

the Whitworth

Audio Descriptions transcript

December 2021

AUDIO DESCRIPTIONS

Audio descriptions of artworks from the collection of the Whitworth, The University of Manchester.



AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Silk tapestry with sparrow in bamboo. Sample, Tapestry, Silk. Nishijin, Kyoto, Japan 1840 (c)

All of the Audio Descriptions are available to listen to at:

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The piece is positioned in portrait format and is rectangular in shape with four edges. The tapestry sample has been made by drawloom weaving and along the bottom edge of the piece you can view the loose thread. The background of the piece is white and looks a little dusty. Along the bottom third of the tapestry there are two branches of a dark green colour. One branch expands to the left and upwards covering approximately half of the tapestry. The second branch slopes to the left and downwards reaching the bottom of the piece. Each branch has many light green leaves attached to them also going toward the left. The midrib of the leaves are of a darker green colour, matching that of the branches.

In the centre to top section of the tapestry there is a bird with its wings outstretched. It's face is positioned to the left and it seems to be flying in this direction. The main body of the bird is a dark brown. The feathers on its wings and tail are of a gray colour. The midsection of its body is covered by one of the leaves. It's forehead is brown, below which is a black eye surrounded by a gray rim. The beak is also gray with a black stripe to mark its mouth. Below the beak it's neck is black and white. The bird is outlined in black and it's individual feathers on its wings and tail are traced out in black also. On the top right hand corner there are two stripes of bamboo which cut diagonally across the tapestry from the upper quartile of the piece from the right upwards and going left across two-third of the upper section of the piece. One of the bamboo pieces are closer to the bird. It is of a lighter green colour. The joint connecting this piece of bamboo is close to the lefthand edge of the tapestry and is lime green in colour.

There is the second piece of bamboo above the first piece of bamboo. It is approximately three times wider in diameter than the first bamboo piece. It is

of a of a very dark green colour and the joint connecting this piece of bamboo is of a lime green colour. There are some green leaves attached to this larger piece of bamboo on one side. This side is the side that is closest to the top of the tapestry. The leaves are light green in colour with a dark green midribs. They look as if they are being blown away by the wind and flying off the tapestry.

If we could touch this tapestry, it would feel smooth across the top half of the tapestry. The bottom half of the tapestry appears creased and therefore would have a uneven texture and feel. Also on the bottom half of the tapestry, the thread appears to be coming looser than the top half and therefore you would be able to feel individual threads.