his ideas.

SCROLL

Sitting on an ox, Laozi wrote the book *Daode jing* (“dow-duh-jing,” which also can be spelled *Tao-te ching*). This is the most important book in Taoism. Then Laozi left China and nobody knows what happened to him!

Look for a BAT in this painting!

Bats are symbols of good fortune in China.



to ride a dragon or tiger!



GALLERY 2

Meet the DRAGON of the EAST



and the TIGER of the WEST!



Two Panels from a Sarcophagus: Tiger and Dragon,
Northern Wei dynasty, c. 500–535.
Limestone with traces of pigment and gilding.
Robert C. Tang Collection, Hong Kong

Fierce Protection

These panels come from a stone coffin.

The tiger and dragon may have protected the dead person inside.

? Are the riders male or female?



TAOISM FACT

Out of the Tao emerged qi (“chee”), or breath. All things are made of qi. It is divided into two kinds of energies called yin and yang. Yin is female, while yang (“yahng”) is male. This idea is represented through the yin-yang symbol (at the top of each page). It can also be shown through the tiger and the dragon: the tiger stands for yin and the dragon stands for yang.





Which is which?

Draw a line connecting each animal to its name.



THE DRAGON

THE TIGER

THE BEAR-HEADED MONSTER

The Chinese Zodiac

The dragon and the tiger are two of the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac. Each year falls under a different animal. Every 12 years, the cycle begins again. Did you know that the year 2000 is the Year of the Dragon?

Look at the chart to find the animal sign for the year YOU were born!

TIGER 1938 1950 1962 1974 1986 1998 	OX 1937 1949 1961 1973 1985 1997 	RAT 1936 1948 1960 1972 1984 1996 	PIG 1935 1947 1959 1971 1983 1995 
DOG 1934 1946 1958 1970 1982 1994 	ROOSTER 1933 1945 1957 1969 1981 1993 	MONKEY 1932 1944 1956 1968 1980 1992 	SHEEP 1931 1943 1955 1967 1979 1991 
HORSE 1930 1942 1954 1966 1978 1990 	SNAKE 1941 1953 1965 1977 1989 2001 	DRAGON 1940 1952 1964 1976 1988 2000 	RABBIT 1939 1951 1963 1975 1987 1999 

Next stop: GALLERY 5



where you will find many CHINESE ROBES



Would you like to wear this CHINESE ROBE?



This type of robe is worn by a Taoist priest when he performs a ceremony.

Above:

Taoist Priest's Robe,

Qing dynasty, early 19th century.

Painted silk gauze.

Minneapolis Institute of Arts; John R. Van Derlip Fund

Right:

Taoist Ritual from The Plum in the Golden Vase,

Qing dynasty, Kangxi period, c. 1700.

Alburn leaf; ink and colors on silk.

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City,

Uhlmann Family Fund, 1983



Find a hanging scroll in this gallery that shows a Taoist priest wearing a similar red robe decorated with cranes.

TAOISM FACT



In some Taoist ceremonies, the priest performs a dance with special steps that follow the shape of the stars that form the Big Dipper.





Animal Count!

Look carefully at the Chinese robe and write how many of each animal you see on the robe.

DRAGONS

Dragons live in the sky, rivers, and oceans. Since they control water and rain, they are responsible for the harvest.

CRANES

Cranes are symbols of long life.

PHOENIXES

The phoenix is the bird of the south who is believed to appear in times of peace.

Look for DRAGONS



Look for CRANES



Look for PHOENIXES



Next, find the sword in this gallery!

Clues: a lion's head and an animal skin on the handle

? Would you like to wield a magical sword?

Taoist priests used swords like this one to destroy demons by tracing magical patterns in the air. Swords were often engraved with patterns of stars.

? How has the artist shown the pattern of stars on this sword?

Right:
Taoist Ritual Sword,
Qing dynasty, 18th century.
Steel, brass and rayskin.
The Art Institute of Chicago; gift of Mrs. E. F. Jeffery

On the way to GALLERY 8



stop by the altar room in GALLERY 6 to experience the sights and sounds of a Taoist ritual space!



