

## NSM Highlights

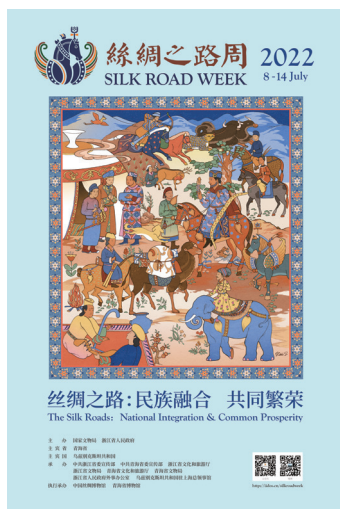
### 2022 Silk Road Week opens in Hangzhou

The opening ceremony of the 2022 Silk Road Week was held at the China National Silk Museum in Hangzhou, East China's Zhejiang province on July 8. The event is aimed at strengthening international cultural exchanges and promoting Silk Road culture. Themed “The Silk Roads: National integration and common prosperity”, the 2022 Silk Road Week was hosted by the National Cultural Heritage Administration and the Zhejiang government and will run until July 14.

The 2022 Silk Road Week will feature online and offline exhibitions, academic conferences, livestreaming and immersive and interactive workshops for the public. A campaign to introduce Silk Road culture to primary and middle school students across China will run throughout June.

A new initiative for the 2022 Silk Road Week is the introduction of a Guest Province of Honor and Guest Country of Honor. Qinghai province and the Republic of Uzbekistan will be the inaugural guests of honor for the weeklong event, during which cultural heritage, customs and scientific studies of the Silk Road related to these two places will be showcased. The Annual Report of Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads 2021 was launched during the opening ceremony.

This year's Silk Road Week annual exhibition “Qinghai Path: The Silk Roads in the 6th - 8th Centuries” also kicked off on July 8 and will run until August 25. More than 100 cultural relics from Qinghai are on show at the event. In addition to the series of events in Hangzhou, institutions from Qinghai and the Uzbek cities of Samarkand and Tashkent will carry out activities including exhibitions and lectures.



Supported by UNSECO, Silk Road Week is an annual event that was first unveiled at the China National Silk Museum in 2020. It is organized by the International Association for the Study of Silk Road Textiles and the Chinese Museums Association's Committee of Museums along the Silk Road. The themes for 2020 and 2021 are “The Silk Roads: Mutual learning for future collaborations” and “Cultural diversity and sustainable development”.

China and Uzbekistan celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations on Jan 2. This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the China Silk Museum, which was founded in Hangzhou in 1992. The largest silk museum in the world, the museum boasts a collection of nearly 70,000 items and hosts nearly two dozen domestic and international exhibitions every year.



# China National Silk Museum opens Silk & Silk Road Exhibition in Prague during the 26th ICOM General Conference

The Silk & Silk Road Exhibition kicked off in Prague on August 19, 2022. The event was co-hosted by the Chinese embassy in Prague and China National Silk Museum (NSM), which coincides with the hosting of the 26th ICOM (International Council of Museums) General Conference held in Prague this year. ICOM, the only global museum association in the world, is made up from more than 49,000 members representing 142 countries and territories.

At the invitation of the organizers, several guests from the ICOM attended the opening ceremony, including ICOM Asia-Pacific Committee chairman Kidong Bae, ICOM-International Committee for Museums of Ethnography chairman Ralf Čeplak Mencin, ICOM-International Committee for Architecture and Museum Techniques chairman Nana Meparishvili, ICOM Mongolia chairman Bumaa Dashdendendev, ICOM South Africa chairman Catherine Snel, ICOM-Venezuela secretary general Lic. Nathiam Vega and ICOM India member. Small but exquisite, they highly appreciate the form of the exhibition, which represents an excellent example for small size exhibition in the museum community.

NSM, the world's largest silk museum, exhibits a rich and exquisite collection of silk objects at the exhibition with only three boxes from China. Divided into three sections, Silk Technology, Silk

Art and the Silk Road, the event provides a detailed introduction to the origin of silk in China, the production process of the material, silk patterns and various derivatives, in addition to showing how silk became a commodity highly valued and sought after the world over following the formation of the Silk Road. Over 30 exhibits and a large number of images relating to silk will be on display, giving Czech visitors an opportunity to understand the origin of the prized material, appreciate the beauty of the natural protein fiber and experience China's Jiangnan culture.

