State Council of The People's Republic of China



Sculpture – Blooming Lotus in a Prosperous Era

DIAMETER: 1M / HEIGHT: 0.9M

The gift was presented by the State Council of the People's Republic of China to celebrate Macao's reunification with the motherland. Composed of a stalk, petals, and core, the lotus is cast in bronze and is gilded. The leaf shaped base is made of twenty-three pieces of red granite, which are assembled into three layers to represent the main peninsula and two islands of Macao. As the lotus flower represents Macao SAR, this elegant sculpture of a blooming lotus indicates the prosperity of the Macao SAR.

The sculpture is part of a two-piece set. The fore-mentioned sculpture, situated in Lotus Square in front of the Macao Forum, is 6 metres tall, has a diameter of 3.6 metres and weighs 6.5 tons. The huge golden lotus glitters under sunlight to symbolise Macao's bright future. A smaller version of the sculpture, the second part of the set, is on display in the Macao Handover Museum. These eye-catching and delicately crafted gifts commemorate the historic moment when the Special Administrative Region of Macao was established and China resumed its sovereignty of Macao.

Municipal Government of Beijing



Carved Lacquer Plate – Flourishing Flowers and Harvest Moon

DIAMETER: 1.08M / HEIGHT: 1.72M

The gift was presented by the Municipal Government of Beijing to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. The gift is elaborately crafted using lacquer-carving techniques which date back to the Tang dynasty (618 – 907). Beijing lacquer wares are traditionally made of copper or wood bodies coated with entire lacquer ranging from a dozen to a hundred layers, which makes the entire lacquer layer 5 to 10 millimetres thick. Features like landscapes, figures, flowers or birds are then carved on the lacquer layers. Beijing lacquer wares are created using a complex process which consists of design, body-making, lacquering, design-drawing, carving and polishing. Each process requires elaborately skilled and delicate working techniques. Beijing lacquers are renowned for their excellent craftsmanship.

Using traditional Beijing techniques, the 20-millimetre lacquer layer and carvings in high relief on the plate enhance the 3-Dimensional qualities of the work. The carvings on the plate depict Beijing's famous Summer Palace and Macao's A-Ma Temple, and the two are linked together by the Friendship Bridge, with lotuses in green water and a full moon in the lingering clouds in the background. The design symbolises the reunification of Beijing and Macao and that the people of both cities are looking forward to Macao's return.

Municipal Government of Tianjin



Screen – Lotus Flower and Golden Fish – Affluent Years of Plenty

LENGTH: 3.15M /WIDTH: 0.8M /HEIGHT: 2.18M

The gift was presented by the Municipal Government of Tianjin to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. The main feature of the huge screen is the 24K inlaid lacquer painting. The exquisite graphic design originates from Yangliuqing New Year Pictures. The Yangliuqing New Year Prints can be traced back to the Ming dynasty (1368 – 1644) and are named after Yangliuqing, a town in western suburban Tianjin. The main techniques applied in this work are found in the wood-block printing and hand-colouring. The application of colour is firstly completed by wood block painting and then repainted by hand afterwards. Yangliuqing New Year Prints are traditionally bright in colour and together with the rich sources of folk legends, historical stories, ancient fairy tales, folk conventions and landscapes, the Prints have a unique artistic style and a strong local theme.

The picture on the screen depicts a plump Chinese girl, smiling and embracing a golden fish and a lotus flower. This design represents the prospect of success and joy, symbolising the people in Tianjin celebrating Macao's return. The frame of the screen is made of red wood with a double side cutout of Chinese roses (the traditional flower of Tianjin) surrounded by fretwork patterns, implying Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. The tops of the columns on both sides are in the shape of a lotus to indicate Tianjin and Macao's quest for prosperity together.

Provincial Government of Hebei



Hand Crafted Filigree – Vigorous and Joyous Golden Lions Celebrating China's Reunion

DIAMETER: 1M / HEIGHT: 1.5M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Hebei to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. Filigree, the inlay technique used in the composition of this gift, involves firstly stripping a precious metal such as gold and silver, and then weaving the metal strips into different patterns. The strips are then carved and inlaid with beads, jade and other precious stones. Filigree is a delicate craft and requires skilled design and fine artistic techniques.

This filigree is consists of nine golden lions holding up a ball which symbolises the motherland. The ball is inlaid with thirty-four pieces of precious stone to represent the thirty-four provinces, municipalities, autonomous regions and special administrative regions of China. The nine golden lions and nine pieces of ribbon represent 1999, the handover year, and express the joy of the Hebei people at the time of Macao's return to Chinese sovereignty.

Provincial Government of Shanxi



Woodcarving – Stork Tower

LENGTH: 3M / WIDTH: 2.8M / HEIGHT: 2.399M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Shanxi to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China, which is a scaled down model of the renovated Stork Tower. The Stork Tower is located next to the Yellow River in Gupu, which is a district of Yongji city, Shanxi Province. The tower is one of the four famous historic towers in China along with the Yellow Crane Tower in Wuhan city, Hubei Province, the Yueyang Tower by Dongting Lake, Hunan Province and the Tengwang Pavilion in Nanchang city, Jiangxi Province. The Stork Tower was initially built around 557 – 580 and has been an ideal place for ancient scholars to compose poems while appreciating the inspirational surrounding scenery. Among the works penned in the thought-provoking environment is a poem by Wang Zhihuan (a famous Chinese poet in the Tang dynasty), who wrote, "The sun sets behind mountains, the Yellow River runs towards the sea. Go further up stairs and you'll widen your view." after he had visited the tower.

The woodcarving, elaborately crafted out of quality hickory, is on a scale of 1:30 and retains the exact design with the real-life building. The base is decorated with nine flying dragons and ninety-nine lotuses which represents the expectation of the Chinese nationalities towards the reunification. The work is a treasured expression of the good wishes sent by the government of the province and its 30,000,000 people to Macao in wake of the handover.

Government of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region



Metal and Stone Handicraft – Golden Horse Zun Vase

DIAMETER: 0.215M / HEIGHT: 0.669M

The gift was presented by the Government of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. The design of the vase is based on the dragon-decorated pottery unearthed in Inner Mongolia, and the designs of jade dragons and horses. With a combination of inlay techniques, silver, gold, green jade and many other precious stones are placed together to display the traditional artistic skills and styles of the Mongolian crafts.

The work is composed of three parts. The golden horse on the top symbolises the hardworking and courageous characteristics of the Mongolian people. It also highlights the equestrian and archery skills of the Mongolian ethnic group and implies that Macao will be at full gallop after the Handover. The picture on the body of the vase is composed of a horse, a pig-dragon (a kind of jade pendant used in ancient China) and a deer, displaying features of the local culture. The six pieces of jade inlaid on the body of the vase highlight the elegance of the work.

The vase is elegant in design and delicately modelled. The profound significance of the piece makes it a valuable work in the collection.

Provincial Government of Liaoning



Jade Carving – Reunion

LENGTH: 0.6M / WIDTH: 0.3M / HEIGHT: 1M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Liaoning to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. Renowned carving masters carved the piece out of serpentine jade. The serpentine jade is also named "Xiu Jade" after its place of origin, the Xiuyan County of the province. The smooth, delicate but firm texture of the jade makes it the best choice for jade carving.

The work is carved out of serpentine jade with green inlayer. On the triangular jade ornament, nine lifelike lions are playing joyfully, and there are also nine blooming lotuses and a rabbit under the moon in the background, providing a sense of harmony and reunion both in the sky and on earth. It is an expression of the joy of Liaoning people and the rest of the Chinese ethnic groups towards Macao's return in the Year of Rabbit.

Provincial Government of Jilin



Woodcarving – Celebration from Changbai Mountain

LENGTH: 2M / WIDTH: 1.4M / HEIGHT: 1.6M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Jilin to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. The work is carved out of purple linden, a famous wood from Changbai Mountain. The carving depicts two naive deer of different sizes playing by the Lake of Heaven. The elegant larger deer and the smaller deer together look like father and son, symbolising that the Mainland ("Big deer" and "the Mainland" are homonyms in Chinese) and Macao will develop together towards a bright future. The base is a kind of root sculpture carved out of a precious wood found at the banks of the Songhua River, which represents all Chinese ethnic group being rooted to the motherland.

In order to reserve the native features of the wood as much as possible, the carver often considers the gloss, texture and structure of the wood thoroughly before starting work. This woodcarving is grand in sense and natural in shape. It is a fine representation of Chinese woodcarving techniques.

Provincial Government of Heilongjiang



Vases – White Lotus in the Spring

DIAMETER: 1.15M / HEIGHT: 2.369M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Heilongjiang to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. It is made of walnut shell, agate and jade. The vase bodies are composed of walnut shells selected from 10,000 walnuts grown in Xiao Xi'an Forest. The texture of the walnut shells adds a hollowing out effect to the vases. The bases are carved with designs of pine leaves and branches representing the forests in the province. The arms are decorated with white lotuses carved out of white jade, symbolising the flower of Macao. The jade rings hanging from the arms showcase the elegance of the work.

