

## INTRODUCTION

This time, the 8th volume of *Art of the Orient* is devoted to various issues in the art and culture of the East and South Asia. The collected texts concern research fields, in which art combines with connoisseurship, anthropology, ethnography, design and architecture. Articles dedicated to graphics include the topic of traditional Chinese New Year woodcuts – written by Zhou Jia – as well as Monika Jankiewicz-Brzostowska’s study of a group of woodblock prints by Utagawa Kokunimasa from the Russo-Japanese War 1904–1905 amassed in the collection of the National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk, and Katarzyna Kulpińska’s take on Japanese pacifist and ecological posters.

Another text by Amelia Macioszek is also connected with design, although it does not refer to graphics but porcelain, and deals with Chinese inspiration among Persian artists. This topic, in turn, is somewhat related to the article by Bogna Łakomska that looks at Chinese connoisseurs and the importance of collector’s guides for the development of material culture in China. Material culture is also connected with the final articles on the traditional Korean *hanok* house as a reflection of the family hierarchy by Zuzanna Krzysztofik, shadow theatre *Wayang* by Marianna Lis, and architectural concrete or cement forms, usually created in the 1960s in different administrative units of Indonesia including in Central Java, commemorating the Indonesian Independence Day by Joanna Waclawek.