



Press Release

Handmade and Handheld:

Song to Qing Dynasty Chinese Bronzes for the Scholar's Studio

October 26, 2025

The University Museum and Art Gallery, The University of Hong Kong is honoured to present *Handmade and Handheld: Song to Qing Dynasty Chinese Bronzes for the Scholar's Studio*. The eighty-seven objects illustrate a remarkable cultural continuum that links ancient ritual traditions to a sophisticated literati aesthetic and intellectual life. These bronzes, having transcended their original ritual functions, became prized art objects, instruments of scholarly inquiry, and emblems of moral and political values. Their diverse forms—from ritual vessels to intimate incense burners and scholarly desk pieces—reflect the deep integration of bronze into the fabric of imperial and literati culture. In so doing, many of the plants and animals—mythical or real—carry important auspicious meanings that contribute to the learned culture from which they originate.

The opening of the exhibition was held at UMAG on October 23. Officiating guests included the collector and author Mr Paul Bromberg, and UMAG Director Dr Florian Knothe.

This stylistic diversity and the technical innovations evident across these dynasties testify to the enduring creativity of Chinese bronze craftsmanship. At the same time, the reverence for antiquity that shaped both the collecting and production of bronzes anchored Chinese cultural identity in its historical and philosophical foundations, making scholar bronzes a vital medium of continuity and transformation within Chinese civilisation. Yet only a few museum exhibitions, collection catalogues, and scholarly publications have addressed the historical, artistic, and ritual significance of later Chinese bronzes, highlighting their diverse forms and functions from the Song through the Qing dynasties. Given their rarity, we thank Mr Paul Bromberg for his generous loan, without which we would not have been able to study and share with the public these finely cast bronzes and the auspicious meanings they hold.





Details of the Exhibition

Period: October 24, 2025 (Friday) to February 8, 2026 (Sunday)

Opening Hours:

9:30 am–6 pm (Tuesday to Saturday)

1 pm–6 pm (Sunday)

Closed on Mondays, University and Public Holidays

Venue: 1/F, Fung Ping Shan Building, UMAG, HKU, 90 Bonham Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong

Tel/Email: (852) 3917 5500 (General Enquiry) / museum@hku.hk

Admission: Free admission In light of the HKU Tourist Flow Management Scheme, please enter via the ground floor of the Fung Ping Shan Building

Website: <https://umag.hku.hk/exhibition/handmade-and-handheld-song-to-qing-dynasty-chinese-bronzes-for-the-scholars-studio/>

Connect with UMAG on Social Media:

Facebook: http://bit.ly/umag_facebook

Instagram: @umag_hku, #UMAG, #ChineseBronzes, #Scholarsstudio

YouTube: http://bit.ly/umag_youtube

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rednote: [香港大學美術博物館 UMAG](#)

About UMAG

UMAG was founded in 1953 as the Fung Ping Shan Museum. It was originally established as the Fung Ping Shan Library in 1932 in honour of its benefactor. For more information on UMAG, please click [here](#).

Media Enquiries

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Captions

For more images and exhibit captions, please click [here](#).

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