

OBJECT LESSONS

OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, April 4, 6:30—8:00 p.m., Gallery talk by student curators at 7:00 p.m.

What is the meaning behind the number of talons on a Chinese dragon? How does the function of ancient objects inform our understanding of the culture that made them, and what do patterns in African art express about leadership? These and other questions are answered in the exhibition *OBJECT LESSONS*, the title of which refers to how the close reading of material culture is fundamental to curatorial practice. Curated by the 2013 *Museums Studies* class, each student selected materials in the CWAM's permanent collection representing five CWAM collection concentrations—African, Ancient, Asian, "Curiosities," and Prints. For this teaching exhibition, students were asked to first describe their objects, then to synthesize the visual evidence with contextual research. The class also assisted with exhibition installation, and will present gallery talks on their research and observations. Final exhibition texts can be found online at: wooster.edu/cwam