

Media Release

For immediate release

CHINAMANIA!

The Global Passion for Porcelain, 800-1900

A REVELATION OF DIFFERENT CULTURES THROUGH THE BEST IN PORCELAIN

Singapore, 1 August 2014 – Porcelain with exquisite and intricate designs reveals the connections between many cultures in the Asian Civilisations Museum’s latest exhibition. ***China Mania! The Global Passion for Porcelain, 800-1900*** will cast the spotlight on the highly sought-after treasures that had captured the imagination of many far beyond the shores of China, attesting also to the extensive cultural interactions from as early as the 9th century.

Dr Alan Chong, Director of the Asian Civilisations Museum explained: “The desire for porcelain has played a crucial role in many cultures around the world. Chinese porcelain, or high-fired ceramic, was thin, beautifully decorated, and extremely durable. An almost miraculous material, it was craved as a commodity. Porcelain was fashioned into many different shapes and decorated according to the tastes of consumers. The Asian Civilisations Museum is especially interested in bringing out these creative exchanges produced by trade. We have a special interest in Southeast Asia and the porcelain used and collected in the region.”

China Mania! brings together the best of export porcelain between the 9th and 20th century, desired and valued for its high quality and rarity. This exhibition shows how global demand and foreign efforts to mimic the Chinese craft inadvertently affected porcelain’s designs and craftsmanship. The stellar collection of over 180 rare and some never-seen-before artefacts includes commissioned courtly pieces, renowned Chinese *Jingdezhen* artefacts, and those produced in Vietnam, Japan, Middle East and Europe.

Nearly all of these exquisite porcelain artefacts are from the museum’s collection – many of them being shown for the very first time. This includes an exquisite incense burner with Japanese and European Baroque embellishments; a set of whimsical boar-shaped dishes that were used in traditional Japanese tea ceremonies; an extremely rare ewer in the form of a dancing woman known to have been collected by the Mughal court; and a set of courtly bowls with intricate Persian inscriptions which shows the appeal of porcelain for the Middle Eastern courts.

Visitors to the exhibition can explore the role of porcelain in trade and cultural exchange between China and the rest of the world through six sections: *The Demand for Porcelain in Southeast Asia*; *Dangerous Waters: Shipwrecks*; *New Markets, New Designs*; *Trading Art and Technology*; *The Craze for Things Chinese*; and *Chinese Porcelain for Peranakans*.

This exhibition will illustrate the shift in technical sophistication, innovations and adaptations of porcelain during the different historical milestones and eras. Also evident will be the knowledge transfer of porcelain-making expertise between different parts of the world that allowed Chinese craftsmen to adapt and apply foreign techniques to their wares eventually. This can be seen through the exquisite cobalt-blue glazing inspired by the Middle East by, and the creative inclusion of vivid colours inspired by the Japanese in the later years.

China Mania! The Global Passion for Porcelain, 800-1900 will be open to the public from 2 August to 14 December 2014.

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For media enquiries, kindly contact:

Ms Sharinita Ismail
Assistant Director
Asian Civilisations Museum
DID: 6332 7592 Mobile: 9670 2037
Email: sharinita_ismail@nhb.gov.sg

About the Asian Civilisations Museum

The Asian Civilisations Museum is dedicated to exploring the rich artistic heritage of Asia, especially Singapore's ancestral cultures. Through a collection of works of art and a varied exhibition programme, we hope to deepen understanding of Southeast Asia, China, South Asia, West Asia, and the Peranakan world. Rare among museums in Asia, the ACM connects audiences with many cultures.

About the exhibition

China Mania! The Global Passion for Porcelain, 800-1900

瓷风雅艺：中国外销瓷的千年魅力，公元800年至1900年

Exhibition Dates : 2 August 2014 – 14 December 2014
Venue : Asian Civilisations Museum
1 Empress Place, Singapore 179555
Website : www.acm.org.sg
Enquiries : 6332 7798 / nhb_acm_vs@nhb.gov.sg
Admission charges : Free admission for Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents
Opening hours : Monday to Sunday: 10am to 7pm (to 9pm on Friday)
Getting There : By MRT – Raffles Place
By Bus – 75, 100, 107, 130, 131, 167
By Car – Parking is available at Parliament House, Connaught Drive, The Fullerton Hotel, One Fullerton, and Six Battery Road

Programme Highlights

Saturdays@ACM

2 August 2014 & 1 November 2014 | 1pm – 5pm | Free admission

Saturdays@ACM: Supersized

4 October 2014 & 6 December 2014 | 1pm – 5pm | Free admission

***Bulan Bahasa* Weekend Festival**

6 & 7 September 2014 | 1pm – 5pm | Free admission

Curator Tour

19 September 2014 & 21 November 2014 | 7.30pm | \$15

Director's Tour

10 October 2014 | 7.30pm | \$50

ACM After Dark

25 October 2014 | 7pm till late | Free admission

Visit www.acm.org.sg for more exciting talks and programmes.