

1





Fukusa with feather robe
Late Edo or Meiji period,
19th century
Gold thread and embroidery
on silk satin



Look closely!

This looks like a fellow feathered friend!
Or maybe it's something else? What do
you see?

Though it looks like a bird, this fukusa shows a *hagoromo*, a magical robe made of feathers. It is worn by celestial beings to help them fly to the heavens.

Draw your own magical garment

Imagine you had a magical outfit that could give you special powers.
What would it look like? Draw it below.



2

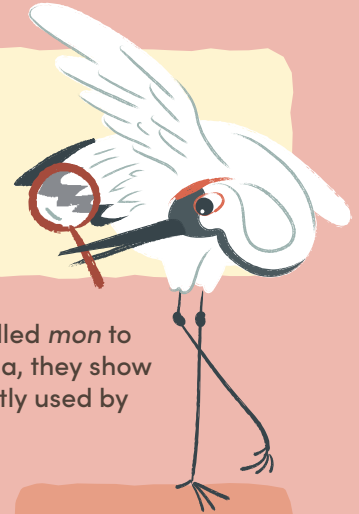




Fukusa with family crest
Late Edo or Meiji period,
19th century
Embroidery on gold silk brocade

Look closely!

Can you recognise the design at the centre of this crest? Does it look like something you've seen in Singapore?



In the past, families in Japan used family crests called *mon* to identify themselves – almost like logos. On a fukusa, they show who the gift was from. Today these crests are mostly used by businesses and institutions.

Design your own family crest

Mon designs often feature plants, animals, or objects.
What would you choose to represent your family?
Design and draw it below.

I chose this design because _____.



Can you find me?

Spot this teapot decorated with a crest in the Ceramics and Food Culture Gallery on Level 2. Some Peranakan families decorated their tea sets with crests that were made up of the letters in their names.

3





Fukusa with Treasure Ship
Late Edo period, 19th century
Appliqué, embroidery, and
gold thread on silk satin



Look closely!

Can you find me on this fukusa?
What treasures can you spot on
the ship?

The Treasure Ship (*Takarabune*) represents good fortune. It carries the Seven Gods of Luck and their treasures during the new year, so fukusa with these designs were used to exchange gifts during new year celebrations.

Draw your treasure

Do you have a lucky object at home? Draw it in the space below.



4





Fukusa with Mount Hōrai
Late Edo or Meiji period,
19th century
Gold thread and embroidery on
figured silk satin

Look closely!

The design on this fukusa shows plants and animals.
Can you spot me here? How many types of plants can
you see?



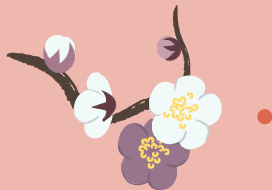
The “Three Friends of Winter” are pine, bamboo, and plum.
Because they grow well in the cold, they are used in art to represent
qualities like perseverance and resilience.

Match and learn

Match the names of the plants to the pictures and learn what they represent.



Pine
Steadfastness and longevity
Remains green
through winter and
lives for a long time



Bamboo
Perseverance
Bends but does not
break in strong winds



Plum
Hope and resilience
Blooms at the end of
winter

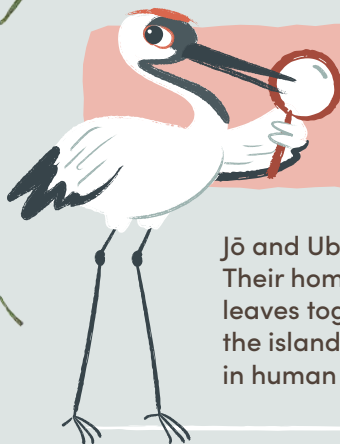


5





**Fukusa with Jō and Uba
from Takasago**
Late Edo or Meiji period,
19th century
Gold thread and embroidery
on silk satin



Look closely!

What is this old couple doing?

Jō and Uba lived a long life as a happily married couple. Their home was a pine tree and they enjoyed collecting pine leaves together. Their spirits are said to reside in a pine tree on the island where they lived, and on moonlit nights they return in human form to clear the forest floor.

Observe and write

What are Jō and Uba carrying? Fill in the blanks with the word of the correct object.

