**Ming Art with special reference to Ming sculptures and Chinese craftsmanship**

The Ming Dynasty ruled China from 1368 to 1644, following the collapse of the Yuan dynasty. Literature, painting, poetry, music, and Chinese opera of various types flourished during the Ming dynasty, especially in the economically prosperous regions of the empire. Famous painters of the Ming Dynasty included Ni Zan, Dong Qichang, Shen Zhou, Tang Yin, Wen Zhengming, and Qiu Ying, amongst others. They added new techniques and styles to traditional Chinese paintings. Under the Ming dynasty, Chinese culture bloomed. Narrative artworks with a vast array of colors and a busier composition gained popularity during this time. European culture influenced Chinese art during this period which brought about different techniques of perspective and shading. There were two main traditions of Ming paintings. Literati painting (wenrenhua) and that of the Professional academics (huayuanpai). Artists generally stressed independent creation, impressing their work with bold marks of their styles. Porcelain sculptures also flourished during the Ming dynasty. Chinese Porcelain art has shown continuous development since the pre-dynastic periods and is one of the most significant forms of Chinese art. Raw materials required to make porcelain are available in China. Porcelain items ranged from construction materials, such as bricks and tiles, to sophisticated Chinese porcelain wares made for the imperial court. In the Ming Dynasty, the invention of polychrome pigments was a breakthrough in porcelain artwork. The Ming sculptures included figures of animals and flowers. Some of these techniques were modeling, carving, engraving, embossing, and relief decoration. Artists paid particular attention to realism, considering the posture, mood, and deity symbols to make their work as accurate as possible. Artists conveyed the deity's character by using careful observation and great attention to detail. These details were crucial to the patrons because the sculptures were often used for worship. Ming Dynasty is famous for its cobalt blue-white porcelain, sea-green celadon glazed stoneware, and white porcelain sculptures. The Yongle period (1402–24), Xuande period (1425–35), Chenghua period (1464–87), Zhengde period (1505–21), Jiajing period (1521–67), the Wanli periods (1572–1620) of the Ming Dynasty were particularly famous for its pottery and sculptures. New types of Chinese Ming pottery developed. "Swatow ware," "Sancai ware" (three-color), and Yixing ware were the most popular among others. One of the most notable masters of Porcelain sculptures in the Ming Dynasty was He Chaozong. The works of He Chaozong include Buddhist, white porcelain statues. Documented evidence of He Chaozong, apart from extant examples of his ceramic art, is negligible. A gazetteer entry from 1763 mentions him with other art notables of the Ming Dynasty and establishes that the artist had earned a considerable reputation in his day. His works, identified by his seal and were in an entirely different category. They were thickly potted and exhibited an artistic expressiveness and creativity unmatched by thinner and standardized works.

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