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## **THE CROW COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART UNVEILS THE JERRY LEE MUSSLEWHITE COLLECTION SEPTEMBER 14, 2013 – AUGUST 24, 2014**

DALLAS (August 29, 2013) – The Crow Collection of Asian Art proudly introduces a significant exhibition of art from Korea for public view for the first time September 14, 2013 through August 24, 2014. This small, but stellar group of fifty-three works titled *The Jerry Lee Musslewhite Collection* was acquired by the museum in 2010 from the estate of Jerry Lee Musslewhite (1937–2009).

A longtime docent at the Crow Collection of Asian Art toward the end of his life, Musslewhite was born in Arp, Texas. He studied fine arts in college and subsequently took a position in South Korea working for the US Army as an arts instructor. He remained in Korea for over twenty-five years, during which he became an avid collector of Korean art and antiques. Musslewhite's vast collection numbered in the thousands, the best of which are showcased in this exhibition as a tribute to his keen eye for quality, his passion for art, and his desire to share his love of Korea with museum visitors in his home state of Texas.

The Collection includes beautiful examples of the three major areas of Korean ceramics, including Goryeo dynasty (918–1392) celadon and Joseon dynasty (1392–1910) porcelain, as well as rare gray stoneware from the early Three Kingdoms period (57 BC–935 AD). The collection also includes a small selection of Korean paintings and some very fine chests, boxes, and other examples of decorative art. Together, they give the Crow Collection the foundation for a comprehensive collection of Korean art.

"Lee Musslewhite loved the game of acquisition, which became his driving passion throughout his life. Today, because of Lee's passion for Korean art in various media, the Crow Collection honors his memory with the opening of this exhibition highlighting the many treasures of his life spent in Korea," noted Amy Lewis Hofland, executive director of the Crow Collection of Asian Art.

Xu Jing, a Chinese scholar and connoisseur who visited Korea as part of an official envoy in 1123, wrote that Korean celadon wares were "first under heaven." Xu compared them to the famous Ru ware of the Northern Song (960–1127), the rarest of all ceramics made exclusively for

the Chinese court, grand monasteries, and a few high-ranking noble households. Japanese connoisseurs also prized Korean ceramics and imported select pieces for use in their tea ceremonies, especially during the Momoyama (1573–1615) and Edo (1615–1868) periods.

Often overshadowed by China and Japan, Korea largely escaped the attention of Europeans and Americans until the early 20th century, thus its ceramic traditions have only recently gained recognition in the West. Appreciation of Korean ceramics and art has a long tradition in Asia.

The exhibition is curated by Richard Mellott, the former curator of education at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

#### **About The Crow Collection of Asian Art**

The Crow Collection of Asian Art features a variety of spaces and galleries with changing exhibitions of the arts of China, Japan, India and Southeast Asia drawn from cultures ancient and contemporary. Just 14 years in operation, this lovingly curated free museum offers a serene setting for quiet reflection in the heart of the Dallas Arts District. The Crow Collection continues to grow in art and service to the Dallas-Fort Worth community with an emphasis on shared learning and fun. New initiatives include the development of an Asian physical and mental wellness center endorsed by Dr. Andrew Weil as well as a Sculpture Garden slated to open October 5, 2013.

Admission is free. The Crow Collection of Asian Art is open Tuesdays – Thursdays (10 a.m. – 9 p.m.), Fridays – Saturdays (10 a.m. – 6 p.m.), Sundays (12 p.m. – 6 p.m.) and closed on Mondays. For more information, please go to [crowcollection.org](http://crowcollection.org) or call 214-979-6430.

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