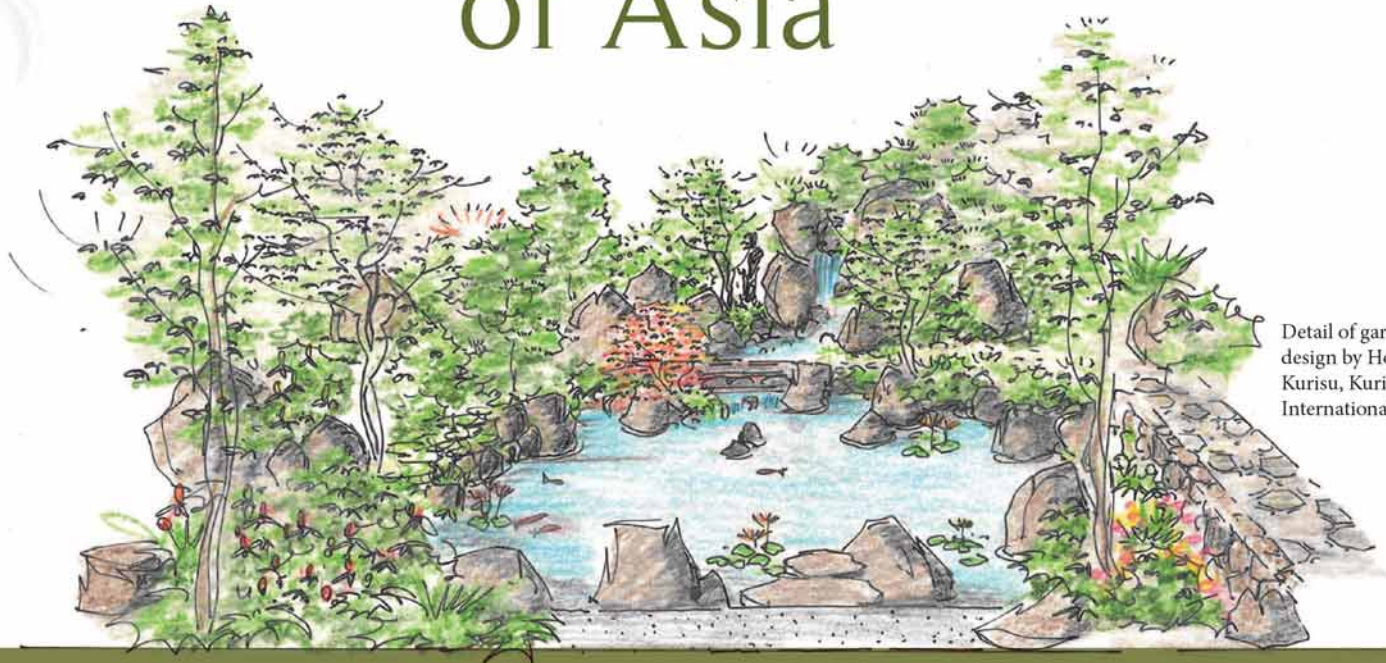


## FAMILY GUIDE

# Nature & Art of Asia



Detail of garden  
design by Hoichi  
Kurusu, Kurisu  
International, Inc.

We are surrounded by nature. You interact with nature when you:

- Go for a walk in your neighborhood
- Find seashells on the beach
- Look up at the stars at night

Artists have been inspired by nature for thousands of years and have always wanted to make the beauty they see in nature their own.

The people of Japan created carefully pruned gardens in which they arranged ponds, bamboo and flowers to make their visitors feel peaceful. Japanese gardens are one example of how people over the centuries have used elements from nature to create new worlds.

The artists you will encounter in the galleries have taken the materials and the inspiration they found in nature to create beautiful works of art.



COFRIN  
ASIAN ART  
WING

The inaugural exhibitions are generously supported by the AEC Trust, Korea Foundation, Korea Cultural Heritage Administration and Central Florida Office Plus.



## Artists travelled to the Mountains to make art.

Writers and painters from China, Japan and Korea traditionally gathered together in nature to write poetry and paint.

Can you see the house hidden in the mountains in the scroll painting above?

Do you ever make art or write stories with your friends? About what?

The way artists look at and make pictures of nature is influenced by the way they think about the world. Mountains were very important to the people of China, and they believed that gods lived in seclusion in the mountains. In this jade rock, we can see a sage (wiseman) hidden beneath a tree.

Top left: China, *Landscape in the Style of Wang Meng*, 1730, Chen Shu (1660 - 1736) Museum purchase, funds provided by the Kathleen M. Axline Acquisition Endowment

Bottom right: China, *Boulder with Sage and Attendant in a Cave* 17th-18th Century, bequest of Dr. David A. Cofrin



India, *Ganesh*, c.1950s, Jamini Roy (1887 – 1972), gift of Majorie Oberne

The Indian artist **Jamini Roy** made paint from elements found in the earth.