GALLERY 8

With her many arms, **DIPPER MOTHER**

helps people and holds sacred weapons, vessels, and more!



The Dipper Mother,
Qing dynasty, 18th century.
Dehua porcelain.
Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

? How many arms does the Dipper Mother have? Her many arms show that she is a powerful goddess.

? What would you do if you had a lot of arms?

TAOISM FACT

The Dipper Mother is the mother of the seven stars of the Big Dipper.

When you look up at the sky tonight, try to find the Big Dipper!

Hint: It is in the northern sky.

Connect the dots!

Draw the Big Dipper!

A dipper has a handle and a bowl.





What is missing?

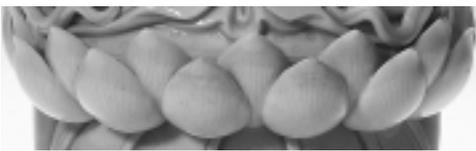
Draw a line to match each detail to the picture!



Since the Dipper Mother's children live in the sky, the **SUN AND MOON** keep them company.



MUDRA, or hand gestures, have special meanings. Try this gesture out for yourself!



The Dipper Mother sits on a **LOTUS FLOWER**, which stands for purity because it grows out of muddy water and becomes a beautiful flower.



With her **THIRD EYE**, the Dipper Mother can see everything. This eye also represents spiritual knowledge.

Continue your journey along the Way by walking into **GALLERY 9**

to find the warrior who stands on his tortoise and snake!





Meet ZHENWU



as he descends from heaven on a black cloud!

Ink rubbing of a stele from the Six Harmonies Pagoda, Hangzhou, Zhejiang province. *Zhenwu, Supreme Emperor of the Dark Heaven*, Ming dynasty, Wanli reign, dated 1586. Hanging scroll; ink on paper. Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City; bequest of Laurence Sickman

Look for a **WARRIOR!**



Chen Yanqing. *Zhenwu, Supreme Emperor of the Dark Heaven*, Ming dynasty, Zhengtong reign, dated 1439. Gilt bronze. The Art Institute of Chicago; gift of Robert Sonnenschein II

TAOISM FACT

In China, the four directions are represented by animals:

South: Phoenix

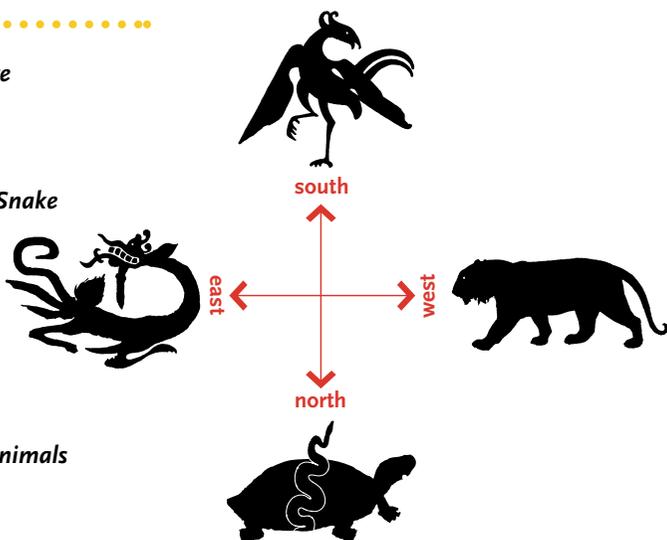
North: Tortoise entwined by a Snake

East: Dragon

West: Tiger

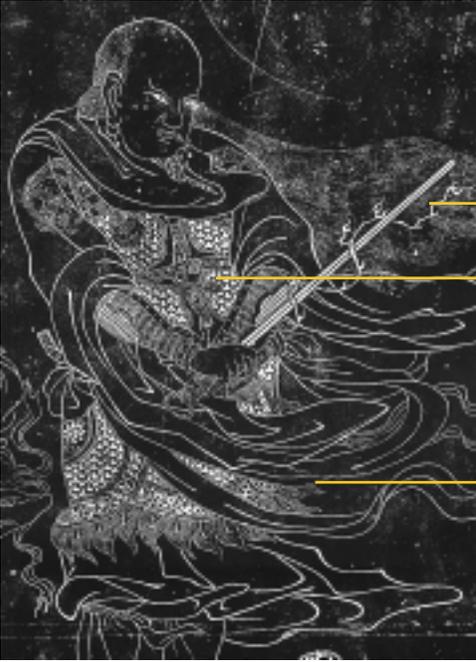
In China, the top of a map is always south.

