

Tigers in Motion

Chinese Tiger Hunt & Art Activity



Hollow Brick with Tigers and Bi Disk Funerary Architecture Element. 2009.9.1. Chinese, early Eastern Han dynasty. (25 CE - 220 CE), Xian region. Gray earthenware, molded design.

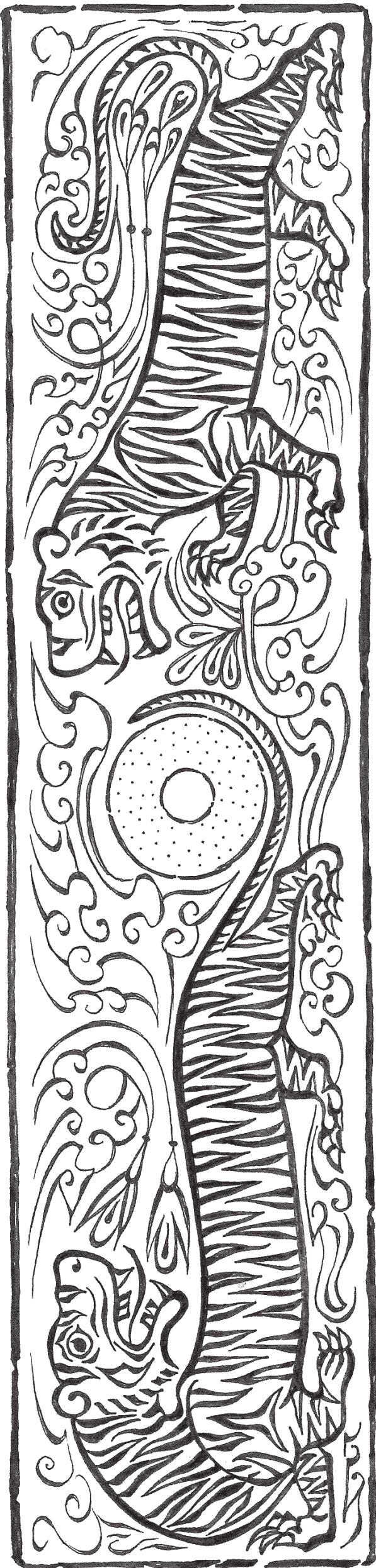
This brick with its dynamic depiction of tigers was made over 2,000 years ago during the Han dynasty in China as decoration for a tomb. In China, the tiger is associated with the western direction and is believed to be good luck. The fierce tiger is believed to have the power to drive away demons and provide protection for people.

How many tigers do you see? Notice the curves of their tails and the swirling design carved in the brick. **Does the design make the tiger seem still or in motion?** Some experts say the line of the carving echoes the fluid line of Chinese brush painting. **What do you think?** Ancient Chinese believed that the markings on the tiger's forehead resembled the Chinese character for "Wang" or king.

Can you find more tigers in the images taken from the Museum's gallery below?



Tiger Plaque, Chinese, Han dynasty (206 BCE-220 CE). Bronze. Gift of Wright S. Ludington in memory of Charles Henry Ludington, SBMA. *Twelve Calendrical Animals*, Chinese, Six dynasties - Sui dynasty, 6th century. Gray earthenware with remnants of pigments. Gift of the Joseph Halle Schaffner Estate, SBMA. *Hill Jar*, Chinese, Han dynasty (206 BCE - 220 CE). Reddish earthenware with olive-green glaze. Gift of Wright S. Ludington in memory of Charles Henry Ludington, SBMA.



Color the line drawing of the tiger brick on the left, and use the boxes below to draw some of the tigers you have found. Sketch a whole tiger, or look closely and draw details like tails or eyes.