The vases are 1.999 metres tall signifying the year 1999. The vase stands are 0.37 metres tall to represent the warm wishes from all the 37,000,000 people of the province.

Municipal Government of Shanghai



Crystal Sculpture – Celebration from Shanghai to Macao's Return

LENGTH: 0.55M / WIDTH: 0.41M / LENGTH: 2.01M

The gift was presented by the Municipal Government of Shanghai to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. The artist of the piece expresses the Shanghai people's celebration in a modern, creative way. Made of crystal and depicting a magnolia, the symbol of Shanghai, the flower has smooth, natural curves representing the future of Shanghai to be full of hope and vigour as well as the Shanghai people's good wishes to Macao and their hopes for the region's continued prosperity.

Soaring from the middle of the magnolia is a group of Shanghai's landmark buildings made of 18K gold. The buildings engraved in the work are the Oriental Pearl Radio and TV Tower, Jinmao Building, Shanghai Grand Theatre, Shanghai Museum, Shanghai Library and Yangpu Bridge all of which have witnessed the dramatic development of Shanghai over the past two decades. Decorated by fifty small magnolias carved out of white jade, they also symbolise the remarkable achievement that Shanghai has made since it was liberated fifty years ago.

Provincial Government of Jiangsu



Sculpture – Blooming Flowers and Harvest Moon

LENGTH: 0.86M /WIDTH: 0.4M /LENGTH: 1.94M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Jiangsu to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. It is made of sandalwood, padauk, jade and other precious materials. Sandalwood and padauk are two precious woods, the unique fragrance of the former and the special colour of the latter make them renowned for their quality.

This work is composed of a palace fan supported by a padauk base carved in glossy ganoderma. The fan is made of sandalwood, padauk and jade. In the middle is a rolling bouquet ball carved with peonies, plum flowers and lotuses which represent the People's Republic of China, the Jiangsu province and Macao SAR respectively. The handle of the fan is delicately carved to depict blooming peonies and plum flowers. Jade chains attach two sandalwood bouquets and one piece of chime-shaped percussion instrument to the end of the handle.

This work is delicate in design. The blooming flowers and the full-moon-like bouquet convey the celebration of the 70,000,000 Jiangsu people at Macao's return to Chinese sovereignty.

Provincial Government of Zhejiang



Bamboo Art – Returning the Pearl

DIAMETER: 1.22M / HEIGHT: 1.999M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Zhejiang to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. The main feature of the composition is of two dynamic dragons encompassing a shining pearl. The dragons have a double meaning, as they symbolise the two main rivers in China, the Yangtze River and the Yellow River, and the Chinese ethnic groups (as the descendents of dragons). The pearl represents Macao, a city situated by the Southern Sea of China and part of the Pearl River Delta Region. Depicting the two dragons welcoming the pearl out of the sea is a symbol of the Mainland's excitement at Macao's return to Chinese sovereignty.

The dragon has long been considered as a symbol of the Chinese people, while bamboo is a symbol the Chinese people's morals as it displays power, justice, gentleness and loyalty. This piece subtly combines all these features into a creative and well-crafted work of art. The height of 1,999 millimetres and the width of 1,220 millimetres represent the year and the date of the Macao Handover.

Provincial Government of Anhui



Cast Copper Art – Mirror of Reunification

LENGTH: 1.1M / WIDTH: 0.75M / HEIGHT: 1.68M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Anhui to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. The gift is composed of a mirror and a carved root base. The mirror is 1.999 metres in circumference, symbolising the handover year of 1999. The embossments on the mirror are a carving of the Chinese national flag, a Greeting Pine on Huangshan Mountain, clouds, skyscrapers and bridge. The Greeting Pine and the clouds represent the Anhui province while the skyscrapers and the bridge represent Macao. The six clouds represent the celebrations and joy of the 60,000,000 people in the province at Macao's return.

The outer circle of the mirror is decorated with lotus patterns and the Chinese characters meaning "Returning year of 1999" and "Congratulations to Macao's return". The base which is carved from root symbolises Macao's return to its root, Mainland China.

Root sculptures can be made from root or bamboo. It is a special folk art that preserves the features of the source material. Root sculptures from different places vary in style; this sculpture is in the traditional elegant style of work from the Anhui province. The mirror itself symbolises reunion and expresses the Anhui Province people's joy at Macao's return.

