

**ANCIENT BRONZE TREASURES FROM THE SHANGHAI MUSEUM TO DEBUT  
AT THE CLARK JULY 4, 2014**

**Exhibition of Rare Chinese Bronze Vessels and Bells is the Latest in Series of  
Exhibition Exchanges between the Clark and the Shanghai Museum**

July 27, 2014

WILLIAMSTOWN, MA—This summer the Clark Art Institute presents a new exhibition of exceptional Chinese bronze vessels dating from the late Xia through the Western Han dynasties (c. 1800 BCE–c. 8 CE). *Cast for Eternity: Ancient Ritual Bronzes from the Shanghai Museum* (July 4 – September 21, 2014) brings together thirty-two bronze vessels and a set of bells from the core of the Shanghai Museum's renowned collection of ancient bronzes. Part of a series of exhibition exchanges with the Shanghai Museum and a long tradition of engagement between the Clark and China, the exhibition is one of three special exhibitions that will open with the Institute's newly renovated and expanded campus this summer.

*Cast for Eternity* will be on view in the West Pavilion of the Clark's new Tadao Ando-designed Clark Center. The curatorial team is led by Tom Loughman, associate director of the Clark, and includes curators from both the Clark and the Shanghai Museum. *Cast for Eternity* is designed by architect Annabelle Selldorf, who created custom display cases and lighting for the installation.

A fully illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition, with essays by Zhou Ya, senior curator of ancient bronzes at the Shanghai Museum, and Liu Yang, curator of Chinese art and head of the Department of Asian Art at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The catalogue is published by the Clark and distributed by Yale University Press.

"In addition to presenting a fascinating look at ancient Chinese craftsmanship and a range of artistic expression, this exhibition is also the latest in an ongoing cultural exchange between the Clark and China and reflects our commitment to global outreach and scholarship," said Michael Conforti, director of the Clark. "*Cast for Eternity* speaks to the great collaborations we have built with leading museums around the world, allowing us to share memorable and meaningful exhibitions with our visitors."

"These objects, emblazoned with remarkable decorative motifs—abstract patterns and fantastic animals rendered in bas-relief—and some with beasts rendered in full three-dimensional form, each invite viewers to take a close look," said Tom Loughman, associate director of the Clark. "Together the works on view provide a stimulating introduction to some of the finest surviving bronzewares known."

*Cast for Eternity* showcases some of the most refined artifacts surviving from China's Bronze Age, when technologies for smelting and casting bronze were developed.

The innovation allowed artists to create more intricate forms and surface patterns as they designed vessels for ceremonial banquets and ritual use. Some of the bronzes on display are adorned with narratives; some are executed with inlays of red copper, gold, or silver; and some include inscriptions identifying the owner—typically royalty and clans—or the maker. Exhibition highlights include an early thin-wall cast three-legged food vessel (*ding*) with bas-relief cloud pattern from the late Xia dynasty (c. 1800–1600 BCE); an entire set of nine bells (*zhong*) made in the early Spring and Autumn period (770–early 7th century BCE); a coiled snake-pattern drum base from the late Spring and Autumn period (c. 600–476 BCE); and a bird-shaped wine vessel (*he*) with an animal-shaped handle and beast's feet from the early Warring States period (c. 450–221 BCE).

Beginning in 2008, the Clark and China's Ministry of Culture presented seven exhibitions of photographs made by Sterling Clark's 1908 scientific expedition to northern China, which toured museums and cultural sites throughout the region. In 2012, the Clark created four interrelated exhibitions focused on China that were presented both in Williamstown and New York, including an installation of recently excavated objects never before seen outside China. In 2013, the Clark's international exhibition *Great French Paintings from the Clark* and a second exhibition detailing Mr. Clark's expedition were on display at the Shanghai Museum.

*Cast for Eternity* is organized by the Shanghai Museum and the Clark Art Institute and is supported by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation and the Asian Cultural Council.

### **About the Clark**

The Clark Art Institute is one of a small number of institutions globally that is both an art museum and a center for research, critical discussion, and higher education in the visual arts. Opened in 1955, the Clark houses exceptional European and American paintings and sculpture, extensive collections of master prints and drawings, English silver, and early photography. Acting as convener through its Research and Academic Program, the Clark gathers an international community of scholars to participate in a lively program of conferences, colloquia, and workshops on topics of vital importance to the visual arts. The Clark library, open to the public with more than 240,000 volumes, is one of the nation's premier art history libraries. The Clark also houses and co-sponsors the Williams College Graduate Program in the History of Art.

The Clark opens its expanded facilities on July 4, 2014, unveiling new and enhanced spaces that accommodate the continued growth of the Institute's programs. Included in this final stage of the project are a new 42,600-square-foot Visitor Center designed by Tadao Ando Architect & Associates, expansion and renovation of the original Museum Building and the ongoing renovation of the Manton Research Center by Selldorf Architects, and a sweeping redesign of the grounds by Reed Hilderbrand. The first phase of the campus expansion project was completed in 2008 with the

opening of the Lunder Center at Stone Hill, a striking conservation and exhibitions facility also designed by Tadao Ando.

The Clark is located at 225 South Street in Williamstown, Massachusetts. Opening season hours: Galleries open daily from July 4 through October 13, 2014, 10 am to 5 pm (Fridays in July and August until 7 pm). From October 14, 2014 through June 30, 2015: Galleries open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is \$20 through October 31, 2014 and free year-round for Clark members, children 18 and younger, and students with valid ID. For more information, visit [clarkart.edu](http://clarkart.edu) or call 413 458 2303.

**Press Contacts:**

Sally Morse Majewski  
The Clark  
413 458 0588  
[smajewski@clarkart.edu](mailto:smajewski@clarkart.edu)

Sarah Brown McLeod  
Polskin Arts & Communications Counselors  
212 715 1639  
[sarah.brown-mcleod@finnpartners.com](mailto:sarah.brown-mcleod@finnpartners.com)