"China and the Czech Republic have established friendly relations in terms of cultural exchanges, and this is my fourth visit to Prague," said NSM honorary director Zhao Feng, when delivering a speech at the ceremony. The Silk and Silk Road exhibition highlights China's long and rich silk culture as well as the significant role that silk played in the cultural exchanges between China and other countries and regions worldwide, alongside the achievements and progress made in recent years by CNSM and the wider Chinese museum community in archaeological research, conservation of cultural artifacts, inheritance of traditional culture, and collaborations with international museums.

The Silk and Silk Road Exhibition, open at no charge to the public, will continue until August 26, 2022.





# China National Silk Museum and UNESCO Co-Launch Thematic Collection of the Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Roads: Textiles and Clothing Volume

On July 8, 2022, Dr. Feng Zhao, Honorary Director of the China National Silk Museum and Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of the UNESCO Office in Beijing, co-launched a book entitled, Thematic Collection of the Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Roads: Textiles and Clothing Volume, a co-publishing project between UNESCO and the China National Silk Museum.

The first volume of UNESCO's Thematic Collection of the Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Roads from chief editors Prof. Marie-Louise Nosch, President of the Royal Danish Academy of Science

and function of the Silk Roads from varying perspectives as well as exchanges along the routes.

The book provides a grand, comprehensive overview of the role that textiles and fabrics have played in global history, which helps readers understand the implications of this broad topic that spans almost four millennia. Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO said, "I hope this fascinating volume will act as a valuable resource for the expert and general reader alike. It will further knowledge on this important



and Letters and Dr. Feng Zhao, fully reflects the vital role of textiles and clothing in human society, especially regarding the development of the Silk Roads.

The book's twenty-two chapters cover contributions from no less than 30 renowned international scholars in the field of textiles and clothing from 15 countries, including Denmark, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Italy, South Korea, India, Japan, Egypt, Ghana, and China. The writers interpret and explain the development of textile materials, technology, patterns, art, culture,

topic and contribute to the wider goals of the Thematic Collection to deepen our collective understanding of these cultural exchanges and their contemporary legacy."

Globally renowned historian Peter Frankopan, author of the book's preface, commented, "We learn how patterns, dyes and fashions were important elements of imitation, influence and exchange, as well as why, when and where particular designs and motifs were adopted and how they evolved in their new settings."



# Silk Road Online Curating Competition Attracts Participation of over 120 Universities

China National Silk Museum held the Silk Road Online Curating Competition from April to July 2022, co-organized by Shanghai University and supported by Manycore Tech Inc. (KOOL). The competition attracted the participation of over 120 universities including Peking University, Fudan University, Zhejiang University, University of the Arts London and many other universities, as well as more than 20 museums and a large group of designers. 127 online exhibitions were curated and divided into Cultural Heritage and Museology Group and Design Group with the two groups awarded respectively.

The competition is powered by the Silk Road Online Museum (SROM) platform, a platform with its main concepts focusing on “digital collaboration” and “3D online curating”. It has brought together more than 2,000 digital artifacts from more than 40 museums worldwide. Curators and designers can design and curate exhibitions through the SROM platform by selecting artifacts from the Digital Collection, doing extensive academic research, building or selecting a gallery, selecting glass showcases, arranging display tools, writing explanation labels, and finally creating a 3D virtual exhibition. Additionally, the exhibition works can also be shared on social media,

thus attracting more audiences.

The Silk Road Online Curating Competition culminated on the evening of July 8, with an award ceremony held in the China National Silk Museum. At the ceremony, Liu Shuguang, President of the Chinese Museums Association/ICOM-China, commented, “this is such an innovative competition that is in the breast with this digital age. And it is also such a cheerful gathering of emerging curators, from which we can see their passion and dedication toward the Silk Road culture.” Director of China National Silk Museum Dr. Zhao Feng, and also the Chair of the Competition Organizer, said, “from SROM and the competition, I hope museums in the future could be more accessible, collaborative, and transparent, to help building a more democratic and hybrid museum curating and education system.”

Since its establishment in 2021, SROM platform has not only been active in fostering collaboration among museums, but also in bringing the influence of museums into universities and society. The competition has attracted numerous applicants and who have gone on to become “Digital Curators”. They have energized the SROM platform and empowered it to display more deeply its creative functions, making the platform more user-based and sustainable.





