

# KOREAN ART: COLLECTING TREASURES

## COLLABORATIVELY DEVELOPING AN ONLINE EXHIBITION AND DIGITAL COLLECTION

<http://exhibits.uflib.ufl.edu/harnkoreanart>

**KOREAN ART**

The Asian art collection at the **Harn Museum of Art** is among the largest and most comprehensive in the southeastern United States. Comprised of over 2,000 works, the collection ranges in date from approximately the 3rd millennium BCE to the present day and includes paintings, prints, sculpture, ceramics, bronzes, jades and lacquers from across Asia. The collection is organized into sub-collections by geographical region.

*Korean Art: Collecting Treasures* presents bronzes, ceramics, furniture, paintings, prints and sculpture from the Harn's collections. The exhibition features donations from General James Van Fleet (1892-1992) to the Harn in 1988. Highlights from the Van Fleet collection include hanging scroll masterpieces by Kim Hongdo (1745 - c.1806), Jang Seung-eop (1843-1897), and Kim Eunho (1892-1979), each noteworthy for their quality and rarity in Western collections.



17th CENTURY  
BODHISATTVA

GENERAL  
VAN FLEET

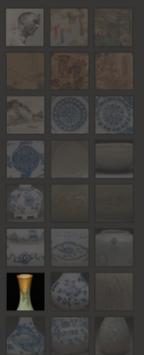


COLLECTION

CONSERVING TREASURES

**KOREAN ART**

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**Celadon Bottle with Irregular Glaze**

Goryeo Dynasty (918-1392), 13th Century  
Glazed stoneware  
10 1/2 x 5 x 5 in. (26.7 x 12.7 x 12.7 cm)  
Gift of General James A. Van Fleet  
1988.1.7

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CAT Scan taken at Shands at UF



### The Digital Collection

As the largest information resource system in the state of Florida with collections covering virtually all disciplines, the University of Florida Libraries supports an ongoing digitization program and Open Access to digitized materials through the University of Florida Digital Collections (UFDC).

The UF Digital Collections provides Open Access to materials from the UF Libraries, UF partners, and external partners. By leveraging the power of the UF Digital Collections to support materials from many different collections, the UF Digital Collections serve as a unifying repository that brings materials together in the open in ways that are not possible to do with closed silos. In doing so, the UF Digital Collections allows for the materials to inform each other while being explored and used in new ways.

All items from the Harn Museum of Art's Korean Collection, including multi-media content are freely available as zoomable images in the UF Digital Collections. Each work includes the Museum's database information of title, creator, date/period, accession number, donor, and any extended label copy available.

### The Online Exhibition

To celebrate the inaugural exhibitions at the Harn Museum of Art's new David A. Cofrin Asian Art Wing, the Museum partnered with the George A. Smathers Libraries to develop a permanent online exhibition. *Korean Art: Collecting Treasures* features all the items from the physical exhibition of the same name, as well as additional multi-media content. Additionally, all items from the Harn's Korean Collection are available as zoomable images in the UF Digital Collections (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu>) and thus freely available to an international audience, as well as to the local community and scholars. Making the art objects available through the Digital Collections allows them to be united with related texts in order to create a more complete research portal.

The online exhibition allowed content not available in the Museum's gallery to be displayed. Extensive medical imaging, as well as high resolution digitization in the round, and both art and paper conservation took place in order to better understand the Museum's exceptionally rare 17th-century Korean gilt wood bodhisattva from the Joseon Dynasty. The resulting images and videos of Cat Scans, X-Rays, and high resolution digitization are featured in the exhibition and permanently accessible and archived in the Digital Collections.

Other exhibition highlights are the Korean donations of General James A. Van Fleet (U.S. Army officer during WWI, WWII and the Korean War and UF football coach 1923-1924), including rare blue-and-white porcelains and hanging scroll masterpieces by Kim Hongdo (1745 - c.1806), Jang Seung-eop (1843-1897), and Kim Eunho (1892-1979), each noteworthy for their quality and rarity in Western collections. The items help paint a more complete portrait of General Van Fleet, who is already a part of the Digital Collections in photographs, newspapers and interviews.

Exhibition Curators: Jason Steuber, Allysa Browne Peyton and Lourdes Santamaría-Wheeler  
Exhibition Designer: Lourdes Santamaría-Wheeler