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**Images Available Upon Request*

Explore hidden gems in the Cincinnati Art Museum's East Asian collection this fall

Rediscovered Treasures on view September 19, 2025–January 18, 2026

CINCINNATI — June 17, 2025—A new exhibition will reveal the untold stories behind East Asian masterpieces long housed in the Cincinnati Art Museum's (CAM) collection. Featuring approximately 60 objects—ranging from Japanese armor and Chinese scrolls to Korean lacquer—[*Rediscovered Treasures*](#) brings to light transformative discoveries made possible by decades of scholarship, archival research and conservation efforts. *Rediscovered Treasures* will be on view September 19, 2025, through January 18, 2026.

While many of the featured works entered the museum in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, they remained unaccessioned or misidentified due to a lack of staff expertise in Asian art at the time. Since 2002, when the museum formally established its Asian art department, ongoing research led by Hou-mei Sung, PhD, Curator of East Asian Art, has dramatically improved the understanding of these objects. Their rediscovery has not only reframed the museum's collection, but has also illuminated Cincinnati's early cultural ties to East Asia.

Among the exhibition's highlights are three exceptional works: the fan-favorite Japanese bronze "magic mirror," which reveals an image of Amida Buddha under special lighting, making CAM one of the few museums in the world to house such an object; a Qing dynasty portrait of a court lady, identified through research as an imperial portrait of Lady Nian, possibly painted by the Jesuit artist Giuseppe Castiglione; and a Meiji period sumo wrestler's embroidered apron, recently linked to the tragic career of Otokoyama Osuke, a promising young wrestler immortalized in a *ukiyo-e* print by Utagawa Kuniaki II. Each piece offers a unique story of rediscovery that enriches the understanding of East Asian art and culture.

"This exhibition is both a reflection of CAM's mission to preserve and interpret cultural heritage and a celebration of the exciting process of rediscovery," said Sung. "Many of these works, once overlooked or mislabeled, now tell vibrant stories of art, of individual lives, and of historical connections that extend far beyond Cincinnati."

The exhibition is organized in three thematic sections. **Rediscovery** spotlights artworks recovered from storage and newly identified, including Japanese scrolls linked to Cincinnati artist Robert Frederick Blum and samurai armor tied to CAM's early supporters and a trailblazing Japanese doctor. **New Identities** feature reclassified works with newly attributed artists, corrected origins and uncovered meanings. **Conservation** highlights the scientific and technical efforts behind preserving these treasures, with insights from CAM conservators Cecile Mear and Kelly Rectenwald.

The exhibition will be on view in the museum's Thomas R. Schiff galleries (234 and 235) from Friday, September 19, 2025, through Sunday, January 18, 2026. Admission is free. Photography is permitted, but no flash. On social media, use the hashtag #CAMRediscoveredTreasures.

Upcoming, related events to be announced. Visit cincinnatiartmuseum.org for the latest information.

About the Cincinnati Art Museum

The Cincinnati Art Museum features a diverse, encyclopedic art collection of more than 73,000 works spanning 6,000 years. In addition to displaying its own broad collection, the museum conducts extensive research and

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creates and organizes several exhibitions each year. It also hosts national and international traveling exhibitions. Through these critical projects and art-related programs, activities, and special events, the museum contributes to a more vibrant Cincinnati by inspiring its people and connecting its communities.

The Cincinnati Art Museum is supported by the generosity of individuals and businesses that give annually to ArtsWave. The Ohio Arts Council helps fund the Cincinnati Art Museum with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The Cincinnati Art Museum gratefully acknowledges operating support from the City of Cincinnati, as well as its members. Free general admission to the Cincinnati Art Museum is made possible by a gift from the Rosenthal Family Foundation. Generous support for the museum's extended Thursday hours is provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program. Exhibition pricing may vary. Parking at the Cincinnati Art Museum is free. Accessibility accommodations are available. Visit cincinnatiartmuseum.org.

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