

DOGS

ART CONNECTIONS > Recommended for all ages

Dogs have been represented in art ever since humans first began keeping them as pets. They have helped us find food, kept us warm at night, guarded us, and have been our loyal companions. It's no surprise that dogs are in so many works of art around the Museum. Start your tour in **Gallery 142**.

The “dogs’ wedding” Gallery 142

Find this small porcelain artwork in Gallery 142, near the Shapiro Family Courtyard. How many dogs can you find? Some of the dogs are playing horns. What is each dog doing?

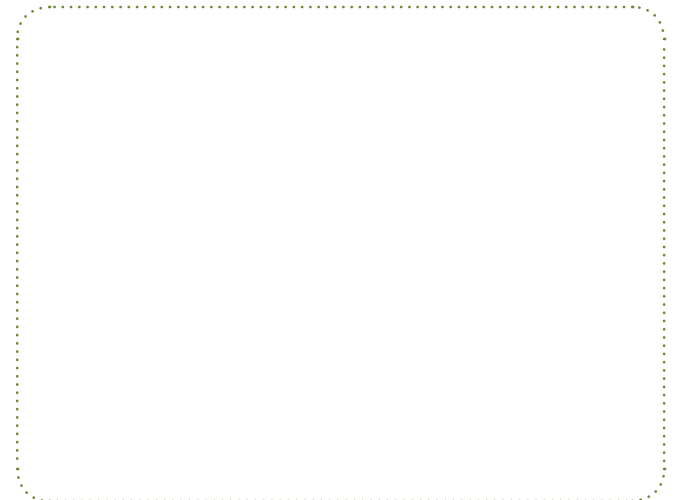
- > This work is called the “dogs’ wedding.” Which dogs are getting married? Hint: they look like they are eating a meal together.
- The dog on the top of the house is playing an instrument called a bagpipe. It makes a very loud sound.
- > Imagine you are at a party held by dogs. What would it sound like? What would be served for dinner? What would you wear to the party?



Carousel figure of a greyhound Gallery 237

Go up to the Folk Art Gallery, 237, to find this large dog. Have you ever ridden a merry-go-round or carousel? This greyhound dog used to be a seat on a carousel. Imagine sitting on this dog and going around and around. The artist, Charles I. D. Looff, carved this dog out of wood, maybe modeling him after a family pet.

- > Look closely at the decorations on the dog's saddle. Can you find the circular glass pieces? Imagine these sparkling under the carousel lights at night.
- > Trace around the outside of the dog with your finger in the air. Try drawing its outline here.



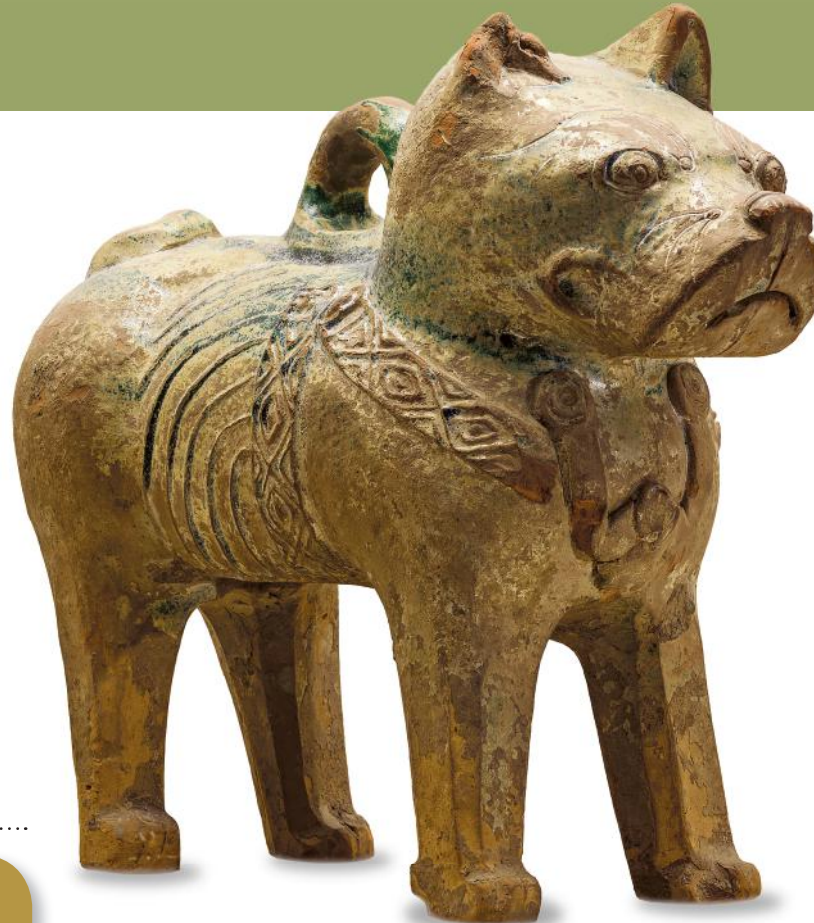
Chinese ceramic dog Gallery 273

Head towards the Upper Rotunda to find Gallery 273. Look for this small ceramic dog from China. The dog is wearing a harness with a pattern on it. The harness was probably intended as a leash. This dog is more than 1,800 years old!

- > What different shapes and patterns can you see in the harness?
- > Look closely at the dog's face, especially at his mouth, eyes, and ears. Does he look friendly?
- > This is a small dog. Do you think he is a puppy? What would you name him? Write the name here.
- > Notice the handle on the dog's back. If you picked him up, do you think he would be heavy or light?

Riley the Museum Dog

The MFA has a dog on staff named Riley. Riley is a Weimaraner. Riley is being trained to sniff out moths and other bugs that can damage the artwork in the Museum. Sometimes you can spot Riley in the galleries wearing his special MFA work vest!



After your visit PET PORTRAITS

There are many dogs in Boston. On your way home, count how many dogs you see. When you get home, sketch a portrait of your own pet or stuffed animal. If the animal wears a collar or has a special characteristic—a spot, interesting ears, a long or short muzzle—be sure to include it in your portrait.



Museum of Fine Arts Boston mfa.org

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Made possible by Arthur R. Hilsinger and Barbara J. Janson.

FRONT: THE "DOGS' WEDDING," MADE BY HÖCHST MANUFACTORY, ABOUT 1755. HARD-PASTE PORCELAIN. KIYI AND EDWARD M. PFLUEGER COLLECTION. BEQUEST OF EDWARD M. PFLUEGER AND GIFT OF KIYI POWERS PFLUEGER; CHARLES I. D. LOOFF, *CAROUSEL FIGURE OF A GREYHOUND*, ABOUT 1905–10. PAINTED WOOD, GLASS. GIFT OF CLAIRE M. AND ROBERT N. GANZ. BACK: *DOG WITH RELIEF DECORATION*, CHINESE, EASTERN HAN DYNASTY, AD 2ND CENTURY. GLAZED EARTHENWARE. BEQUEST OF CHARLES BAIN HOYT—CHARLES BAIN HOYT COLLECTION. © 2019 MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON.