



AT HOME

#14



image: China, Jiangxi, Plate, with 'willow pattern', mid-late 18th century, Jingdezhen, Jiangxi, porcelain, underglaze decoration, 22.5 cm (height); M.J.M. Carter AO Collection 1971, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

ABOUT THE WORK

What is the oldest piece of china in your kitchen cupboard? This plate is more than 300 years old, and was made in Jingdezhen, China. The blue painting on the white background is known as the Willow Pattern and is one of the most well-known images in the world. The pattern was originally created by a designer in England who was inspired by traditional Chinese tableware.

Plate, with 'willow pattern' illustrates an old Chinese fable about the daughter of a wealthy official who falls in love with her father's servant. When her father finds out about their romance, he forbids them to be together and tries to marry his daughter to a noble man who lives across the water. Instead, the couple run away together, transforming into a pair of doves so that they can be free. The plate design includes the houses of the wealthy men, the boat, the blue willow tree at the edge of the water; and the couple as doves in the sky. Can you find them all?

BE INSPIRED

China and the World is currently on display in Galleries 19A, 19B, 20 and 21.

ORNAMENTAL WATERCOLOUR PLATES

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

Baking soda dough:

- 2 cups of baking soda
- 1 cup of corn starch
- 1 1/4 cups of water
- Saucepan and wooden spoon
- Stove (parental guidance required)
- Tea towel

To decorate:

- Pencil
- White acrylic paint
- Watercolour paints
- Pot of water
- Brushes

CREATE YOUR OWN WORK OF ART

- 1 To make your baking soda dough, ask an adult to help you place all ingredients into a pot over medium heat on the stove and stir the mixture until it thickens like mashed potato.
- 2 Take the mixture off the heat, mould the dough into a ball and wrap in a tea towel to cool. The dough will be hot so ask an adult to do this for you.
- 3 When the dough is cool to touch, knead the dough until smooth. This will remove any leftover stickiness.
- 4 Shape your plate by thinning out the dough until it is 1.5cm thick. Add edges or feet to the plate and keep any excess dough in a damp tea towel while you work. After air-drying your plate overnight, apply a coat of white acrylic paint to seal it.
- 5 To decorate your plate, choose your favourite fairytale and draw your design onto the hardened surface with a pencil. Be sure to include the main characters or your favourite scene.
- 6 Colour the design with watercolour paints. When the paint is dry, use your plate to store trinkets, coins, or jewellery.

FINISHED? We would love to see your work! Ask your parent or guardian to post a photo on Instagram and tag the Art Gallery of South Australia

 @artgalleryofsa #startatthegallery

Not on Instagram? No worries! Email your photo to us at public.programs@artgallery.sa.gov.au