# Exhibitions

## Beautiful Uzbekistan: Selected Works Exhibition of Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads Photo Contest, UNESCO

Curator: Zhou Yajuan

Sponsor: Silk Roads Programme, UNESCO

Organizer: China National Silk Museum

Support: Consulate General of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Shanghai

Place: Ribbon Corridor, Fashion Gallery, China National Silk Museum

Duration: 2022.07.08-2022.09.18

As an important cultural and trade center along the Silk Roads, Uzbekistan has a history of migration and exchanges over the centuries. The Silk Road Week in 2022, therefore, invites Uzbekistan as the guest of honor to fully showcase its Silk Road characteristics. The UNESCO Silk Roads Programme is dedicated to promoting exchanges and understanding among different cultures along the Silk Roads. Organized within the framework of the Programme, the annual *Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads* International Photo Contest, launched since 2018, offers an exciting opportunity for young people from all over the world to capture their understanding of the shared



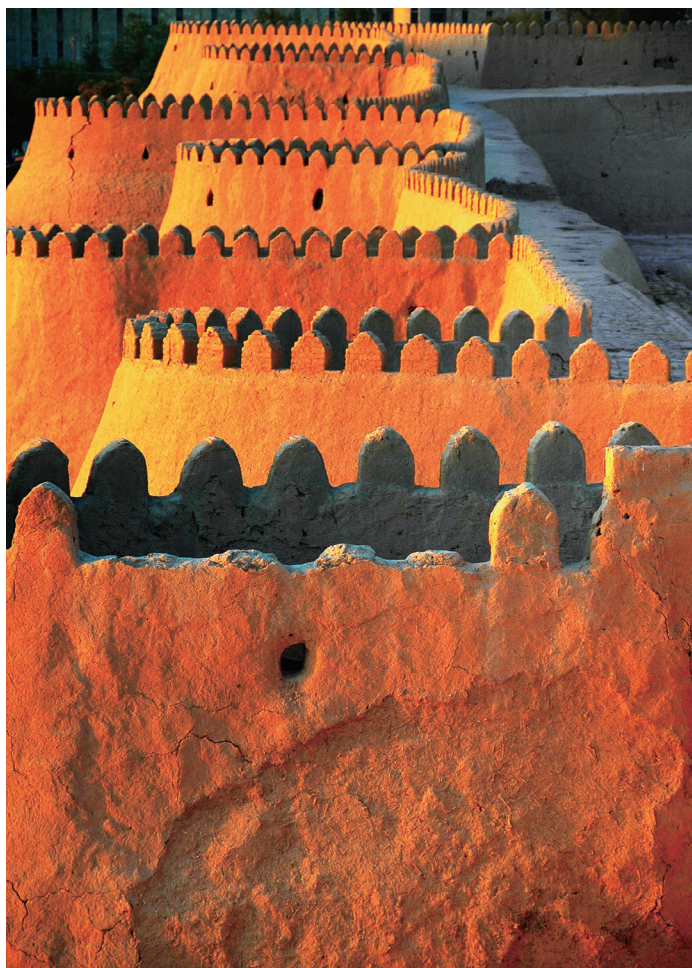
*A Tashkent Girl.* Photo by Kamila Yadgarova. Photo credit: UNESCO Silk Roads Program.



*Hearty traditional Uzbek breakfast outside the old city of Khiva.* Photo by Andrea Van Acker. Photo credit: UNESCO Silk Roads Program.



*Khiva from the highest minaret.* Photo by Ibragimova Komila. Photo credit: UNESCO Silk Roads Program.



*Ancient Khiva walls.* Photo by Filippo Gordini. Photo credit: UNESCO Silk Roads Program.



*Uzbek dance in Ferghana.* Photo by Alimkhodjaev Bobur. Photo credit: UNESCO Silk Roads Program.

heritage of the Silk Roads through the lens of their camera. Selected from the Contest and taken in different cities of Uzbekistan, including Samarkand, Tashkent, Bukhara and Shiva, Fergana, etc., photos of the exhibition present Uzbekistan through different perspectives: architectural sites, cuisine, textiles and clothing, music and dance, and people's lives.



