

LUNAR NEW YEAR: YEAR OF THE TIGER

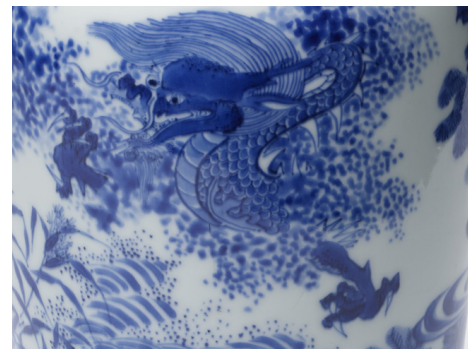
A VASE TO CELEBRATE TIGERS



This year, 2022, is the Year of the Tiger according to the Chinese **zodiac**, a 12-year cycle. Learn about the importance of the tiger in Chinese culture and create your own tiger-inspired vase. The tiger, the third animal of the Chinese zodiac, is regarded as the king of all beasts. People born in the Year of the Tiger are considered sensitive, adventurous, energetic, and passionate. In addition to being a zodiac animal, the tiger plays other important roles in Chinese culture.

Along with the dragon and two other mythological animals, the phoenix and the **qilin** (a creature with a dragon-like head and horse-like body), the tiger is one of the animals representing the four cardinal directions: tiger (west), dragon (east), phoenix (south), and qilin (north). All are represented on the vase.

The tiger and dragon on this vase also relate to **Daoism**, a Chinese religion and philosophy. In Daoist symbolism, the tiger represents **yin** (negative and dark) and the dragon represents **yang** (positive and bright). The tiger also rules over the dry earth, and the dragon is lord of the skies and seas.



Beaker-Shaped Vase with Four Animals, China, 1640–60, porcelain with underglaze blue.
Bequest of Henry Walters, 1931, acc. no. 49.1651

Lunar New Year programs are supported by The Freeman Foundation.

THE WALTERS
ART MUSEUM

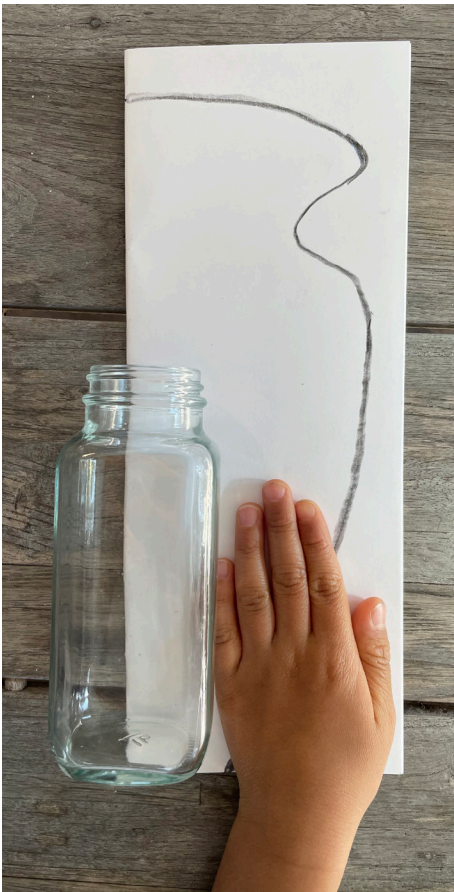
ART ACTIVITY

A VASE TO CELEBRATE TIGERS



MATERIALS

- Two (2) sheets of white construction paper, card stock, or thin cardboard
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Blue markers, colored pencils, or crayons, plus colors of your choice
- Glue or glue stick
- A vessel for holding items that is smaller than the size of your white paper (for example, a plastic cup, jar, or water bottle)



STEPS

1. Stack two (2) sheets of white paper or thin cardboard on top of one another and fold the papers in half lengthwise.
2. Place your vessel along the folded edge of the paper and align the bottom of the vessel with the bottom of the paper. Center the vessel over the folded edge of the paper. Use your pencil to draw half of an outline of a vase around the vessel, making sure to leave plenty of space—at least the width of three fingers—between the vessel and the outline. (Leaving space will help you later when you glue the two pieces of paper together.)
3. Cut along the line of the vase outline and then unfold the papers. You should now have two vase shapes!

ART ACTIVITY

A VASE TO CELEBRATE TIGERS



4. Draw designs on your vase shapes using blue markers, colored pencils, or crayons, similar to the cobalt blue paint that was used to decorate Chinese ceramics. Add any colors of your choice. On one of the vase shapes, draw a tiger. *Think about what kind of tiger you want to draw. How would you draw a tiger that is sensitive, energetic, adventurous, or passionate?*
5. On the other vase shape, draw an animal of your choice or anything else you'd like to add.
6. Glue the edges of both vase shapes together. Leave enough room for the vessel to be inserted in the middle, like a sleeve.
7. Once the glue is dry, carefully insert the vessel between the vase shapes. Now your tiger vase is ready to be used and admired!