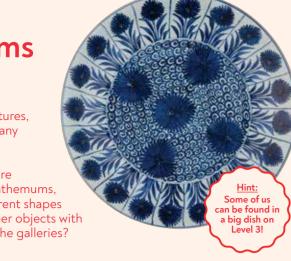


## Blue and White Blooms

Large dishes like this one were used for sharing food in Middle-Eastern and Asian cultures, a practice that is familiar to many of us today.

The floral motifs on this dish are probably meant to be chrysanthemums, which bloom in 1000s of different shapes and colours. Can you spot other objects with chrysanthemums on them in the galleries?





## **Beautiful Butterflies**

Butterflies are auspicious insects in Chinese culture. They signify joy, and are often used as decoration on tableware, paintings, and textiles.

#### Paint Me Pink!

Hand-painting enamel on copper was a technique that started in Europe, then became popular in China in the 18th century. Enamel is powdered glass mixed with pigments (colouring materials). It's made into a paste, applied to the surface of the metal, then heated to harden it and make it stick to the metal.





How many different types of flowers can you spot painted on this inkwell?

types of flowers





## The Making of Makara

Can you spot the trunk of an elephant on these bangles? It's part of a makara, a Hindu mythical creature with the body of a fish, an elephant's trunk, and the jaw and teeth of the crocodile. Makaras are believed to be protectors and guardians.

How do you think these makara bangles would feel around your arm or ankle?

### The Great Makara Search

Search for more objects featuring makaras in the ACM galleries



# Where Are You From?

Do any of the plants or trees on this chest look familiar to you? Where have you seen them?

The trees, lakes, and pagodas on this chest, although painted in India, depict typical Chinese scenery. It's no wonder that chests like this are sometimes mistakenly thought to be made in China! (But that's how world trade has worked for centuries - you never know where something might have been made.)

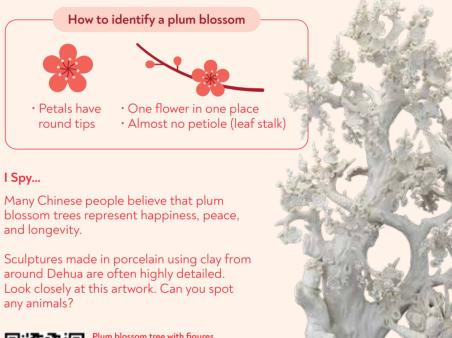
#### Spot and Sketch

See if you can find the partial scene illustrated below on the chest. Then, fill in the rest to complete the picture.



## White as Snow

The creamy white glaze on porcelain made in Dehua, China, is often compared with ivory (a white material that forms the tusks and teeth of certain animals), pork fat, or white jade. The pure clay at Dehua was especially soft, good for moulding detailed pieces like this.



# A Bird with Superpowers?

Some believe that hornbills have supernatural powers and the ability to travel to the spirit world. In the Iban community in Sarawak, Borneo, hornbill sculptures were used in a ceremony called Gawai Kenyalang. Originally initiated by warriors, it's now more of a community event to give thanks and come together.

## A Breed of Our Own

Have you seen hornbills around Singapore?

The Oriental Pied Hornbill is the last remaining native species in Singapore. They eat fruits, insects, and other small animals, even lizards.

## Shine like a Diamond

Look closely at the diamonds on the brooch. They are rose-cut, called "intan" in Malay. Older intans like these were hand cut. They have large facets, enabling a lot of light to pass through, making them appear to glow. Modern "brilliant cut" diamonds (berlian in Malay), on the other hand, usually have more

facets (tiny flat surfaces), which reflect more light, making them look more sparkly.



many wealthy women in Southeast Asia wore eye-catching jewellery, in all kinds of shapes, colours, and sizes. For what type of event would you wear this flower brooch?



ova, Surakarta, early 20th century old, diamonds, emeralds

**Brilliant cut** 

# Spiders have ...

Insects and spiders are often used to symbolise overflowing abundance in the Chinese Peranakan community. That's why you see them as decoration on bowls or plates - to represent plentiful amounts of food.

### Same but Different

A ruby sits on the cephalothorax of each spider brooch. That body part is one of the things that make arachnids (including spiders) different from insects.

**Auspicious Insects** 



whereas insects have ...



What other things

Write them in the

space on the left.

make spiders

insects?

different from

## Design a Headdress!



#### Headdress

What if you could be royalty for a day? Design your own headdress featuring the various nature motifs you have discovered on your journey through ACM.



arly 20th century d-silver alloy, copper, cotton onut oil, resin





# **Crowning Glory**

This gold headdress from Sumatra is made from several metals and was worn by a bride on her wedding day. How do you think she felt wearing this headpiece on such an important occasion in her life?

#### **Fluttering Florals**

The top of the headdress features lots of flower-like pieces that would sit atop of the head of the wearer. Can you guess what material these are made of?