## QINGHAI PATH: The Silk Roads in the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Centuries

Sponsor: National Cultural Heritage Administration, Zhejiang Provincial People's Government, Qinghai Provincial People's Government

Organizer: China National Silk Museum

Support: Qinghai Provincial Museum, Qinghai Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, Haixi Museum, Dulan Museum, Qinghai Tibetan Culture Museum, Gansu Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, Datong Museum, School of Cultural Heritage, Northwest University, Chengdu Shu Brocade and Embroidery Museum

Place: 1st Floor of Fashion Gallery, China National Silk Museum

Duration: 2022.07.08-2022.09.18

Qinghai is located in the northwest of China, the northeast of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. It is bounded to the north and east by Gansu province, to the southeast by Sichuan province, to the south and west by the Tibet Autonomous Region, and to the west and northwest by the Uygur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang. Most of the province consists of mountains and high plateaus. In the north are the Altun and Qilian mountain ranges. Through the south-central part of the province extend the Bayan Har (Bayankala) Mountains (a spur of the Kunlun Mountains), which serve as the watershed of the headwaters of the Yellow River and Yangtze River. In the south the Qinghai-Tibetan boundary parallels the Tanggula Mountains, where the Yangtze rises. Between these high mountains are broad valleys, rolling hilly areas, and extensive flat tableland.

The Qinghai Silk Road was developed very early, but its prosperity was in the Tuyuhun period. At the beginning of the 4th century A.D., Murong Tuyuhun of the Xianbei tribe moved west to Qinghai and built the Kingdom in about 313, which was destroyed by Tubo in 663, lasting for about 350 years.

The exhibition briefly describes the history of the Tuyuhun Kingdom and, based on archaeological discoveries related to the Tuyuhun-Tubo in Haixi Mongol and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture over the past 40 years, shows the livings, culture and art history of the Tuyuhun people from the 6th-8th centuries. Through a number of artifacts of great academic value and exquisite ornamental effects, the exhibition tends to reveal the significant contribution of the Qinghai

Path in bridging the cultural exchanges between the East and the West and its important position in the historical process of the integration of the diverse Chinese peoples.





## Glorious Stage: Costume Design Exhibition of Dance Drama “Knife Club”

Curator: Xu Zheng

Organizer: China National Silk Museum

Place: Xinyou Archive Center

Duration: 2022.07.26-2022.10.31

The dance drama “Knife Club” is the first large-scale folk dance drama created and performed by Shanghai Experimental Opera House (the predecessor of Shanghai Song and Dance Theater) after its establishment in 1956. The whole play shows the historical

features of the “Knife Club” in seven scenes of "uprising", "victory", "protest", "night attack", "request for help", "breakthrough" and "forward". Its stage costumes are recreated on the basis of absorbing the essence and characteristics of traditional Chinese costumes, martial arts costumes and ancient costumes, which are highly concise and distinctive in style. This exhibition displays the design drafts of performance costumes made by Shanghai Drama Costume Factory. This set of design drafts includes the shapes and flags of more than 30 characters such as Liu Lichuan, Pan Qixiang, Zhou Xiuying, etc. In addition to the line drawings, there are also many fabric samples of the clothing, which can be seen as a glimpse of the stage clothing design in the 1960s and 1970s.





# Impressions of Han and Wei Dynasties Chinese Costumes(200BC-600AD)

Curator: Xue Yan

Sponsor: China National Silk Museum, Xuzhou Museum

Organizer: China National Silk Museum

Place: 2nd Floor of Textile Conservation Gallery, China National Silk Museum

Duration: 2022.09.09-2022.11.27

With the channeling of the Silk Road and frequent cultural exchanges between the East and the West, the Chinese culture in the Han and the Wei Dynasties reached a scenario of diversity and integration and the culture of costumes also witnessed a new peak: many new elements infused into traditional silk technology, the making of multifarious colorful textile fabrics with the input, cultivation and implication of various plant dyes into China. The costumes of the Han and the Wei, including plain yarn Zen costumes as thin as a cicada's wings and Shenyi (traditional Chinese robes) with layers of curved hems in the Western Han Dynasty, wide-sleeves, narrow-sleeves or half-sleeves, floor-length long skirts, short silk shirts or blouses and embroidered dresses, left us the impressions of being elegant, gorgeous and beautiful and exerted a profound impact on history. Up to now, there are still many Hanfu (Han-style costumes) lovers who work for inheriting and promoting traditional Chinese costume culture.

This exhibition showcases the painted pottery figurines collected by Xuzhou Museum and textile costumes collected by China National Silk Museum. The painted figurines, with different figures, colorful and diversified costumes, as well as vivid images, present us not only their artistic characteristics but a glimpse into the Han and the Wei costumes.