Now you have seen all of the animals of the four directions!





Zhenwu ("jen-woo") means "Perfected Warrior." He is a guardian of both Taoism and China.



Look for:
a sword with a crackling flame around it
armor to protect his body

wind-blown robes that show he won't be knocked over, even by the strongest gusts

Try posing like Zhenwu.
How do you feel?



This gallery is full of sculptures and paintings of Zhenwu.

Find the bronze sculpture of this warrior.

- ? What is he doing?
- ? Which image of Zhenwu do you like the best?

Walk to GALLERY 10



to visit the EIGHT Immortals!



GALLERY 10

IMMORTALS have
the power to fly and **LIVE FOREVER!**



Vase with the Eight Immortals,
Yuan dynasty, c. 1350.
Longquan celadon ware.
Private collection, New York

TAOISM FACT

Immortals live in either the heavens or mountain paradises. The Chinese character for “immortal” is made up of two parts: one that means “person” and the other that means “mountain.” When you combine these characters, you write the word “immortal”!

人 *Person* 山 *Mountain*
仙 *Immortal*

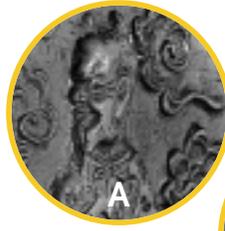
**What does it mean to be immortal?**

An immortal is a magical being who can fly, walk on the clouds, and never die.

How many immortals do you see on this vase? The Eight Immortals are the most popular figures in Taoism.

Who's Who?

Match each immortal's description to the picture.


 LÜ DONGBIN

("loo doong-bin") He holds a sword and a gourd (the hard, dried shell of a fruit). His sword is a tool for conquering ignorance and it can also be used to slay demons.

 ZHONGLI QUAN

("joong lee-chwahn") The leader of the group, he carries a fan that makes the dead come back to life.

 HAN XIANGZI

("hahn shyahng-dz") He holds a flute. When he plays it, he can attract birds and animals.

Can you find the rest of the Eight Immortals on this vase?

LI TIEGUAI

("lee tyeh-gwai") He wears tattered clothing and supports himself with a long iron crutch.

LAN CAIHE

("lahn tsai-huh") He is carrying a flower basket.

CAO GUOQIU

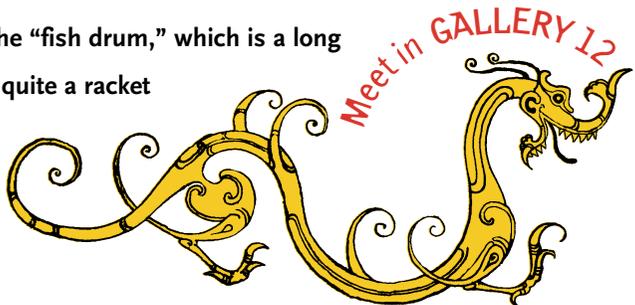
("ltsao gwo-jyo") He is carrying a pair of clappers.

HE XIAN'GU

("huh shyen-goo") She is the only woman of the group and she carries a bamboo ladle.

ZHANG GUOLAO

("jahng juo-lao") He holds the "fish drum," which is a long bamboo tube. He can make quite a racket with this instrument.





GALLERY 12

End your tour of the Way by climbing
DRAGON AND TIGER MOUNTAIN!



Above:

Guan Huai. *Taoist Temples at Longhu Shan*,
Qing dynasty, late 18th century.
Handscroll; ink and colors on silk.
Los Angeles County Museum of Art;
gift of Shane and Marilyn Wells

This landscape was drawn from a bird's-eye view. That means the artist drew it as though he were looking at the scene from above, like a bird.