Hello!
I am Jō.



Hi! I am
Uba.

Jō, the old man, uses a _____
to bring in good fortune.

Uba, the old woman, uses a _____
to sweep away trouble.



6

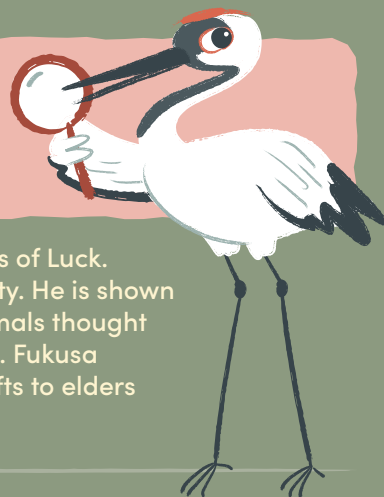




Fukusa with Fukurokuju and boy on crane
Late Edo or Meiji period,
19th century
Silk tapestry

Look closely!

What animal is the old man riding on?



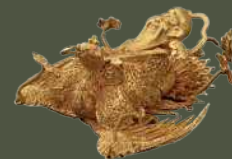
In Japan, Fukurokuju is one of the Seven Gods of Luck. He brings happiness, longevity, and prosperity. He is shown as an old man, sometimes together with animals thought to have long lives, like cranes, deer, or turtles. Fukusa decorated with this god were used to give gifts to elders during important birthdays, like 60.

I spy

Fukurokuju is usually shown with several notable features. Can you identify some of them? Circle the features in the checklist below.

Checklist

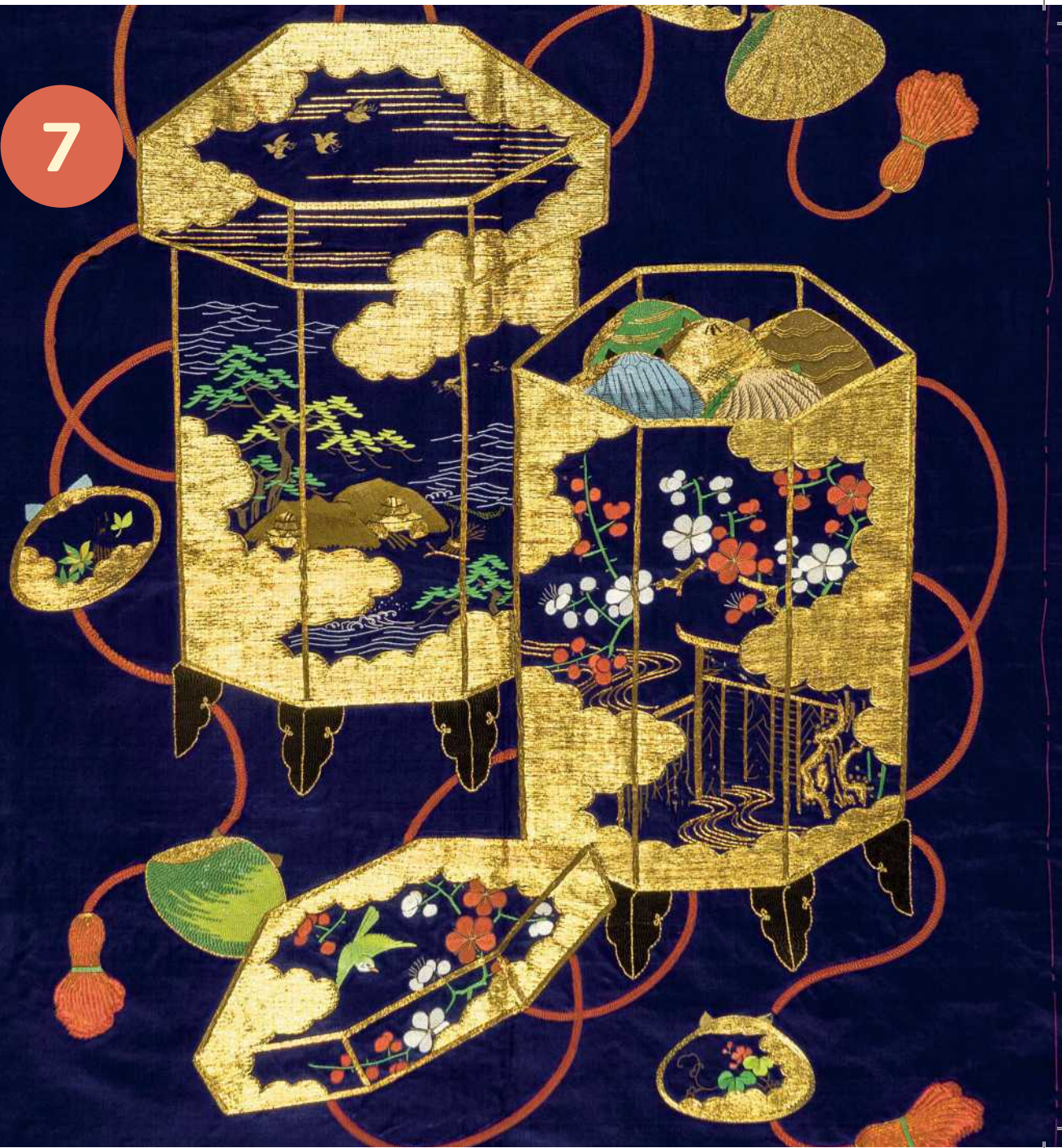
- ☐ Bulging, bald head
- ☐ Long beard
- ☐ Scroll
- ☐ Wooden staff
- ☐ Fan
- ☐ Crane