Provincial Government of Fujian



Stone Carving – Prosperous Spring Land

LENGTH: 0.85M / WIDTH: 0.4M / HEIGHT: 0.83M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Fujian to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. Made of the precious Shoushan Stone from the province, the work is carved using traditional freestanding, embossing and cutting techniques. Carved from the colourful and glossy Shoushan stone, this sculpture is a beautiful example of one of China's famous traditional arts. Before starting work on such a project, the craftsman always carefully studies the shape, colour and the texture of the chosen stone. Retaining the natural beauty of the stone and combining the artistic beauty with his skills, the best possible result can finally be achieved.

This work depicts the towering banyan trees against the beautiful Wuyi Mountain. The scene is decorated with pavilions, characters, a bamboo raft and birds. The clouds and the water unite the scene and patterns. The gift is a representation of the development of Mainland China and the Fujian people's good wishes on Macao's return.

Provincial Government of Jiangxi



Porcelain Vases – Lotuses

DIAMETER: 0.78M / HEIGHT: 1.999M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Jiangxi to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. The large vases in blue and white with over-glazed colour patterns (also known as "Doucai wares" in Chinese) were created by an artist in Jingdezhen. The Jiangxi Province is famous for its porcelain while Jingdezhen is regarded as the "Town of Porcelain". The Blue-and-White Doucai wares are first outlined in blue before glazing, and then white glaze is applied for the first firing. In the second firing, the wares are added with enamel colours and then heated again at a lower temperature. The Chinese name of "Doucai" means strongly contrasting colours. Works created with these techniques are usually bright and elegant.

Traditional "Doucai" techniques and the modern skills embody the essence of Jiangxi porcelain. There are ninety-nine lotuses in the main pattern on this work to symbolise the year of Macao's return. The ninety-nine lotuses blossoming and budding are as elegant as fairies dancing across the surface of the vase. The 0.3 meter high red wood bases further strengthens the grace of the work. "Hundred lotuses" and "harmony" are homonyms in Chinese and this work represents the People's Republic of China harmonious reunion with Macao.

Provincial Government of Shandong



Bronze Art – Lotus Vase

LENGTH: 1.35M / WIDTH: 1.35M / HEIGHT: 1.999M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Shandong to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. This archaistic bronze ware was cast using the traditional techniques of Shangdong. The process of producing archaistic bronze wares is composed of casting, drawing, carving and inlaying works to imitate the rare copper arts of ancient time. Bronze wares of ancient time are different in shape, decoration pattern and colour. When imitating this style, different skills are required in order to achieve best possible resemblance. The diverse archaising techniques in Shangdong have earned the area a good reputation around the world.

This cast copper vase is an imitation of the phoenix-tail-shaped bronze vases in ancient China. The patterns on the vase include the flower of Macao (the lotus) and Shangdong scenery such as Daming Lake, Taishan Mountain, Qufu, Confucius Temple and Penglai Pavilion. The unity of these designs symbolises the brotherhood of Shangdong and Macao. The upper round and the lower square shapes represent the sky and the earth which constitute an everlasting universe. The mouth of the vase looks like a blossoming lotus to symbolise Macao's prosperity. The arms on both sides represent phoenixes flying back home. The dragon embossments on the lower part of the vase body represent the People's Republic of China. Together with the Shangdong scenery carved on the neck and the feet of the vase, the work symbolises the unity of the province and Macao. The vase is 1.999 meters in height to commemorate the year 1999. The vase weighs 880 kilograms to express the good wishes of the 88,000,000 people in Shangdong.

Provincial Government of Henan



Jade carving – Sundial with Nine Dragons

LENGTH: 1.99M / WIDTH: 1.1M / HEIGHT: 0.8M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Henan to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. It is carved from a complete piece of quality Dushan jade. The jade is named after its place of origin, Dushan, which is located nine kilometres north of Nanyang city. Dushan jade, together with Hetian jade, Xiu jade and turquoise, is one of the four famous jades found in China. It has earned a reputation as the "Jade of Henan" for its firm, smooth texture and its motley and assorted colours. The gift was carved from an 800-kilogram piece of Dushan jade, to which traditional low relief, openwork carving and incised carving techniques were applied.

The main feature of this work is the nine dragons flying around a sundial. "Sundial" and "Return" are homonyms in Chinese. Dragons are the symbols of the Chinese nationalities to represent the nation's motivated and hard-working spirit. The nine dragons surrounding the sundial also evoke a sense of reunion. This gift expresses the good wishes of the Henan people at Macao's return to Chinese sovereignty.

