Warriors objects and weapons reproduced to the smallest detail

The Terracotta Army and the First Emperor of China: the most complete reproduction of the Terracotta Army and the necropolis that houses this magnificent spectacle in Xian, China.

The Terracotta Army and the First Emperor of China

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The Terracotta Army and the First Emperor of China along with the discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb, the Lascaux caves and Machu Picchu, is one of the last great archaeological discoveries of the 20th century. This army has more than 8,000 terracotta warriors, 150 chariots and 670 saddled and chariot horses. Buried underneath the soil of Xi’an, in Eastern China, the army is part of the mausoleum dedicated to the Emperor.

Qin Shi Huangdi, First Emperor of China

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The First Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huangdi, had his necropolis built during his lifetime, from 246 to 210 BC. As a huge underground palace, this mausoleum is one of humanity’s most beautiful treasures. Listed by UNESCO as part of Humanity’s Cultural Heritage since 1987, this incredible masterpiece spreads over 56 km², an area equivalent to the island of Manhattan or even the Bermuda archipelago. The construction of the necropolis required the contribution of more than 720,000 workers during 36 years. In Ancient China, the custom was to prepare the tombs of the sovereigns during their lifetime. Shi Huangdi’s necropolis was built at the foot of Mount Li, in the actual Shaanxi province. It is unique, in its size and ambition, in all of China’s and humanity’s history.

The Terracotta Army is the most impressive part of the necropolis. Aside from its great aesthetic beauty, it harbours numerous clues to understanding the origins of today’s China. Indeed, China was governed, for the first time in its history, by a unique sovereign, the First Emperor, in 221 BC. During the previous five centuries, this vast territory, which corresponds to a quarter of today’s China, was composed of seven kingdoms which were afflicted by ongoing wars, more violent and bloody than the last. Qin Shi Huangdi was able to rely on the striking force of armies of several hundred thousand soldiers to end this chaos. At the end of these large-scale battles, the Qin kingdom emerged victorious.
As an emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi ruled for merely 10 years. However, he left his undeniable footprint in China’s history. The type of government he established survived him for almost 800 years without any major changes. This government was based on the principle of personal merit, collective responsibility, organisation of a centralised empire, creation of a population register, introduction of a commercial tax, head tax levying, etc. To this day, China’s territorial divisions are part of its heritage. Qin Shi Huangdi was also the first sovereign to want to protect his empire with the help of a Great Wall. Aside from this colossal project, he still found the necessary resources to dig canals connecting the regions of his empire and build an impressive number of palaces: his capital had no less than 270 of them!

The statues of the Terracotta Army, who watch over the First Emperor’s eternal rest, were discovered by chance in 1974 by three farmers who were digging a well, namely Yang Zhifa, who offers us an exclusive interview for this exhibition. Since then, archaeologists have excavated more than 50,000 objects that testify of a brilliant and inventive civilisation. Their research have already uncovered a great number of astonishing information on how the Terracotta Army was created. All of its creation secrets are revealed in the Terracotta Army And The First Emperor of China, the exhibition.
The Terracotta Army And The First Emperor of China exhibition is an extraordinary voyage in Ancient China of 2,200 years ago. It is, undeniably, the most complete exhibition ever created on the Terracotta Army, the necropolis and life of the First Emperor. In an incredible staging, this exhibition brings together more than 300 reproductions of statues, chariots, weapons and objects that were discovered in the pits of the necropolis. They were produced by Chinese craftsmen from the excavation region, with a particular consideration for details in order to maintain the same beauty and originality of the original works.

The statues, weapons, armors, war chariots, potteries and objects of daily life, presented throughout the exhibition, were reproduced identically to the originals. They were all made by Chinese craftsmen from the Xi'an region. The realism of these reproductions is reinforced by the impressive décors and a spectacular audiovisual and lighting installation. In order to fully appreciate these cultural treasures, the visitor also benefits from videos projected onto giant screens, audio guides and an interactive zone which immerses them in a unique atmosphere.

