



UKK/600-01/05 (86)

MEDIA RELEASE

JADE EXHIBITION CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MALAYSIA-CHINA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

22nd NOVEMBER 2024 – The Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture (MOTAC) through the National Art Gallery presents the "**JADE Exhibition: A Journey Across Millennia of Dedication to Enduring Prosperity**" from **23rd November to 23rd December 2024** at the **National Art Gallery**. This exhibition is brought to you by the **Malaysian Chinese Cultural Society** in conjunction of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and China.

The exhibition was inaugurated by YBhg. Datuk Wira Roslan Tan Sri Abdul Rahman, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC). Also in attendance were YBrs. Encik Shaik Rizal Sulaiman, Chairman of the National Visual Arts Development Board (NVADB), YBrs. Encik Amerrudin Ahmad, the Director-General of the National Art Gallery. YBhg. Dato' Wong Shung Yen, Curator and Special Advisor for the Malaysian Chinese Cultural Society, YBrs. Dr. Low Cheong Sin, Curator, as well as various officers from MOTAC and other agencies, were also present, alongside art enthusiasts

This exhibition presents an impressive collection of over 100 jade carvings, each thoughtfully selected from prestigious auction houses like Christie's, Sotheby's, and Bonhams, along with esteemed collections from Robert Hatfield Ellsworth and Roger Keverne. It provides a unique opportunity to explore and appreciate the intricate artistry of jade, making it a must-see exhibition for art enthusiasts.

The exhibition titled "**JADE: A Journey Across Millennia of Dedication to Enduring Prosperity**" invites visitors to delve into the rich history of ancient jade art. Spanning from the prehistoric era through to the Ming and Qing dynasties, each jade artifact on display showcases not only exquisite craftsmanship but also reflects the cultural and aesthetic values that have persisted across thousands of years. This exploration offers a unique perspective on the significance of jade in historical contexts.

Additionally, the "Belt and Road" initiative, which is now a major platform for international cultural exchange, is also known as the "Jade and Silk Road," linking jade culture with the spirit of unity and global cooperation, uniting countries through their cultural heritage.

For thousands of years, jade has been imbued with various cultural meanings. In Chinese culture, jade is regarded as a symbol of virtue and has been used in religious ceremonies, royal rituals, and diplomatic exchanges. Jade artifacts from history are now displayed in museums worldwide, allowing the young generation to appreciate the perseverance, ingenuity, and cultural significance of ancient jade.

As the first ASEAN country to establish diplomatic relations with China, Malaysia has played an important role as a cultural bridge, strengthening cultural and historical ties between the two countries. This exhibition celebrates the closeness of Malaysia-China relations by merging cultural heritage, fostering a deep respect for traditional arts, and showcasing the beauty and harmony in the cultural exchange that has taken place.

This exhibition offers a unique art experience, featuring rare and captivating artifacts. From carving techniques to cultural symbolism, each piece reflects exceptional craftsmanship and artistic mastery. Visitors will also have the opportunity to explore the evolution of jade art styles, shaped by the cultural philosophies of various historical periods.

We extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the Malaysian Chinese Cultural Society for establishing a new art gallery at the National Art Gallery, making it the eighth gallery and symbolizes the 50-year history of diplomatic relations.

Therefore, the public is invited to visit the **"JADE: A Journey Across Millennia of Dedication to Enduring Prosperity"** at the National Art Gallery, open daily until 23rd December 2024 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information, visit www.artgallery.gov.my and the National Art Gallery's official social media.

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