Provincial Government of Hubei



Bells – National Celebrations

LENGTH: 2.4M / WIDTH: 0.7M / HEIGHT: 2.1M

The gift presented by the Provincial Government of Hubei to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China is an imitation of a set of bells (*bianzhong*, a ceremonial bronze instrument in ancient China) unearthed from the tomb of a monarch in the Zeng Vassal State during the Warring States Period (475 B.C. – 221 B.C.). Located two kilometres away from the western Zengdu region, Zuizhou city of the province, the tomb is named after the monarch. Besides the bells, a number of classical Chinese musical instruments were also discovered in the tomb. The *bianzhong* unearthed from the tomb is the oldest of its kind and is valued for its complete musical scale and excellent casting technique.

With reference to the original design, this work was created using new techniques. By using freestanding carving, relief, engraving, colour painting and other techniques, the artist reflects the ancient Chu culture of this region on the instruments by depicting animals, dragons, phoenixes and other geometrical patterns. The set is made up of twenty-one bronze bells which are divided into three groups according to size and the tone. As a musical instrument, the bells can be played solo or as a part of the Chinese folk orchestra or the western orchestra. As a ceremonial piece, it embodies the culture of Chu in terms of its scale, excellent casting techniques and elaborate decoration. The name "National Celebrations" expresses the good wishes of the Hubei people at Macao's return to Chinese sovereignty.

Provincial Government of Hunan



Stone Carving – Dragon Ball

LENGTH: 0.7M / WIDTH: 0.7M / HEIGHT: 0.9912M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Hunan to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China and is carved out of chrysanthemum stones from the province. The stones are unique because of their grey colour, natural chrysanthemum-like white patterns and translucent texture.

This work is composed of two balls, one inside the other, and a base with frame. The interior ball has a carving of two dragons, which is named "Two dragons playing with a ball". The outer ball has a carving five flying dragons, which is named "Five flying dragons". The patterns on the balls represent the growth and prosperity of the motherland. By adding the two huge stylized dragons carved on the red-wood frame, the piece contains nine dragons. Together with the nine chrysanthemum-like patterns on the stone, these symbols signify completeness and joy of the handover. The design featuring two rolling balls, one inside the other, makes the piece dynamic and exquisite. The work is 99.12 centimetres tall to represent Macao's return in December of 1999.

Provincial Government of Guangdong



Crystal and Jade Carving – Nation of One Mind

DIAMETER: 0.78M /HEIGHT: 1.999M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Guangdong to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China and is composed of a jade ball, a crystal lotus and a diamond-shaped base. The jade ball is carved out of Nan jade from the province and it features translucent green colour, gloss and graceful texture. The lotus and the diamond-shaped base are both made of crystal.

The jade ball has nine holes in the surface to signify reunion and the handover of Macao. The ball also features blooming lotuses and kapoks symbolising the prosperity of Guangdong and Macao. Under the ball is a huge crystal lotus which conveys goodwill to Macao. The design of the lotus, which holds up the ball, depicts an auspicious saying of "blooming flower under a full moon" and symbolises the Macao people's hard work in building a bright future. The diamond-shaped base has fifty-six sections to represent the fifty-six Chinese ethnic groups and is made of crystal to express the region's wishes of an even brighter future to Macao.

The gift is 1,999 millimetres high and 1,220 millimetres wide to represent the date when China resumed its sovereignty over Macao and the special administrative region was established. The diameter of the jade ball is 888 millimetres, meaning "good fortune and wealthy future" in colloquial Cantonese.

Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region



Screen of Precious Stones – Singing for Macao's Return

LENGTH: 2.2M / WIDTH: 0.48M / HEIGHT: 1.7M

The gift was presented by the Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. The screen is made of 39 different types of gemstones, totalling 73,800 pieces, including pearl, agate, crystal, emerald, ruby, serpentine stone, tourmaline and black onyx from the region. It was elaborately created through a complex process of cutting, polishing and inlaying. The decorated base and frame are made of quality rosewood. This piece is a fine example of Chinese handicraft.

On the upper part of the screen, there is a bridge linking the Elephant Mountain in Guilin city to the Ruins of St. Paul in Macao. A flock of wild geese fly home in the background to symbolise Macao's return to the motherland. Twelve Chinese ethnic representatives dance and sing in the lower part of the screen to express the celebration of Guangxi people at their reunion with Macao.

