

Project glossary

bronze

A yellow-brown metal alloy of copper and tin.

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cast

An object formed by putting a molten or soft material in or on a mould.

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clay casting

A method of casting by pressing objects into the surface of a clay slab to leave an impression before filling the impression with plaster, leaving it to harden and then removing the plaster cast from its clay mould.

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ding

An ancient Chinese bronze cauldron used for cooking, storage or ritual offerings to the gods or ancestors.

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molten

A substance made liquid by heat.

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mould

A typically hollow container that is used to give shape to a molten or soft material when it cools and hardens.

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paper casting

A method of casting by layering strips of damp paper over an object, leaving it to dry and then gently removing the paper cast to see the object's surface detail.

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piece-mould casting

A method of bronze casting where a clay model of a bronze item is fired to harden and used to make a clay mould of the item, into which molten brass is poured.

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Shang Dynasty

The earliest ruling dynasty in the recorded history of China (c1600–c1046 BC).

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silicone casting

A method of casting where liquid plaster is poured into a silicone mould, left to harden, and then the silicon mould peeled off to leave a plaster cast.

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taotie

A creature in Chinese mythology whose image appears on artefacts such as masks and ritual vessels.