# Timeless Elegance: Global Qipao Invitational Design Work Retrospective Exhibition

Curator: Xu Shanhe

Organizer: China National Silk Museum

Place: 1st Floor of Fashion Gallery, China National Silk Museum

Duration: 2022.09.28-2022.12.11

Inheriting the elements of the ancient Chinese robe, combining with the tailoring method of the western costume, qipao is the outcome of the combination of eastern and western dress culture. Rising in 1920s and handed down to the present, it is recognized as the most representative Chinese female traditional costumes and spread from China to the rest of the world. As the saying goes, "Distant hills are ethereal like eyebrows, above the water the vapour floats." Qipao shares the same timeless charm in its birthplace of China, or the places where it spreads.

Since 2018, along with the Hangzhou Global Qipao Festival, China National Silk Museum has organized four global qipao invitational design work exhibitions, named Mountain and Water, Celebration, Poetry and Vision. Designers from 30 countries and regions studied qipao culture, design qipao in the context of their own regional culture and from the perspectives of their own fields. In this progress, qipao becomes the achievement of the combination of western and eastern culture, as it originally is, 100 years after its birth.



"Civilizations have become richer and more colorful with exchanges and mutual learning. Such exchanges and mutual learning form an important drive for human progress and global peace and development." Through generous help of the embassies, fashion institutes, fashion industry professionals, fellow friends and the hard work of the staff of our museum for years, our qipao exhibitions have built a bridge of communication between the dress designers all over the world, and woven the bond for the exchanges and mutual learning of the civilizations and establish the stage for the display of the traditional western and eastern culture. We sincerely hope that the Chinese qipao would represent the Chinese traditional culture and make civilizations around the world appreciate the goodness of each other and unify as the beauty of the world.





# DAILY NEWS

- From July 4 to 7, the permanent exhibition on the 2nd floor of Fashion Gallery “An Evolution of Fashion: Chinese Costume from 1920s to 2010s” was closed for renovation at NSM.
- On July 8, the opening ceremony of “2022 Silk Road Week 2022” was held at NSM.
- On July 8, the exhibition “Qinghai Path: The Silk Roads in the 6th-8th Centuries” opened in the Galaxy Hall of NSM.
- On July 8, the “SROM Silk Road Online Curating Competition” award ceremony (SROM Night) was grandly unveiled at NSM.
- On July 9, the activity “Evening of Haixi” was held at NSM.
- On July 18, the Silk Road Gallery of NSM was closed for renovation till September 30, 2022.
- On July 22, the Technical Department of NSM was awarded the title of Advanced Collective of the National Cultural Relics System.
- On July 26, the exhibition “Glorious Stage: Costume Design Exhibition of Dance Drama Knife Club” opened at Xinyou Archive Center of NSM.
- On July 28, NSM launched the activity of “Song’s Costume and Elegance -Summer Study Tourism”.
- On July 30, NSM held the offline activity of “Color-Filling and Treasure Hunting”.
- On July 30, NSM released 3 positions in the 2022 public recruitment plan, and the deadline was August 7, 2022.
- On August 16, NSM openly recruited 2 weaving demonstrators, and the deadline was August 31, 2022.
- On August 19, the exhibition “Silk & Silk Road” jointly

sponsored by the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the Czech Republic and the China National Silk Museum opened in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic.

- On August 22, the Cuba Consul General in Shanghai Mileidy and other four people visited the NSM.
- On August 24, the honorary director of NSM Zhao Feng was elected as the position of ordinary member of the 37th Executive Committee of ICOM with highest votes.
- On August 25, the “Ming Costume in Memory” project won the second prize of the 60th anniversary of ICOM Costume International Committee.
- On September 1, NSM participated the 9th MPT-EXPO in Zhengzhou.
- On September 3, the seminar of “Museum in the Era of Digital Integration: Theme, Vision and Online Curating” hosted by NSM was successfully held at the 9th MPT-EXPO.
- On September 9, the exhibition “Impressions of Han and Wei Dynasties Chinese Costumes (200BC-600AD) opened at Textile Conservation Gallery of NSM.
- From September 14 to 15, NSM was temporarily closed for 2 days due to the Severe Typhoon Muifa.
- On September 28, the exhibition “Timeless Elegance: Global Qipao Invitational Design Work Retrospective Exhibition” opened at Fashion Gallery of NSM.
- On September 30, NSM announced that the Silk Road Gallery will reopen on October 1, 2022.