He used materials like lampblack (soot from oil lamps), leaves, seeds and cow dung. He created brightly colored paintings that expressed how proud he was of his Indian culture.

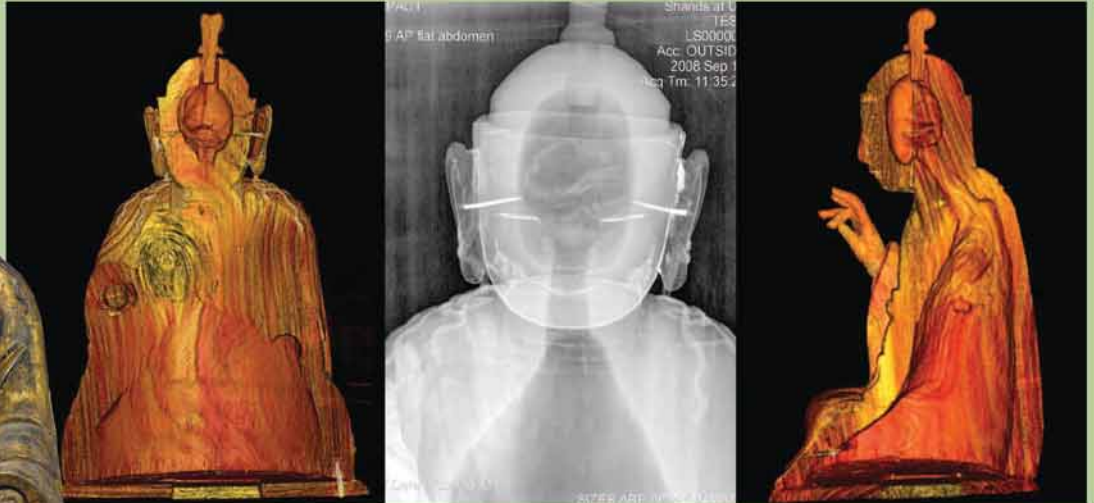
What materials would you use to represent your culture? Are they similar or different from the materials Jamini Roy used?



The Korean Bodhisattva was carved entirely from one tree trunk.



Korea, *Gilt Wood Seated Bodhisattva*, 17th century  
Museum purchase, gift of Michael and Donna Singer



CAT scans and X-ray image of the *Gilt Wood Seated Bodhisattva*

The Harn Museum took this statue of a Buddhist follower to a hospital to be X-rayed to see what it was made of. The X-rays show us the texture of the wood.



Japan, *Guardian Oni Mask*  
14th century  
Gift of Kagedo Japanese Art

The **Japanese Guardian Oni Mask** was also carved from wood, but you don't need X-rays to see what it is made of.

Have you ever looked at a tree and imagined it to be a make-believe creature? List some creatures you have imagined:

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Chinese artists made it a game to find the strangest shaped rocks, give them wooden pedestals and call them scholar's rocks. These scholar's rocks were placed in homes and gardens.

What animal does this **Scholar's Rock** look like?

Have you ever found a rock that seemed to be shaped like an animal? Or shaped like something you have never seen before?



China, *Upright Scholar's Rock*  
19th - 20th century, museum purchase, funds provided by friends of the Harn Museum



China, *Flowers, Fruit, and Vegetables*, 1856  
 Gu Shao (active c. 1810 – 1860), museum purchase, funds provided  
 by the Kathleen M. Axline Acquisition Endowment

Look through the galleries  
 and see if you can find  
 these examples of **nature**:

- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Fruits    | Forests |
| Animals   | Rivers  |
| Mountains | Trees   |

**Haiku is a form of poetry**  
 from medieval Japan,  
 traditionally written  
 after observing nature.

The Haiku has three lines. The first line has 5 syllables, the second has 7, and the third has 5. Every word has at least one syllable. For instance, the words “frog” and “cloud” have one syllable but “silent” has two syllables: “si” and “lent.” Here is an example of a Haiku written by poet Matsuo Basho (1644-1694):

An old silent pond...  
 A frog jumps into the pond,  
 splash! Silence again.

### Create Your Own Haiku Below

Line 1: Pick your favorite work of art  
 Line 2: Pick one detail that nobody else has found  
 Line 3: Then look out the window and mention something you see outside!

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_



Written and compiled  
 by Education Intern  
 Anna Mebel, Spring 2012

**Guided Tours**  
 Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

[www.harn.ufl.edu](http://www.harn.ufl.edu)