This immersion, in the heart of the necropolis of China’s First Emperor, is intended for a broad audience. Over no less than 1,800 m², the exhibition addresses numerous topics: the history of the First Emperor, his authentic army, military conquests, empire, the creation process of the Terracotta Army soldiers, the Emperor’s tomb, history of the archaeological excavations ... It also exposes impressive reproductions such as the life-size reproduction of more than 170 warriors as part of a light and sound show highlighting the reconstitution of a section of Pit #1. Identical replicas of the bronze carriages discovered in one of the pits.
Overview of Some key objects in the exhibition

Bronze chariot No. 1

Bronze chariot No. 2

Kneeling archer

General

Bronze Ding Tripod
Overview of Some key objects in the exhibition

Horse and cavalryman

Stone armor

Processus

Bronze sword
CHARACTERISTICS AND ELEMENTS OF THE EXHIBITION

Terracotta Army and necropolis: there are more than 300 reproductions of objects exposed over 1,800 m² and divided into 11 different galleries: statues, weapons, war chariots, armors, potteries, coins, objects of daily life, etc. All of these objects are accurate replicas.

Didactic panels: are present in every room and provide explanations regarding the exhibition’s themes and objects.

Videos: 4 videos covering a variety of subjects are projected as intro to the exhibit and key panels in the exhibit. These subjects concern: the life, military conquests and extraordinary achievements of the First Emperor; Ancient China; excavations of the necropolis; creation process of the Terracotta Army; interview with Yang Zhifa, one of the four Chinese farmers who, in 1974, discovered the first fragments of the Terracotta Army when trying to dig a well.

Giant wall images: geographic maps and photos evoke China, its history and landscapes.

Immersive environments: reconstitution of pit N°1 of the Terracotta Army with the presence of 170 statues, a scenery, video and sound effects.

Statue of 2,5 metres high in bronze: representing the First Emperor of China.

The hidden tomb of the First Emperor: the exhibition recreates the tomb, not yet exhumed, like today’s archaeologists imagine it based on modern geophysical studies and writings from Sima Qian, the great historian of Ancient China.

Audio guides: they narrate the tale of the First Emperor’s fabulous epic and Terracotta Army.

Merchandising: the exhibition’s catalogue, books, CD’s, statue and object replicas, exhibition’s poster, and so forth.
TYPICAL ITINERARY OF THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition’s layout follows a timeline of the Terracotta Army’s construction, by focusing on all of its aspects: the era and life of China’s First Emperor, the presentation of his gigantic army, Shi Huangdi’s conquests, the creation of a unified empire, the emperor’s magnificent achievements, the manufacture of the Terracotta Army statues, etc. The exhibition relies on numerous replicas of statues, weapons and various objects, as well as several interactive media which allow visitors to immerse themselves in the heart of Ancient China.

Both fun and didactic, this exhibition also allows visitors to get an accurate picture of the indelible mark that the First Emperor left on his gigantic territory. Shi Huangdi was much more than just a bloodthirsty barbarian: his ideas and achievements enabled to initiate numerous reforms and instill progress in many domains. Far from being limited to only Terracotta Army, the visitor will, throughout each of the 11 galleries of the exhibition, discover several aspects of life and achievements of a unique sovereign, immerse themself in a period among the most fascinating of Humanity’s history.
The Terracotta Army of the First Emperor of China is one of the latest major archaeological discoveries of the 20th century, as well as the discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb, the Lascaux caves and Machu Picchu. This army has more than 8,000 clay warrior statues, 150 tanks and 670 saddle and carriage horses. Buried underneath the soil of Xi’an, in Eastern China, the army is part of the mausoleum dedicated to the Emperor.

Here the visitor will view an introductory video on the subject as well as an exclusive interview with one of the farmers who discovered the Pit, Jang Zhifa.

The gallery is dedicated to the life, empire, army and great achievements of Qin Shi Huangdi. Visitors shall discover the context in which he managed to unify China: the dynasty from which he originated, the social organisation of his time, and so on. This gallery holds many typical objects of daily life as well, used during the reign of the First Emperor.

This room brings together Ten replicas of life-size statues of the Terracotta Army: infantrymen, archers, chariot-drivers, officials and generals, including a cavalier and his horse. Didactic panels inform the visitors on the equipment and methods of warfare of the First Emperor’s warriors.