The fretwork patterns surrounding the screen is in the shape of Chinese character "*hui* (return)",which represents not only the brotherhood between Guangxi and Macao but also the historic event of Macao's return. On the base of the frame, there are decorations of phoenixes, bronze drums, as well as patterns from the Huashan Cliff Paintings, which symbolise different ethnicities of Guangxi people.

Provincial Government of Hainan



Vases – Legend of the Coconut Tree & Songs of Celebration

DIAMETER: 0.8M /HEIGHT: 1.999M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Hainan to celebrate Macao's return to the motherland. These vases are carved from coconut shells and inlaid with seashells. The coconut carvings have an elegant raw colour and these vases embody the unique artistic style and rich local features. Hainan coconut carving has a long history: wine cups carved from coconut shells have existed as far back as the Tang dynasty (618 – 907) In Ming (1368 – 1644) and Qing Dynasties (1644 – 1911) , coconut carvings were regarded as precious gifts and were often presented to the emperors.

The vases are made from 5,200 pieces of coconuts which are abundant in the province. The coconuts are first processed in the same radian, then pieced together with traditional coconut carving techniques and then inlaid with precious luminous spiral shells. The products are elaborate not only in craft, but also in material selection. The vase bodies are decorated horizontally with fretwork patterns. The work expresses the joy and the good wishes from the 7,000,000 people in the province at Macao's reunification with its homeland.

Municipal Government of Chongqing



Sculpture – Centuries of the Yangtze River

LENGTH: 1.65M /WIDTH: 0.7M /HEIGHT: 1.999M

The gift was presented by the Municipal Government of Chongqing to celebrate Macao's return to the motherland. The sculpture is composed of nine golden birds, a piece of Three Gorges stone and a wooden base. The stone is named after its place of origin, the Three Gorges. The Yangtze River scours the rocks against the river bank of the Three Gorges and thus the stones are scrubbed into different shapes. Three Gorges stones are mainly in black, white, grey or a yellowish brown colour. The natural shape and unique grain of the stones make them extremely precious. As a Chinese saying goes, "It is easier to get thousands grams of gold than one piece of Three Gorges stone". This work is mainly made of Three Gorges stone to emphasise the meaning of survival through difficulties. The work is 1.999 metres in height and with the nine golden birds standing in the wind representing the handover and reunion.

The wooden base is an octahedral design. Each facet of the base is painted with auspicious patterns that conveys the good wishes from Chongqing towards Macao's return to the motherland. Also on the surface of the base, clouds in the shape of "1999" were drawn which commemorates the year of the handover. The base also includes the flower of Chongqing, the camellia. Inside the hollow base, there is a piece of silk that was signed by the participants of the official Macao handover celebration activity, making the piece of historic significance.

Provincial Government of Sichuan



Silk Embroidered Screen – Pandas in Jiuzhaigou

LENGTH: 3.58M / WIDTH: 0.74M / HEIGHT: 2.35M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Sichuan to celebrate Macao's return to the motherland. The work is a large embroidered Shu screen. Shu embroidery, also known as Chuan embroidery, together with Su embroidery, Xiang embroidery and Yue embroidery, is one of the four famous categories of Chinese embroidery. Shu embroidery, one of the famous traditional handicrafts of Sichuan, is made of soft brocade and colourful silk. Shu embroidery combines delicate stitching, elegant colours, smooth lines and it features Chinese ink painting styles.

The embroidery on this work is in silk and the artist delicately combined the images of Jiuzhaigou, UNESCO World Heritage Site in Sichuan province, and the nationally treasured panda in the design. The heaven-like scenery in Jiuzhaigou, the pandas and surrounding plum blossoms and bamboos express the unity and the strength of the Chinese ethnic group and their motherland.

Provincial Government of Guizhou



Cast Copper Art – Drum of Joy

LENGTH: 1.28M /WIDTH: 0.9M /HEIGHT: 1.85M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Guizhou to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China and is made of copper with inlaid precious stones. The main part of the work is a copper drum raised up by four supports in the shape of phoenixes and dragon-turtles (a Chinese legendary creature). Drums are the most important musical and ceremonial instruments amongst the Guizhou minorities, thus they were a symbol of power in ancient times and now convey the meaning of unity.

