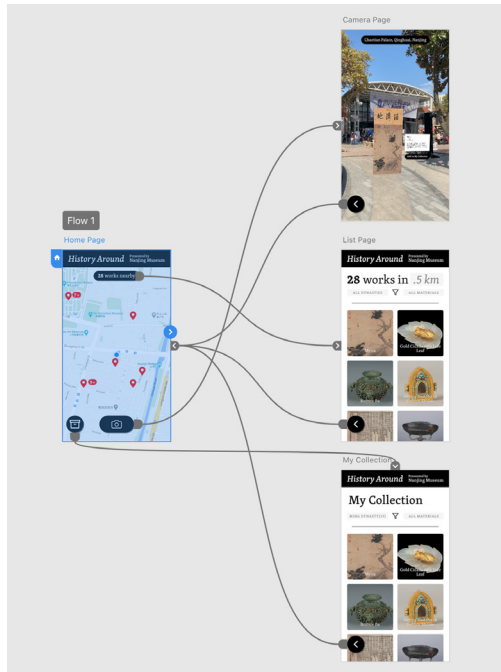


Collection Exploration – Nanjing Museum

Augmented Reality Application Proposal

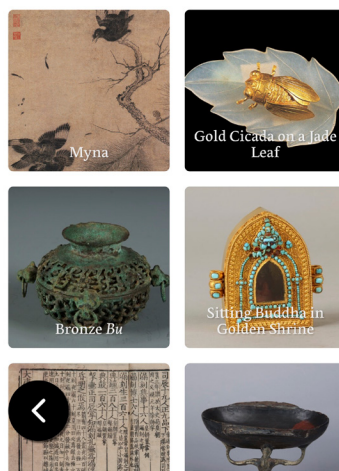
Ruyang Zheng



Nanjing Museum, is one of the largest museums and one of the first museums established in China. Located in the city of Nanjing, an old capital of ten dynasties in the history of China, Nanjing Museum holds a collection of more than 430,000 pieces of artifacts and artworks spanning the time from the Neolithic Age to the contemporary. While many major museums in the Western world hold a rather “international” collection of objects of the global civilization, Nanjing Museum almost exclusively focuses on collecting domestic artworks and artifacts that were discovered within the nation. Because of that, the collection of Nanjing Museum is organized and classified mostly according to the medium, and dynasties (which is to say in a chronic order). Compared to The Palace Museum in Beijing which has a more comprehensive collection of Chinese arts from all parts of the nation, Nanjing Museum puts a heavier emphasis on studying and displaying artifacts and artworks made, collected, discovered locally. Most objects displayed in its permanent exhibition galleries were original from the city itself or areas around.

Such locality of museum objects in Nanjing Museum will be the overarching theme of this augmented reality application. One might never know that one of the most appreciated ink paintings from the Sui Dynasty was rescued across the river from his/her apartment; Or an important





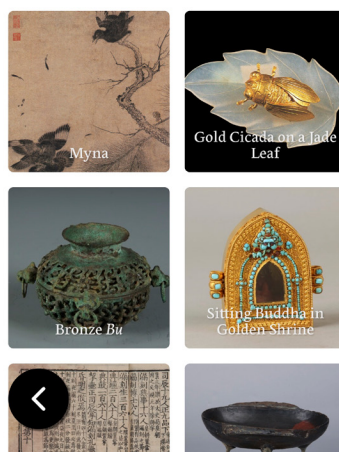
History Around Presented by Nanjing Museum

My Collection

MING DYNASTY (19)



ALL MATERIALS



porcelain kiln factory once stood next to that popular shopping mall. This application aims to reconnect the modern public with the history in a tangible and specific way. With the collection database available, the app is able to map all the objects with confirmed geographic information relating to their initial creation or excavation sites and so on onto the streets of Nanjing. Through the app, one is able to discover all the artifacts and artworks that once existed near his/her neighborhood before they went into the museum collection. In a way, the app liberates / releases the collection from the museum, and give it back to the city as a larger cultural space. Not only one is able to discover works from the museum around them through the two-dimensional map, he/she is also offered with a “street view” where objects would manifest themselves as three-dimensional models around the city through the camera. A virtual text label will also accompany the object offering essential information. A key feature of the application is that once one discovers a piece of work on the street, he/she is able to add that piece into a personal collection which can be reviewed and studied later on.

Further improvements might include, giving users access to additional information about certain areas in the city where clusters of objects might be found and that bear more cultural significance; developing a “My exhibition” feature where users are welcome to put up a personalized virtual show with the pieces in his/her own collection and integrate personal history and stories into the show, and presumably share the virtual exhibition in the form of a interactive website(?).