

# Arts of Lacquer in China



# Preface

The red lacquer rice bowl excavated at the Hemudu site in Zhejiang Province, China unveils the 7000-year history of lacquer art of China. Since then, the arts of lacquer in China makes continuous progress, just like porcelain and silk and become the national treasure of this nation.

Lacquer is featured by its hardness, resistance of acid and alkali corrosion. In the daily life of the ancient Chinese, lacquer ware is widely used. Its modeling, function and decoration evolve to its state of art through time. The contemporary Chinese lacquer artists have succeeded this heritage and their works are the perfect merging of traditional techniques and modern materials.

Lacquer paint evolves from decorative lacquer ware and bears the characteristics of both arts. Its unique material and artistic skills result in its own style of beauty. The varied processing skills and different raw materials lead to difficulty in the production of lacquer painting as a rare and precious art form.

As early as in 80s of last century, lacquer artists in China made a break-through from the traditional technique lacquer painting and entered a brand new era that shows great variety of style in art. The exhibition briefly introduces the development of the Chinese lacquer arts and the basics of lacquer making through exemplary contemporary lacquer works. With it, we aims to build full landscape of Chinese lacquer arts, its current development and to showcase the humanity spirit and aesthetics of the Chinese.