The images of Guizhou people dancing and singing by the famous Huanggoushu Waterfall are carved on the front of the drum, celebrating Macao's return. On the body of the drum, there are thirty-six dragons and seventy-two fish amongst other auspicious patterns, while the piece is also decorated with chains of small bells. All these features represent the strong local features. The phoenixes and the dragon-turtles are inlaid with rubies and green crystals for the eyes, bringing vividness and solemnity to the creatures. This grand work represents the Chinese people's best wish for Macao to achieve success in its reunification.

Provincial Government of Yunnan



Gold-Overlaid Red Copper Statue – Auspicious Elephants and Lotus

DIAMETER: 1.3M / HEIGHT: 1.999M

The gift, presented by the Provincial Government of Yunnan to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China, is a gold-overlaid statue cast in red copper. Elephants have long been closely related to the province. According to the *Shi Ji* (*Historical Records*) written by Shima Qian of the Han dynasty (206 B.C. – 9 A.D.), one record reads "There is a country named Tianyue where people ride on elephants." Tianyue has since been renamed Yunnan. For the statue, elephants were specially selected to express congratulations to Macao as they are regarded as the symbol of good fortune.

The blossoming lotus on the back of the elephants symbolise the province's wish of prosperity to Macao after its reunification. The drum and the granite base decorated with the scenes of farming and dancing embody the local features of the province. The statue is 1.999 metres tall to represent Macao's return in the year of 1999. This piece expresses the warm wishes from the 40,000,000 people of the province.

Government of Tibet Autonomous Region



Tapestry – Soaring Mountain and Affluent Water

LENGTH: 2.58M / WIDTH: 1.65M

The gift was presented by the Government of Tibet Autonomous Region to celebrate Macao's return to the motherland. This tapestry, in form of a scroll, is bright, sprightly and visually extensive. Made using the traditional carpet techniques of the Tibetan people, it is a fine example of Tibetan artwork.

Tibetan carpets are made of local wools and coloured by dyes extracted from plants and minerals. The assorted bright colours on the carpets reflect the vigorous and optimistic characters of the Tibetan people.

On the tapestry, the clouds are pictured holding up Potala, the Buddhist Holy Land, while the rainbow acts as a bridge linking Tibet and Macao. White cranes fly over the bridge carrying messages of celebration and best wishes from the ethnic groups in Tibet. The sprays and clouds depict the joy of Tibet and other Chinese ethnic groups at Macao's return to Chinese sovereignty.

Provincial Government of Shaanxi



Cast Copper Sculpture – Ba Ji Yuan He (Wishes of Peace and Goodwill)

LENGTH: 1.2M / WIDTH: 0.63M / HEIGHT: 1.24M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Shaanxi to celebrate Macao's return to the motherland. The outer surface of the cast copper sculpture is gold-foiled. Thin gold foils are glued by using lacquer to the surface of the work for decoration, and such technique of handicraft has had a long history.

The name "Ba Ji Yuan He" has a profound significance. In Chinese "Ba Ji" means "all dimensions" and is used to represent the territory. "Yuan" indicates "the return" while "He" "peace". The famous eight sceneries of Chang'an are embossed on the petals of the blooming lotus, indicating Shaanxi's cordial blessing to Macao. The eight sceneries are of Hand-Shaped Cliff of the Mount Hua, Sunset at Li Mountain, Grand View of the Ba Bridge, Drinking Wine by the Qu Jiang Pond, Yan Bell Tower, Sailing on Wei River, Caotang Temple in the Mist and the Snow on Mount Taibai.

Provincial Government of Gansu



Gilded Bronze Statue – Dunhuang Dance, Celebrating Macao's Return

DIAMETER: 0.7M / HEIGHT: 1.999M

The gift, presented by the Provincial Government of Gansu to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China, was made by lost-wax and gilding techniques. In lost-wax technique, the artist first makes a clay mould which is slightly smaller than the finished product. Next, he adds wax to the surface of the mould and then carves on the wax. The artist would then add clay on the carved wax layer before heating it. A gap is left when the wax melts in the heat. Liquid bronze is then poured into the mould, and when it sets, the bronze statue/ sculpture is completed. Gilding is the technique of mixing gold with mercury and then smearing the mixture on the surface of the chosen artwork. When the mercury is heated, it evaporates so that only the gold is left on the surface.

This four-layer work is mainly composed of twenty small bronze statues, the trunk, the throne and the base. A dancing drummer stands at the very top and two fairies holding pearls flying on the first and the second layers. The third layer shows four graceful dancers and on the fourth there are eight musicians playing joyful tunes. The fifty-six petals of the lotus-like throne indicate the unity of the fifty-six Chinese ethnic groups in celebrating Macao's return to Chinese rule. The statue is 1.999 metres high indicating the year of Macao's return. The delicate casting technique and elegant appearance make this a valuable piece of artwork.

