Jenny F. So

Curator and Adjunct Professor, Dept of Fine Arts at the Chinese University of Hong Kong

Jade: China’s Immortal Stone, China’s Lasting Obsession

From its first appearance at least six millennia ago to 21st century workshops throughout China, jade objects have captured the imagination of not just Chinese, but also international, communities. As China’s oldest and longest sustaining artistic activity, jade-working has come to be synonymous with Chinese culture at all levels of society throughout the ages. A look at the unique natural properties of jade and how they guided the methods developed to work it and produced finished products that look the way they do should help us appreciate the immensity of the ancient jade workers’ task, as well as their sophisticated achievements in subsequent eras.