I hope this email finds you well and safe.

It is my pleasure to announce the launch of FOTG ArtBlogs. During this special period, every two weeks, we will be sharing exclusive updates to keep you close to art. We hope our FOTG ArtBlogs will deepen your appreciation of Chinese art and culture, and brighten your day while we keep our social distance and stay connected.

In this first edition, featured below, we bring you new insights into several of the objects exhibited in our 2016 exhibition, "Art in a Time of Chaos: Masterworks from Six Dynasties China, 3rd–6th Centuries" 乱世绝响：六朝艺术，三至六世纪. Please look forward to receiving further updates and more ArtBlogs!

Please continue to read below to enjoy China Institute Gallery from the comfort of your own home!

Sincerely,

Michael Liu

Associate Director, Membership and Events

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*Art in a Time of Chaos*

Humans have experienced many chaotic periods throughout history. In 2016, China Institute Gallery showcased the groundbreaking exhibition, "Art in a Time of Chaos: Masterworks from Six Dynasties China, 3rd-6th Centuries." The objects from this exhibition give us a glimpse into how people from more than a thousand years ago coped with chaos.
This carved head of a bodhisattva, unearthed in 1954 from Shanxi province, wears a floral crown. With downcast eyes, a high nose bridge, and a gently closed mouth, its expression is dignified and amiable. Though a Buddhist figure, this exquisite carving can provide spiritual support during times of uncertainty.

This celadon incense burner excavated from Wuxi, dates from the Western Jin dynasty (265-316), and has a gray body covered with a pale green glaze inside and out. It features a rounded rim and straight mouth, globular belly with openwork, and three bear-shaped feet. In this unpredictable climate, burning incense can be a calming tool for purifying the air and cleansing the spirit.
This mural from a Southern Dynasties tomb (420-589) near today's Nanjing, features an exquisite depiction of the Seven Sages literatus, Ji Kang (223–262). During this chaotic period, the Seven Sages excelled in their talents in poetry and music to achieve purity in the spiritual realm. Ji Kang, leader of the Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove, was the nation's best zither player and the only musician able to play the famous melody, "Guangling San." Channeling the vibrancy of Ji Kang's musical spirit can help to uplift us during these challenging times.

The ancients carved this calligraphic inscription in the Southern Dynasties period (420-589) into a cliff on Jiao Mountain. Lightning later struck the cliff, and the inscription fell into the Yangzi River. In 1713 five fragments were retrieved from the river and placed on view on the island of Jiaoshan. This closeup section reads, "...at the foot of mountain, with the immortals..." This work reminds us to pause during moments of chaos, express our gratitude for the glory of nature, and offer our thoughts to those who are suffering.