

Chinese Folk Arts & Crafts Exhibition Sept 2012

Four Famous Embroideries

The stitch change of Chinese embroidery brings about different styles and schools of art. Chinese embroidery reached a high level during the Qin and Han Dynasty. Silk and embroidery were the main goods transported along the Silk Road. The most prominent examples of Chinese embroidery are Jiangsu embroidery (Su Xiu), Hunan embroidery (Xiang Xiu), Guangdong embroidery (Yue Xiu) and Sichuan embroidery (Shu Xiu). Together they were entitled the "Four Famous Embroideries".



First Minister of Wales, the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones, appreciating some Chinese embroideries.

Chinese Double-sided Embroidery

The double-sided embroidery, also known as double sides embroidery or two-faced embroidery, is a technique in which stitching takes place on both sides of a single transparent silk fabric. The design shows on both sides (front and reverse). The embroidery artists skillfully hide all the loose threads and knots. Such a piece embroidery is normally mounted on a wooden frame as a screen. One really can't tell which side is the front or the back. Embroidery on both sides is mainly reflected in China's four famous embroideries (hunan embroidery, suzhou embroidery, yue embroidery and su embroidery).

The origin of hair embroidery can be traced back to the Tang Dynasty, when girls cut their long hair and used it to weave the image of Buddha to show their piety.

Completing a Hair-Embroidery work needs complicated technology and material resources. Hair embroidery refers to embroidery where human hair is used as a thread instead of other materials. Hair embroidery uses ten different stitches such as binding, winding, interlinding, connecting and cutting knotting.



Hair-Embroidery

Huishan Clay

The clay modelling of Huishan is delicate, creative and vivid. It is not only one of the three specialities of Wuxi, but also is one of the well-known folk arts in China.

"Da A Fu" is probably the most famous figure, which usually appears as a plump boy holding a green lion or a fish, symbolizing for prosperity and luck.



Huishan Clay

Drum Rack With Phoenix Rack



Coloured Glaze



Red wine
bottles dress

Lacquerware are
objects decoratively
covered with
lacquer.



It was an important musical instrument during the Warring States Period. Two back-to-back lying tigers are used as the stand, heads held up and tails curled up. On each tiger stands a long-legged singing phoenix. In the middle a drum is suspended with two red ribbons on phoenixes' crests. Background is black and red, gold, yellow and blue pigments are used to paint the tiger's speckles and the phoenix feather with lifelike modelling and colourful painting.

The authentic Drum Rack with Phoenix Rack originated from the Tomb No.1 in JiangLing. It's made of ancient Nan wood over 2000 years ago. It has a special value of both collection and watching.

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Dongba Symbols

Dongba is a kind of hieroglyphic with both ideographic and phonetic elements.



Yangliuqing New Year Picture is a main kind of folk woodcut New Year Picture, which is named after its production place - Yangliuqing

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The Cloth Tiger, which had been very popular in the ancient times of China, is a cloth-made toy.

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