Provincial Government of Qinghai



Jade Carving – The Origin of the Yangtze and the Yellow Rivers

LENGTH: 0.4M /WIDTH: 0.43M /HEIGHT: 1.03M

The gift was presented by the Provincial Government of Qinghai to celebrate Macao's return to the People's Republic of China. It is carved out of yellowish jade from Kunlun Mountains. The low relief of Kunlun Mountains is carved in a structured and delicate manner. The soaring peaks represent the strong and firm character of Chinese people.

The Qinghai province is also known as Rivers Source, meaning it is the origin of the Yangtze and the Yellow Rivers. On the sculpture, two large dragons spiral around the mountain and pour out water from their mouths to represent that the two rivers originate in the Qinghai, pour down from the plateau, and have cultivated the country throughout its five thousands year history.

On the base, the chrysanthemum, bamboo, plum flowers, orchid, peach, pomegranate, persimmon and chayote are carved, symbolising the peaceful and happy lives of the people and prosperity and bright future of the motherland.

Government of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region



Stone Carving – Nine Sheep Welcoming the Phoenix

LENGTH: 0.9M / WIDTH: 0.36M / HEIGHT: 0.83M

The gift was presented by the Government of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region to celebrate Macao's return to the motherland. This low-relief carving is made of Helan stone which is only found in the region. Helan stone is delicate and firm in texture, mainly dark purple or pea green in colour. The stones, in some cases, contain natural patterns similar to flying clouds and running rivers.

The edge of the piece was carved with Chinese wolfberry which indicate longevity. Carved on the right at the bottom of the stone is a large bharal (a sheep) under the secondary level in Helan Mountain. Eight smaller bharals to portray a tranquil, pleasant landscape surround the large bharal. On the left is a phoenix looking back and its tail is decorated with the Chinese character "*feng*" (meaning "phoenix"), signifying Macao's return.

The work is classic in style but primitive in sense to represent the close relationship between Ningxia and Macao and expresses the good wishes from the region to Macao's return.

Government of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region



Wool Tapestry – Scenery of Kanas Lake

LENGTH: 5M / WIDTH: 2.4M

The gift was presented by the Government of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region to celebrate Macao's return to the motherland. The scenery of the tapestry is Kanas Lake. The idea for the piece comes from the painting "Scenery of Kanas Lake" which was created by Sun Liming. The painting delicately depicts the beautiful scenery of the lake in autumn and features the soaring snowy mountains, crystal clear water, plus cattle and sheep.

Kanas Lake is the most famous landscape in the Xinjiang region, which lies in the Altay Mountains. "Kanas" means beautiful, affluent and mysterious in the Mongolian language. The towering snowy peaks, luxurious forests, dark green lakes and blue-sky compose a heavenly scene.

Mr. Sun's painting was successfully reproduced on this traditional Xinjiang tapestry as a gift in celebration of Macao's return. The best effect on the work comes from the texture and the thickness of the wool. The beautiful scenery is depicted on the tapestry in bright colours and harmonic hues. The work signifies the social and economic developments in Xinjiang while expressing the love of the Xinjiang people to the motherland and the celebration to Macao's return.

Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region



Wool Tapestry – Prosperous Hong Kong

LENGTH: 5.5M / WIDTH: 1.8M

The gift was presented by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to celebrate Macao's return to the motherland. This handmade tapestry is woven from 3,000,000 strips of wool in more than one hundred colours.

As the shinning pearl in the China's South Sea, Hong Kong is famous for its integration of eastern and western cultures as well as its energetic and prosperous livelihood. The graphic design on the tapestry is the coastline scenery of Hong Kong Island. The stretching rock like building in the lower left is the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, while the tallest building in Hong Kong at the time, the Central Plaza, stands behind. On the right of the tapestry is the Bank of China Building which was designed by the world famous Chinese architect Ieoh Ming Pei. This coastal area is the most prosperous commercial centre in Hong Kong and a place where information is exchanged in seconds through the ever-enhancing technology in the commercial buildings. The area is also the most attractive part of Hong Kong.

As the Special Administrative Region of Macao was being officially established, the Hong Kong SAR Government had already successfully implemented the policy of "One country, Two systems". The Hong Kong government bestows this tapestry to Macao with the hopes that Macao can create an even brighter and more prosperous future on its return, and that the two SARs will develop hand in hand.