Can you find me?

Look for this gold ornament in the Jewellery Gallery on Level 3. It features Shoulao, the Chinese god of longevity, riding a crane. It was made for a Chinese Peranakan family.

7





Fukusa with shell-matching game
Late Edo or Meiji period,
19th century
Gold thread and embroidery
on silk satin

Look closely!

What decorates these boxes? Have we seen them earlier?



This fukusa shows beautiful boxes that store clam shells. They are used for a matching game called *kai-awase*. Pairs of pictures from a story are painted on the insides of two shells for players to match up. Fukusa with these designs are used for wedding gifts because they symbolise a good match.

Match and learn

Match the shells that show the same plants from the “Three Friends of Winter” (pine, bamboo, and plum).



Can you find me?

Look for this lantern in the central air well on Level 2. Can you name the traditional games they show? What games do you like to play?

Cherki, marbles, congkak

8





Dowry tray cover
Malacca, early or mid-20th century
Silk satin, silk floss, metal thread
2011-01778

Look closely!

How many butterflies can you spot on this tray cover?

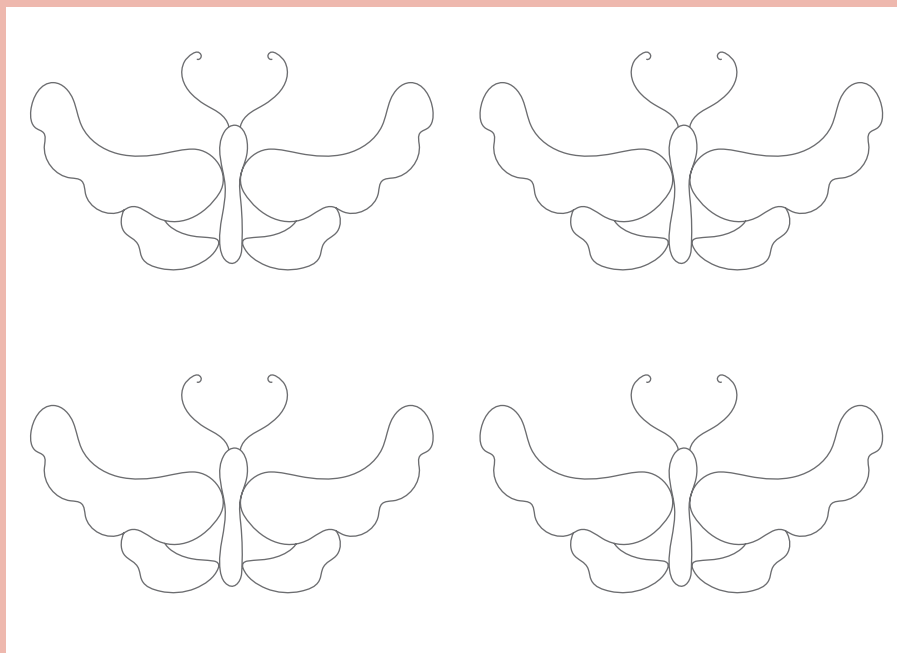


Pairs of butterflies represent love and beauty. They are often used to decorate objects at weddings. This tray cover would have been used to present gifts for the bride and groom at Peranakan Chinese weddings.

