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The Muscarelle Museum of Art Announces Opening of  
**FIRE AND CLAY**  
NEW ACQUISITIONS OF CHINESE ANTIQUITIES

Williamsburg, Va. (May 6, 2017) --The Muscarelle Museum of Art is pleased to announce the opening of *Fire and Clay: New Acquisitions of Chinese Antiquities*, which will be on view until August 13, 2017. This exhibition represents a celebration and first public showing of an outstanding collection of Chinese art recently donated to the Muscarelle Museum of Art.

The generous gift comprises a masterpiece selection of twenty-one statuettes of figures and animals in earthenware and bronze representing an arc of almost two thousand years of one of the world's greatest art traditions, dating from circa 475-221 BC in clay and 400-201 BC in bronze and extending through 1279-1368 AD. In the course of this journey, the exhibition and the visitor will encounter enchanting examples from two golden ages of Chinese art, the Han Dynasty (206 BC – 220 AD) and culminating in the Tang Dynasty (618 – 906 AD).



The pre-eminence of Chinese earthenware, stoneware and bronzes arose not only from their antiquity, beauty and variety, but also from the enormous influence they exerted over the arts and crafts in both Asia and the West. *Fire and Clay: New Acquisitions of Chinese Antiquities* celebrates the incomparable skills of Chinese potters as they developed over centuries of tradition, making the study of Chinese antiquities one of the most developed and international fields in art history and archaeology.

**About the Muscarelle Museum of Art**

The Muscarelle Museum of Art is located on the campus of William & Mary at 603 Jamestown Rd in Williamsburg, Va. For more information, call 757-221-2700 or visit [muscarelle.org](http://muscarelle.org). Follow on [@Twitter](https://twitter.com/Muscarelle) (@Muscarelle), [@Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/muscarellemuseum) (@muscarellemuseum) or on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MuscarelleMuseum/) (Muscarelle Museum of Art).

Admission is \$10 per person at the museum on the day of your visit. Admission is free to Muscarelle Museum members, William & Mary students, faculty and staff, as well as children under twelve.

### Image Citations (listed from left to right)

Chinese | Eastern Han Dynasty | *Large Sichuan pottery figure of a "Storyteller" (Shuochang Yong)*, 25 – 220 AD | Earthenware and pigment | Muscarelle Museum of Art | Anonymous Gift | 2015.038

Chinese | Tang Dynasty | *Painted Red Pottery Figure of a Caparisoned Prancing Horse*, 618 – 907 AD | Earthenware and pigment | Muscarelle Museum of Art | Anonymous Gift | 2015.035

Chinese | Tang Dynasty | *Tian Wang Tomb Guardian*, 618 – 907 AD | Painted red earthenware and pigment | Muscarelle Museum of Art | Anonymous Gift | 2015.028, 1