



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Whispers from the Stone:  
The James R. and Ann A. Peltier Collection of Chinese Jade***



**THE LSU MUSEUM OF ART  
OPENING SEPTEMBER 9, 2006**

**BATON ROUGE, La.**—The LSU Museum of Art in the Shaw Center for the Arts is presenting *Whispers from the Stone: The James R. and Ann A. Peltier Collection of Chinese Jade*, slated to open September 9, 2006. This exceptional fine art exhibition features 65 exquisite examples of Chinese jade from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

Sam Bernstein, an expert in Chinese jade collecting and owner of S. Bernstein & Co. in San Francisco, notes that “the Peltier Collection is one of the finest collections of jades from the glorious Ming and Qing Dynasties of Imperial China.” Gifted connoisseurs, the Peltiers have given the museum an exquisite jade collection accumulated over more than a decade that illustrates some truly extraordinary 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century Chinese jade works. The LSU exhibition, *Whispers from the Stone: The James R. and Ann A. Peltier Collection*, is the first showing of almost the entire Peltier collection.

Chinese jade has played a significant role in China’s artistic and cultural heritage. Venerated since prehistoric times, it has been carved into sacred objects, offered as celebrated gifts, and worn as coveted decorations. *Whispers from the Stone* will display the extraordinary collection of James R. and Ann A. Peltier, as well as pieces that the Peltiers have gifted to LSU MOA, in a striking and relevant presentation. Beyond the impressive entertainment/artistic benefits, the exhibit is intended to educate and inform visitors about the significant role jade has played in China’s artistic and cultural heritage.

**Page 2**  
**Chinese Jade**

Jade carving has been valued by Chinese emperors more highly than gold or silver since ancient times. *Whispers from the Stone: The James R. and Ann A. Peltier Collection of Chinese Jade* includes 65 exquisite examples of Chinese jade, the majority of which date from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Rich in imagery, the Peltier collection symbolically features numerous themes, among them wealth and abundance, power, longevity, good fortune, an individual's character, and scholarly pursuits.

A particular highlight is the exquisite sculpted figure of Shakyamuni, the historical Buddha, depicted near the moment of enlightenment. The incredible detail and delicacy of this piece communicates clearly the gentle and compassionate nature of its subject. Other spectacular examples include vases; rhytons; a wedding bowl; a scholar's brush pot and instruments; and a pillow of a crouching boy, which once belonged to Lord Mountbatten. Exhibition components include:

- 65 jades dating from the Qing dynasty (1644-1911);
- text panels relating to the artistic and cultural heritage of jade in China;
- a 52-page, full-color catalogue with high-quality photographs of the collection and a essays by Guest Curator Helen Delacretaz, Curator of Decorative & Fine Arts, The Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg, MB and Guest Writer Barry Till, Curator of Asian Art, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Victoria, B.C.; and
- Lectures, school programs, and workshops that interpret the artworks and provide educational opportunities.

**Programs:**

**Whispers from the Stone Gallery Talk**

Sunday, September 10, 2:00 pm, Free for LSU MOA members, all others free with museum admission Location: LSU MOA, Paula Garvey Manship Floor (fifth), Shaw Center for the Arts

*Whispers from the Stone* curator Helen Delacretaz explores the history of jade carving and collecting in China. Works from the exhibition are used to illustrate the many influences on carvers as well as the virtues pursued by their patrons.

**Origami Demonstration**

Sunday, September 10, 3:00 pm, Free for LSU MOA members, all others free with museum admission. Location: LSU MOA, Paula Garvey Manship Floor (fifth), Shaw Center for the Arts

For this demonstration, the strength of the jade featured in *Whispers from the Stone* is juxtaposed with the pliant paper used by Origami masters, Kao-Hua Sze and John N. Hu, Ph.D. It is believed the art of paper folding has existed since shortly after paper was invented in China around the 1st century CE. Two millennia later, this ancient art continues to captivate and inspire.

### **Evening for Educators: *Whispers from the Stone***

Thursday, September 14, 5:00 pm.

\$5 for LSU MOA members, \$8 for all others

Location: LSU MOA, Paula Garvey Manship Floor (fifth), Shaw Center for the Arts

Be our special guest on an evening just for educators! Get a guided tour of *Whispers from the Stone*, during which we will discuss ways to incorporate exhibition themes into the classroom and make connections to a number of curriculum areas. The program will include ideas for activities that encourage creativity and critical-thinking skills. All pre-registered participants get a CD with resource and images from the exhibition. To sign up, contact Lara Gautreau, education curator, at 225.389.7207; lgaut@lsu.edu.

### **Tai Chi Demonstration**

Sunday, September 17, 2:00 pm. Free, Location: Shaw Center for the Arts Plaza

LSU MOA continues to explore Chinese culture with a live Tai Chi demonstration. Part meditation and part martial art, this ancient practice has become popular around the world. Tai Chi Master Ya-Jun Zhan and his students will demonstrate the graceful motions.

### **Artists Up-Close, Leslie Koptcho**

Thursday, September 21, 6:30 pm. Free for LSU MOA members, all others free with museum admission. Location: LSU MOA, Paula Garvey Manship Floor (fifth), Shaw Center for the Arts

Leslie Koptcho is an LSU associate professor of art. Her prints and bookwork's, which are rich in surface and color, are included in prominent collections such as the Brooklyn Museum of Art, The Fogg Art Museum, the New York Public Library, and the New Orleans Museum of Art.

### **Tunes of the Times**

Sunday, September 24, 2:00 pm. Free for LSU MOA members, all others free with museum admission. Location: LSU MOA, Paula Garvey Manship Floor (fifth), Shaw Center for the Arts

From Paul Whiteman's 1925 *Charleston* to *Georgia on My Mind* by Ray Charles 1960, these nostalgic hits are sure to bring a fresh perspective to the exhibition *Paths to the Press*. Enjoy an afternoon of music and art as Bill Grimes, E. & D. White professor of jazz studies, and Willis Delony, associate professor of piano and jazz studies, perform a selection of music from years in which the art works were created.

The LSU Museum of Art thanks The Highlands Bank for generously supporting the exhibition.

The new LSU Museum of Art (LSU MOA) in the Shaw Center for the Arts is Baton Rouge's premier art museum. Located in downtown Baton Rouge overlooking the Mississippi River, it presents rotating, historical, and contemporary exhibitions. Selections from the permanent collection are always on display. The collection includes 17<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>-century American and British portraiture, landscape painting, prints, and decorative arts; pre-Civil War New Orleans silver; historical art from India, Japan, and South America; and contemporary Inuit sculpture.

General Admission to the museum: Adults - \$8; Seniors (65+), students, and LSU faculty/staff (with I.D.) - \$6; Children 5 to 17 - \$4. Children under 5 are admitted free.

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