This room gives visitors an overview of the First Emperor’s necropolis and tomb, in light of the archaeological discoveries of these past years. It also allows them to grasp the unicity of the tomb in all of China’s history. The construction of the tomb for the Terracotta Army exhibition is based on the most advanced scientific research so far. This reconstitution, however, still remains a hypothesis. Indeed, the Chinese archaeologists are reluctant to open the First Emperor’s tomb, for preservation purposes but also for ethical reasons.
TYPICAL ITINERARY OF THE EXHIBITION

**Gallery 6 – Manufacturing process of the Terracotta Army**

This room is dedicated to the manufacturing of the Terracotta Army. Visitors are able to admire all the phases necessary for the assembling, baking and painting of the statues. These are presented in their processing state, which corresponds to each of these different phases. These steps are reproduced with a great amount of detail thanks to a model of more than 8 metres long!

**Gallery 7 – Armory**

The seventh room presents a selection of the authentic weapons that were used during that time and that were found in the pits of the necropolis: swords, spears, dagger-axes, halberds, bows and crossbows. The didactic panels provide information on the history, characteristics, manufacture and usage of these weapons.

**Gallery 8 – The necropolis**

The eighth room is dedicated to the excavations of the necropolis, the hundred pits and burials which surround the First Emperor’s tomb - the pits of the officers, artists, stone armors, pleasure gardens, etc - as well as the objects found in the pits.

**Gallery 9 - Pit N°1, A life size recreation of a section of the largest of the four Pits, Pit # 1**

This gallery is an impressive life-size reconstitution of a segment of Pit #1, it equates to approximately 1/10th of the unearthed section of pit N°1: the biggest pit of the whole Necropolis of the Terracotta Army. 170 warriors, horse and chariot replicas are displayed in a breathtaking scenery, enhanced by the latest sound and light effects.

**Gallery 10 – Bronze chariots**

This gallery represents the exact replicas of the half size bronze chariots that were found in one the other pits, in direct vicinity of the First Emperor tomb.

**Gallery 11 - Cinema**

The final Gallery is reserved for video projections.
CONCEPTION AND PRODUCTION OF THE EXHIBITION

Mario Iacampo, Designer and Co-producer of the exhibition

For more than 20 years, Mario Iacampo has been designing and organising world-renowned cultural events for broader audiences. His career records include: shows such as Cavalia, for which he worked as an Executive Producer for five years, the Pink Floyd tour (“Division Bell”) in 1989, for which his company created the laser effects, and the Brussels Summer Festival, where he worked as a manager until 2012. Recently, he has also taken on the production of very successful travelling exhibitions such as “Tutankhamun, his Tomb and his Treasures”, “The Human Body”, “Kandinsky and Russia” or even “The Art of the Brick”. Today, his company, Terminal 2, produces exhibitions and events which travel around the European, American and African continents. He is also the designer and co-producer of the exhibition.

Peter Tabernal, Co-producer of the exhibition

Peter Tabernal is the co-founder of the company “Terminal 2” and also the CEO of the Amsterdam Expo. These past few years, this state-of-the-art exhibition hall of 3,000 m², has hosted important international exhibitions such as “Body Worlds & The Story of the Heart”, “Tutankhamun, his Tomb and his Treasures”, “Pixar: 25 Years of Animation” or even more recently, “Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition”, which attracted more than half a million of visitors, and “The Art of the Brick”. He is the co-producer of the Terracotta Army exhibition.

Hamza El Azhar, Research Assistant and Exhibition Manager

Over the past five years, Hamza El Azhar has been the production assistant of Mario Iacampo. He is responsible for ensuring the daily coordination of the actions necessary for the conception and creation of exhibitions and events of the company, Terminal 2. For the Terracotta Army exhibition, he immersed himself for several months in the heart of China and the authentic Terracotta Army.

Philippe Van Lil, Research Officer

As a communication specialist, Philippe Van Lil is responsible for the research linked to the exhibitions and events of Terminal 2. He is the author of the didactic panels, catalogue and comments of the Terracotta Army exhibition’s audio guide.

Chadi Abou Sariya, Audiovisual Producer

Chadi Abou Sariya manages the graphic and audiovisual content of the Terracotta Army exhibition.
FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE EXHIBITION

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