And who's that at the centre? Like the cranes on Japanese fukusa, cranes in Peranakan art are symbols of longevity. Here, they represent wishes for the married couple to have a long and happy life together.

Decorate and pair

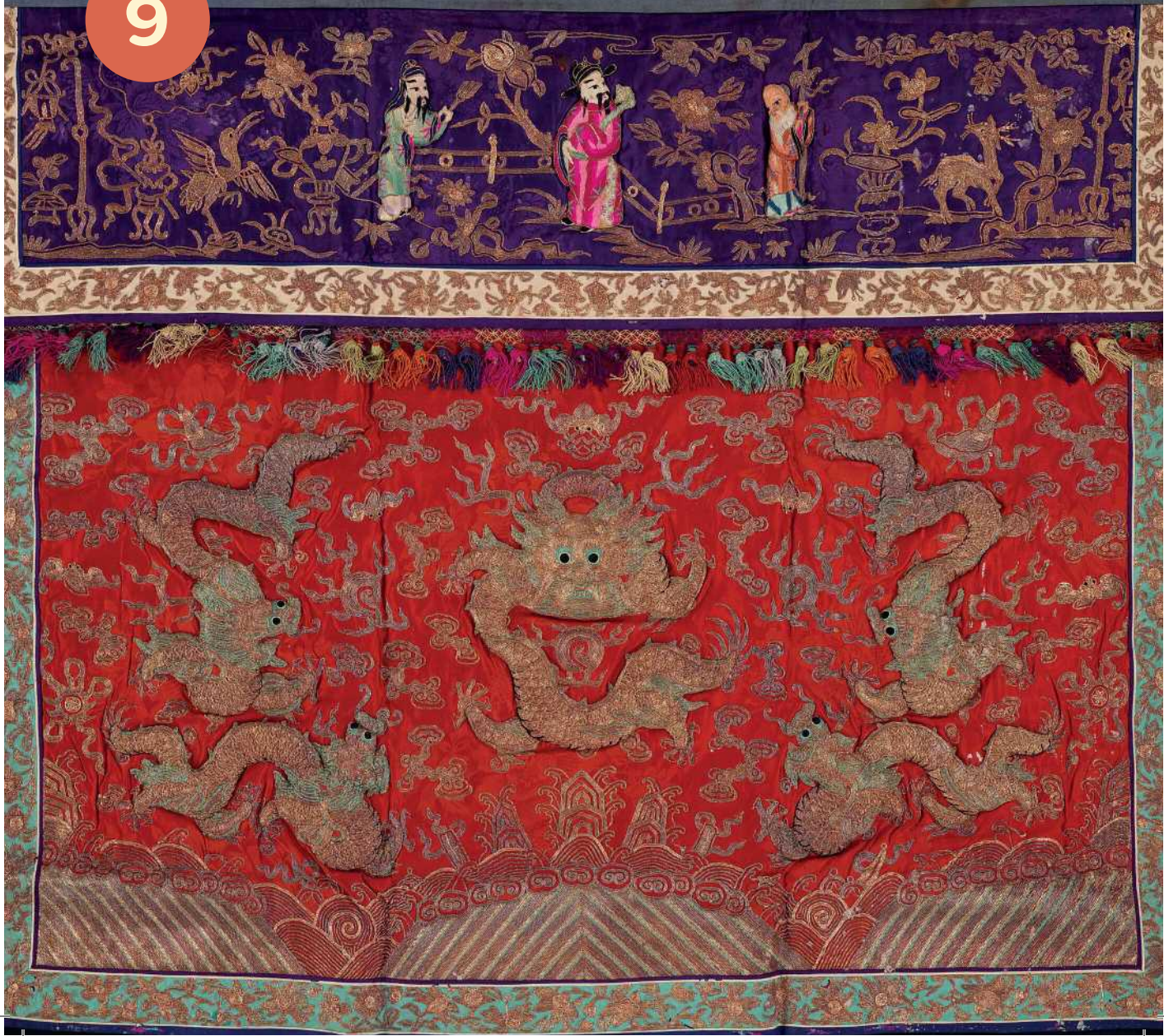
Decorate the butterflies to create matching pairs.



