



# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ART OF CERAMIC PAINTING IN CHINA

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### Modern Famille Rose Golden Pheasant Double Earred Vase

First Fusion NFT minted by Coincollectibles and sold on OKEx for US\$150,000 on 7 Sep 2021.

Ceramic paintings are evolved from traditional Chinese ceramic. At first, ceramic was only to meet the practical needs of people's livelihood and gradually developed into the decoration in the Tang Dynasty. In the middle of the Ming Dynasty, Western enamel color was introduced to China, so Doucai and Wucan added various colors to ceramic painting art.

After the Qing Dynasty, the color and glaze of colored ceramic developed into a colorful realm, and a group of literati began to intervene in the art of painting ceramic.

Ceramic shops in Nanchang, Jiujiang, Ji'an, and other cities in Jiangxi started to set up their red furnaces to add color. In particular, Nanchang has the largest number and scale of ceramic paintings. The development focus of portrait painting on ceramic has also shifted here. Since the 1940s, Nanchang ceramic paintings have gone abroad and traveled far to Southeast Asia. After the reform and opening up, Hong Kong photographer Qiu Yongping and Nanchang ceramic painting artists jointly created many fine ceramic paintings, promoting Nanchang ceramic paintings to the world. Artists from Japan, Australia, and other countries also came to Nanchang to learn the art of ceramic paintings, establishing the position of Nanchang ceramic paintings in the history of world art.

Deng Bishan, a famous ceramic artist, was born in Yugan, Jiangxi, and was a scholar in the late Qing Dynasty.

In 1892, with the influx of Western photography technology, Deng Bishan continued to innovate while absorbing traditional Chinese ceramic painting and created the artistic field of portrait painting on ceramic. He was the first to paint ceramic statues with Jiugongge, which laid a solid foundation for the subsequent development of ceramic paintings. Up to now, Jiugongge is still one of the necessary tools for portrait painting on ceramic.

After that, the newcomer Wang Qi, from Deng Bishan, further perfected the technique of portrait painting on ceramic and became the second-generation successor. In the early years of the Republic of China, Liang Duishi from Nanchang has become the third-generation successor of ceramic paintings. Under his leadership, several ceramic printmaking shops have been opened in Nanchang successively. In the heyday, more than 300 people painted one portrait, and more than 20 people were specialized in portraits painting on ceramic. Until now, this folk art has passed down for six generations.



**Qing Dynasty (19th Century) Carved Red Lacquer and Cloud Dragon Stick Mallet Vase**

This ceramic was part of the Coincollectibles Heritage Series, which is a collection of specially curated ceramics pieces. This Fusion NFT was launched on 30 Sep 2021 for US\$150,000.





**Qing Dynasty (19th Century) Wucai Five Blessings  
Longevity Foliate Mouth Plate**

Heritage Series launched for US\$220,000 on 30 Sep 2021.



The art of ceramic painting is the perfect fusion of craft painting and ceramic art.

Nanchang ceramic paintings inherit the essence of traditional Chinese painting and are compatible with the characteristics of Chinese ceramic art. The ingenious combination of art and the art of firing ceramic are indispensable.

The main contents of Nanchang ceramic prints are as follows:

1. The white body is used as the material for the finished ceramic paintings.
2. Outline: Outline the shapes and lines of ceramic paints with half-brush and bright-black paintbrush.
3. Color base: The behavior is commonly known as "color image", and the color is evenly painted on the ceramic print with a rubbing brush.
4. Painting repair: modify the colored ceramic paintings in order to achieve the realm of expressive art.
5. Firing and adding color: After the ceramic paint is finalized, it is fired in the red furnace. During the firing process, the color of the ceramic will change. After firing, it needs to be painted again and the processes repeat to reach a good artistic effect. The finished ceramic paintings can be preserved forever, with all typical Chinese ceramic art characteristics, and are an essential part of Gan culture.

### **Modern Cup with Kui Dragon in Clashing Colors and Style of the Chenghua Reign of the Ming Dynasty**

Launch date pending.





### **Modern Teapot with Kui Dragons in Clashing Colors and Style of the Chenghua Reign of the Ming Dynasty**

Launch date pending.

Ceramic paintings inherit various values as follows:

#### **Historical Value:**

Ceramic paintings can be traced back to the Ming and Qing Dynasties and have a history of more than 100 years. For a long time, as an important cultural carrier, it has played an enormous role in continuing Chinese civilization and even the world civilization. Ceramic painting has the reputation of "a century of ceramic painting", with strong elements of Gan culture and national style, giving a strong artistic feeling.

#### **Craft value:**

The process of making ceramic painting is complex, and the delicateness and requirements of each approach are high, which are incomparable with other production processes. From the selection of materials, artistic processing, the refining of frankincense oil, the preparation of pigments, the processing of brushes to the specific steps and techniques of wisdom, they are all very rigorous and meticulous. These production techniques crystallize the wisdom of Jiangxi working people. And it is difficult to be replaced by modern technology.



### Economic Value:

From the 1950s to the 1970s, ceramic painting has always been a pillar industry in Nanchang and played a significant role in the local economic development. First of all, the development of ceramic paintings can solve the employment problem of a considerable number of local people.

Secondly, in addition to meeting domestic needs, ceramic paintings are also welcomed by the people of Japan, Australia, and other countries. They can be exported in large quantities to earn foreign exchange.

### Academic research value:

As a traditional Chinese painting method, the ceramic color painting draws on the essence of western photography culture. Its rich content, simplistic characteristics, and inheritance history are rare in art history in China and even worldwide. It is of great value to study the traditional hand-painting, ceramic painting and historical and cultural background of Ming and Qing Dynasties.



**Modern Multicolor Vase with Flared Mouth and Figure Design**

Launch date pending.



**A pair of Guanyin Vase in Altar Red Glaze of Qing Dynasty  
(19th century)**

Heritage Series launched on Coincollectibles MetaMall in Jan 2022 at US\$188,000.



# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

## BEN CHAN

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NATIONAL CERTIFIED ART BROKER & APPRAISER



Since 1981, Ben has been heavily involved in the arts and cultural creative industries, specifically in auction houses, art finance and other businesses in Hong Kong.

In recent years, he has conducted in-depth research in the field of NFT art in the Metaverse. He is one of the few experts who connects with international digital banking institutions and has been invited to art finance conventions all over the country. His institutional speeches were well received by the audience.

Currently, Ben serves the following positions in these organisations:

- Co-founder of Grand Prix Holding BV Ltd
- Founding Chairman of Greater China Antique Appreciation Association
- Head of Hong Kong International Auction House Ltd
- National Certified Art Broker & Appraiser



From the Left to Right: Mr Ben Chan, Dr Herbert Lee (Coinllectibles Chairman) and Mr Julian So (Coinllectibles Co-Founder)

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