**bodhisattva:** A bodhisattva is an “enlightened being”; a person who guides others.

**calligraphy:** Calligraphy, in Greek, means “beautiful writing.” It is handwriting or penmanship, especially elegant writing as a decorative art.

**chakra:** A chakra is a discus or wheel; sometimes a solar symbol; in Buddhism, the chakra is the wheel of law, sometimes referred to in Buddha's first sermon, in which he put the wheel of the law into motion; in Hinduism, the chakra is an attribute and weapon of Vishnu.

**colophon:** Colophon is an inscription, usually on the last page, giving information about a book’s manufacture. In Chinese painting, written texts on attached pieces of paper or silk.

**gopuras:** Gopuras are the massive, ornamented entrance gateway towers of South Indian temple compounds.

**handscroll:** In Asian art, a handscroll is a horizontal painted scroll that is unrolled to the left and often used to present illustrated religious texts or landscapes.

**lakshana(s):** Lakshanas are the distinguishing marks of the Buddha. They include the urna and ushnisha.

**literati:** In China, literati were talented amateur painters and scholars from the landed gentry.

**mandapa:** Mandapas are pillared halls of a Hindu temple.

**overglaze:** In porcelain decoration, the technique of applying mineral colors over the glaze after the work has been fired is known as an overglaze. The overglaze colors, or enamels, fuse to the glazed surface in a second firing at a much lower temperature than the main firing.
pagoda: A pagoda is a Chinese tower, usually associated with a Buddhist temple, having a multiplicity of winged eaves; thought to be derived from the Indian stupa.

porcelain: Porcelain is an extremely fine, hard, white ceramic. Unlike stoneware, porcelain is made from a fine white clay called kaolin mixed with ground petuntse, a type of feldspar. True porcelain is translucent and rings when struck.

underglaze: In porcelain decoration, the technique of applying of mineral colors to the surface before the main firing, followed by an application of clear glaze is known as an underglaze.