Can you find me?

Spot this pair of pagoda trays in the Family and Community Life Gallery on Level 2. Trays like these were used at Peranakan weddings to deliver gifts such as jewellery, clothing, and even auspicious foods like oranges and sugarcane!

9





Altar cloth
China, early 20th century
Silk, cotton, gold thread
Gift of Cynthia, Larry, Celia,
Carol and Lawrence Chia,
in memory of their parents
Chia Teck Loke and Ong Siew Choo
2018-01297

Look closely!

Can you spot the three human figures?
What makes them stand out?

They are the Chinese gods of happiness (Fu), wealth (Lu), and long life (Shou). The Japanese god Fukurokuju who you met earlier is a combination of these 3 gods. This cloth was hung on an altar in a Chinese Peranakan home during special occasions like the Lunar New Year.



Who's who?

Match the description to the correct god.

Fu

carries a child and
a scroll.

Lu

wears an official's
hat and carries a
ruyi sceptre.

Shou

carries a peach
and a crooked
wooden staff.



Can you find me?

Find this grand ancestral altar in the Family and Community Life Gallery on Level 2. Gifts of food are presented at the altar to loved ones who have passed away. This is a way for a family to remember and take care of them on special occasions.



10





Fukusa with turtles
Edo period, late 18th or 19th
century
Embroidery and gold thread
on silk satin

Look closely!

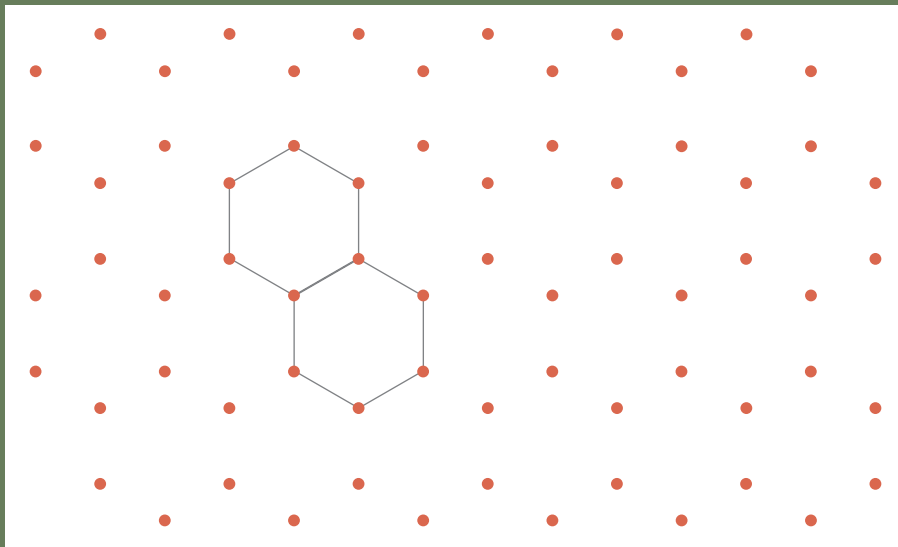
How many turtles do you see?



These mythical turtles are called *minogame*. Look at the long strands on their shells – can you tell what they’re made of? The strands are seaweed, and they tell us that these wise turtles have lived long lives. The seaweed also looks like Japanese straw raincoats, called *mino*.

Draw it!

Hexagons are six-sided shapes. They are used in Japanese patterns called *kikko*. They look like the shapes and patterns on a tortoise’s shell. Complete the pattern below by drawing more hexagons.



Can you find me?

Look for this ang ku kueh mould in the Ceramics and Food Culture Gallery on Level 2. Ang ku kueh are tortoise shell-shaped snacks. They represent long life, and are tasty too!