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## **Beautiful microstructures**

### **Abstract:**

The conservation, analysis, deterioration, and microstructure of five types of works of Asian art are described and illustrated with metallographs, cross sections, and photomacrographs. The topics are: a Japanese Edo period (1615-1868) palanquin decorated with oriental lacquer and metalwork; Chinese 12th- to 17th-century BCE carved lacquer; Buddhist temple mural paintings in 18th-19th-century Sri Lanka; Japanese and Chinese painting on silk and paper from the 14th and 17th-19th century; and a Chinese Han dynasty (206 BCE-CE 220) two-color, high-tin bronze mirror. The work was carried out in the Department of Conservation and Scientific Research of the Freer Gallery of Art, and all except the wall paintings are in that collection.