

Chinese folk arts

Chinese folk arts originate in the rural areas of China's vast territory. As forms of communal art, folk arts are evident in everyday food, clothing, and shelter, in traditional festivals, ceremonies, and rituals, and in beliefs and taboos. As a living example of cultural heritage, folk art demonstrates the continuity of Chinese culture from ancient to modern times, a culture with distinctive national and regional characteristics and a history of some 8,000 years. *Chinese Folk Arts* provides an illustrated introduction to the history and development of this colorful part of China's unique artistic culture.

Introductions to Chinese Culture

The thirty volumes in the Introductions to Chinese Culture series provide accessible overviews of particular aspects of Chinese culture written by a noted expert in the field concerned. The topics covered range from architecture to archaeology, from mythology and music to martial arts. Each volume is lavishly illustrated in full color and will appeal to students requiring an introductory survey of the subject, as well as to more general readers.

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-18658-2 — Chinese Folk Arts
Zhilin Jin
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Jin Zhilin

CHINESE FOLK ARTS



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-18658-2 — Chinese Folk Arts
Zhilin Jin
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press,
New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521186582

Originally published by China Intercontinental Press as
Chinese Folk Arts (9787508516912) in 2010

© China Intercontinental Press 2010

This updated edition is published by Cambridge University Press
with the permission of China Intercontinental Press under
the China Book International programme 

For more information on the China Book International programme, please visit
<http://www.cbi.gov.cn/wisework/content/10005.html>

Cambridge University Press retains copyright in its own contributions
to this updated edition

© Cambridge University Press 2011

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2011

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-18658-2 Paperback

NOT FOR SALE IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (EXCLUDING
HONG KONG SAR, MACAU SAR AND TAIWAN)

Contents



Introduction 1

Six Characteristics of Chinese Folk Art 7

The Core of Chinese Folk Art 11

Life and Propagation—an All-Time Theme 12

Symbols of Visual Objects 15

Longshan Culture 19

Totems 28

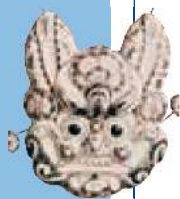
The Social Context of Chinese Folk Art 35

The Social Context of Folk Arts 36

Folk Arts and Festivities 44

Folk Arts in Daily Life 61

Folk Arts in Beliefs and Taboos 79





The Structure of Chinese Folk Art 85

- Philosophical Concept 86
- The Shaping Structure 89
- The Structure of Colors 101

Creators of Chinese Folk Art 105

- The Art of the Laborer Community 106
- The Art of the Folk Artist Community 111

Various Chinese Folk Art Works 115

- Paper-cut 116
- Leather Silhouettes 123
- Woodcut New Year Pictures 131
- Masks and the Culture of Exorcism 137
- Kites 142

Appendix: Chronological Table of the Chinese Dynasties 145

