

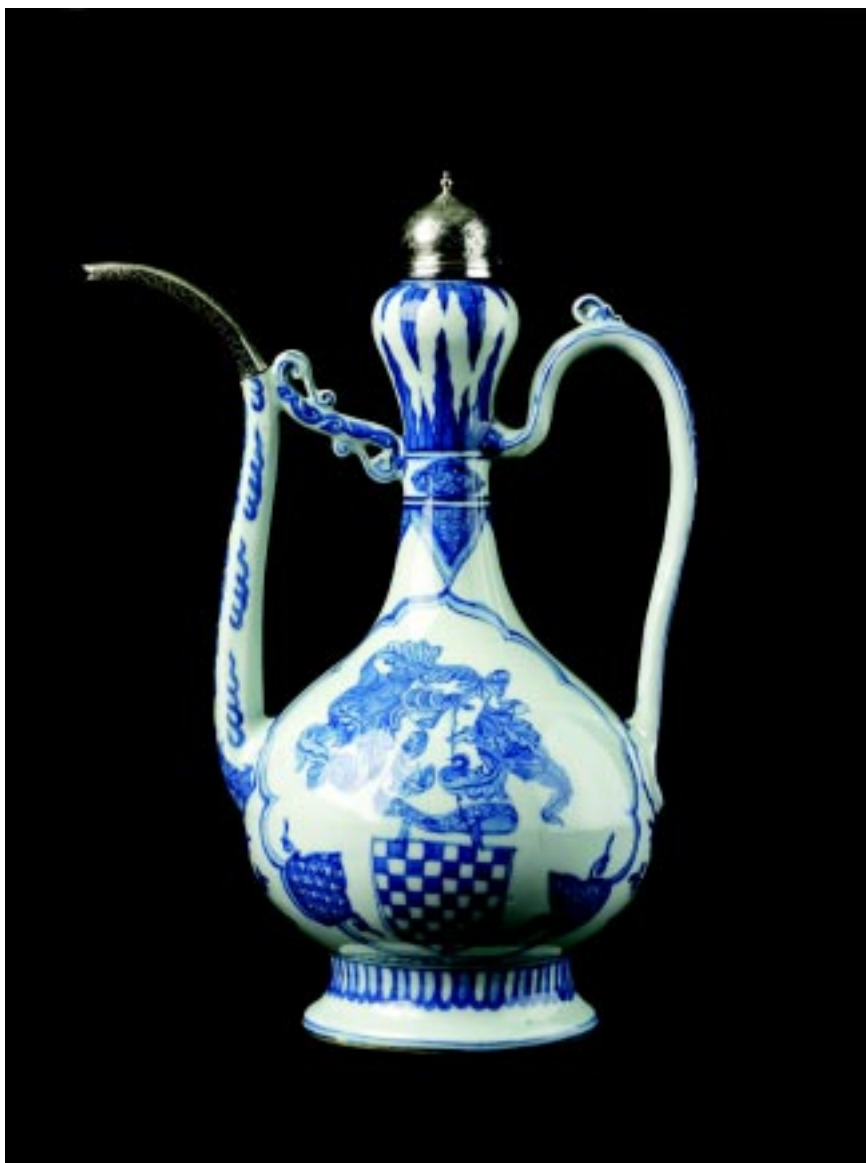
different parts of the world learned from each other in earlier times. We welcome the very generous sponsorship from Shell (Syria), without which the exhibition wouldn't have happened".

The Exhibition

World Ceramics: Masterpieces from the V&A explores the history of international ceramics from 3000 BC to the present day. Bringing together works from different parts of the world in exciting juxtapositions, the exhibition highlights the links between all the world's great ceramic traditions. It also shows how international trade and cultural exchange spread manufacturing technologies, styles and usage – often dramatically changing the course of ceramic history.

Chronologically arranged in nine thematic sections, the exhibition examines specific areas or periods, such as the early ceramics of China and its immediate neighbours. It looks at the cross-currents between Asia, the Middle East and Europe and at the luxury wares made for European Medieval and Renaissance courts. The exhibition concludes with a survey of 20th-century ceramics, ranging from Russian Revolutionary porcelains to Post-Modern ceramic sculpture. A highlight of this section is Picasso's 1954 vase painted with the 'Artist at his Easel'.

Many of the exhibits on display are outstanding and unique examples of the potter's art.



Notable among these is a life-size goat from Augustus the Strong's extraordinary porcelain menagerie at Dresden; examples of the supremely rare 'Medici' porcelain and 'Saint-Porchaire' ware; and Sèvres porcelain busts of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette made shortly before their execution.

The exhibition also includes a

major representation of classic, imperial wares from Song and Ming dynasty China – for many the crowning achievement of the potter's art – and a remarkable group of 19th-century exhibition pieces from Europe and Asia.

The Middle East, and Syria in particular, played a leading role in this story. To celebrate this