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rotating collections that thrive to compliment one of the best college museums in the country. It certainly got my vote.

Hold an 18th-century tea bowl (Chawan) in your gaze and you just might feel its magic pulsing through protected glass with centuries of distinction. Only the Japanese prize antique ceramics as national treasures. An ancient woodblock print speaks to modernity with content and color that stands as tall as a 13th-century 8-foot jade pagoda — a main feature in the Oriental room — that resurrects a pride in craftsmanship both rare and spirited.

A Taoist priest's robe woven with both gold and deep ultramarine threads seems baffling in its 18th-century refinement. In the entrance was an Impressionistic landscape by Sisley, a Barbara Hepworth sculpture, Picasso, Braque and Dufy. And more, so much more.

The courtyard was adrift with life-size sculptures. The environment of this collection is rich, and if you're a bit like me, you may not have known it existed, or at least didn't understand just how fine the collection is. I hope all those students at the university appreciate the contribution of Ms. Warner and have bothered to walk a hundred yards and see the collection.

Live on!

A second intimate dinner with Maurizio was sublime. This one by ourselves. All I wish to say is that his lobster ravioli and the gelato and chocolate cake should have been featured behind glass with all the art work at the museum.

We traveled the road back to Portland, stopping briefly at the mall in Woodburn. Shopping was in post-Black Friday mode, frolicking firecracker explosions of consumerism that tempted great curmudgeons like me with 60-percent-off opportunities to spend



DAVID CAMPICHE PHOTOS

Closeup of a Taoist priest's robe woven centuries ago.

those highly coveted greenbacks. We each bought a pair of shoes.

Walking smartly, I kept thinking of the dignity encompassed in a small raku bowl and wondering if I would be happier to have lived in another time and place. But, of course, we live in this one and that can't be

changed. We can only strive to make it better.

But I can't help but reflect on ancient art, those delicate jade carvings and porcelain vases; on fine woodcuts and weavings and those relics still considered masterworks wherever art remains a premier love affair with so many human beings. Live on! **CW**

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An antique robe for a Taoist priest.



Large 13th-century Buddha at the University of Oregon art museum.