

Tea bowl

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The tea bowl is complete. It is circular in shape. In profile, the bowl has an upwardly flared wall topped by a flared rim. The lower part of the wall curves towards the flat bottom. The bowl rests on a small annular foot. The outer rim of the foot is beveled and free of glaze. The bottom is flat and recessed; decoration is found on the inner rim and bottom, and on the outer wall. The decoration is of a scenic animal type. It is hand-painted in underglaze blue. The ribbon under the inner rim is decorated with a double latticework with spikes, underlined by a fillet. The inner base is decorated with a small stylized flower. The decoration on the inner wall consists of a terrace traced in blue, supporting a central group of three rocks with holes, symbols of the Chinese philosophy of Taoism; at the top of the high rock stands a bird. Behind the rocks emerges a leafy stem supporting a large flower, probably a chrysanthemum. To the left of the rocks rise leafy bamboos, while to the right there's another rock with a hole in it. A small bird twirls in the sky. A stylized flower adorns the opposite wall.

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Date 1770 c

Materials ceramics, fine hard-paste porcelain from China

Measurements 4,2 x 7,333 cm

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Photo by Francois Gignac

On display