

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2017  
Art on the Move Across Asia and Beyond – Part I  
*Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art*

## **Dialogues Across Space & Time: The Written Word in East Asia**

Arts of Asia Lecture Series at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

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### **Key Terms & Themes**

Chinese characters (漢字: Ch. *hanzi*, K. *hanja*, J. *kanji*), 5 main “modes”:

1. seal script (*zhuanshu* 篆書), from c. 1400 BCE, systematized 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE
2. clerical (scribe) script (*lishu* 隸書), in use c. 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE to 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE
3. regular (block, standard) script (*kaishu* 楷書), developed from 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> century CE
4. semi-cursive (“running”) script (*xingshu* 行書), developed c. 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE to 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE
5. cursive (“grass”) script (*caoshu* 草書)—various types, including:
  - a. old cursive (derived from clerical script), from 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE; became common by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries CE
  - b. wild cursive, from c. 8<sup>th</sup> century

two phonetic scripts:

- a. Japanese syllabary (*kana* 仮名), now divided into *hiragana* 平仮名 and *katakana* 片仮名, from c. 10<sup>th</sup> century
- b. Korean phonetic script (*hangeul* 한글), created 1443

### **Select Bibliography**

- Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, et al., eds. *The Elegant Gathering : The Yeh Family Collection*. San Francisco: Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, 2006.
- Knight, Michael, and Joseph Z. Chang, eds. *Out of Character : Decoding Chinese calligraphy 法迹 : 觀遠山莊珍藏法術選*. San Francisco: Asian Art Museum, 201. [Jerry Yang collection]

### **Asian Art Museum Videos**

Decoding Chinese Calligraphy (Cai Xingyi demonstrates five major scripts)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRRiTo8sUwk>

Appreciating Chinese Calligraphy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MENOCzGv5-Y>

Excerpt from *The Character of Characters*, 2012, by Xu Bing  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQ1mpKlIhxQ>

### Chart of Major Chinese Scripts

- all of the following characters are the same: 龍 ("dragon")

