

# Oriental art highlights museum collections

By BILLIE-KAY KREWSON  
Of the Emerald

The University's Museum of Art has a wide variety of collections on display, but many students spend their years on campus without taking notice.

A collection of sculptures by former University Art Prof. Jan Zach is currently showing at the museum. Zach retired this spring after 20 years with the art department, and the collection reflects his work over that period.

The collection, on display until Aug. 12, includes art pieces in cast and hammered aluminum, stainless steel, and wood. Zach prefers working with stainless steel because it reflects lights and colors and because each person viewing the sculpture sees something different.

Inspirations for Zach's works come from nature — one of the exhibit pieces is designed from a wildflower.

The museum also has a rental and sales shop, which contains a juried collection of works available to the public for rental or purchase. A jury of art experts chooses pieces for the shop from works submitted by local artists, and the collection changes about once a year. The average rental fee is about \$12 for three months.

The museum's Northwest Gallery features works by regional artists. The exhibit changes as often as possible, so



Photo by Jimmi Harris

Complementing the Museum of Art's Oriental collection, in which this hanging sculpture is displayed, is a sculpture exhibit by Jan Zach, former University art professor, which runs through Aug. 12.

most of the important artists of this area can be shown during the year.

The most famous and valuable collection in the museum is the Murray Warner Collection of Oriental Art, donated by Gertrude Bass Warner in the late 1920s

in memory of her husband.

The museum itself, opened in 1933, was built with donations from school children throughout the state. Prince Lucien Campbell led the fund-raising effort.

Originally, the museum was built to house only the Warner collection, but in 1958 it was expanded to include other exhibits and collections.

Once Warner donated her collection, she went out to buy things to complete it. She made trips to the Orient to buy pieces from the national museum in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The pieces purchased were of lesser quality, to show students the difference between top-quality and less-valuable objects.

The most valuable piece in the collection is a nine-story jade pagoda ordered by Emperor K'ang Hsi for the birth of his grandson Ch'ien Lung in 1709. The pagoda was made as a spiritual offering to Buddha. The artistic value of the piece is in the handling of the jade, which is very difficult to carve.

The Warner Collection is one of three large Oriental art collections on the West Coast. Each collection emphasizes a different area of the art.

The Brundage Collection in the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco has an extensive collection of ancient Chinese bronzes and a very good collection of jade, while the Fuller Collection in the Seattle Art Museum features large pieces of stone sculpture.

Tours through the University Museum are available every Sunday at 2 p.m., or by appointment. The museum will close Aug. 12, and will re-open Oct. 7.

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