Right and below:

Details of *Taoist Temples at Longhu Shan*.



Have you ever seen a landscape from way up above the clouds?

TAOISM FACT

In Taoism, the earth is respected as a living being and the natural world (especially the mountains) are thought to be sacred.





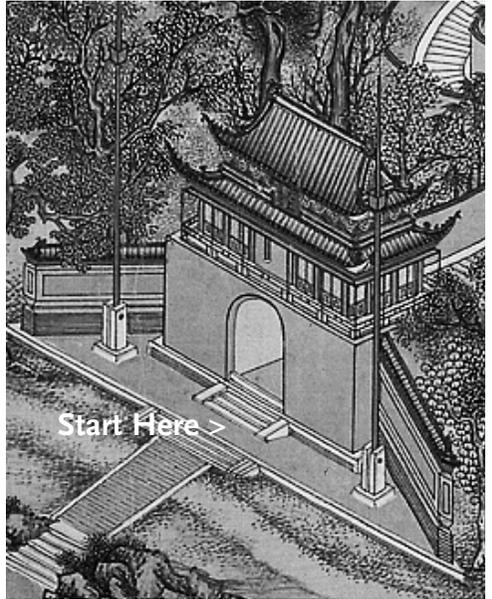
What do you see?

✓ Check off the things you see in the landscape.

- MOUNTAINS
- RIVER
- TREES
- MIST
- WATERFALL
- CAVE ENTRANCE
- GATE
- STEPS
- BUILDINGS

Stand back from the painting.

Using your finger, trace in the air the path you would take to climb the mountain and visit the temples.



Try it at home!

Imagine you are a bird . . .

On a piece of white construction paper, using tempera paints, colored pencils, or markers, draw or paint your neighborhood from a bird's-eye view!

Will you include trees, animals, people, streets, buildings, and cars?

Then, create a decorative border on either side of your painting just like the embroidery along the borders of Chinese paintings.



ON YOUR NEXT VISIT...

Plan to attend a FAMILY PROGRAM related to *Taoism and the Arts of China*.

All family programs are free with voluntary museum admission. (Visitors pay what they wish but must pay something.) Unless otherwise indicated, programs take place in the Kraft Education Center.

FAMILY WORKSHOPS

November 4, 10:30–11:30

“The Tiger and the Dragon: The Story of Yin and Yang”

Ages 4–6

November 4, 2:00–3:30

“Gods, Immortals, and Mythical Beasts: The Art of Taoism”

Ages 7–12

November 18, 10:30–11:30

“From the Tip of the Brush: Calligraphy with Ed Young (Tzu Chang)”

Ages 4–6

November 18, 2:00–3:30

“Chinese Calligraphy with Ed Young (Tzu Chang)”

Ages 7–12

DROP-IN ART ACTIVITIES

November 24, 25, and 26, 10:30–3:30

“Celebrate the Arts of China: Scroll Painting”

All ages

December 2, 3, 9, 16, and 17, 12:30–3:30

“The Artist’s Studio: Chinese Fans”

All ages

FAMILY GALLERY WALK

December 3, 17, 1:30–2:00

Taoism and the Arts of China

Ages 6 and older



The Taoist Immortal Lü Dongbin, Yuan dynasty, late 13th/early 14th century. Hanging scroll; ink and colors on silk. Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City; purchase, Nelson Trust.



TAO SPECIAL

“T’ai chi and Calligraphy with Ed Young (Tzu Chang)”

November 25, 26, 11:00, 12:00, and 1:00 (45 minutes)

Ages 6 and older

Tao Studio, Regenstein Hall

Meet at exhibition entrance 15 minutes before the hour. Space is limited.

We cannot accept groups at drop-in activities.

Questions? Call (312) 857-7161.

Taoism and the Arts of China is organized by The Art Institute of Chicago.

The exhibition is supported by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation; the Estate of William Bronson Mitchell and Grayce Slovet Mitchell; the Henry Luce Foundation; the Freeman Family Foundation; and The W. L. S. Spencer Foundation.

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