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Art Vids for Kids **August 2021**

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT

Hi and welcome back to Art Vids for Kids where we post a new video for you every month. I'm Janet, a Museum Guide at the Dayton Art Institute and I'd like to share with you a sculpture in stone. It was made a long time ago in China and where their customs and stories are wonderfully different from our own.

Let's take a look. This is actually a very large wall with a complex and interesting surface. Take a good look. Do you see animals? What sort of animals are these? Well, I see their feet each have five big claws, like the talons of an eagle but I also see scales like those on a fish or snake. Did you spot the fins along their backbones? They even have horns. Do you see them?

These are not like any earthly animal. I think they must be dragons. You may notice that these dragons are not breathing fire. Chinese dragons don't do that. In China, dragons are fierce but friendly. They are guardians that people believe provide protection and bring rain. If you would like to hear a legend of China's helpful dragons you can visit our website and search the section called "What is a Masterpiece?"

Back to the story of these dragons. Where do we find them in this scene? It appears they may be flying just above or swimming at the surface of stormy ocean waters. Do you see the many lines that the artist carved to show all the agitated waves? Perhaps you might pause this video, get pencil and paper and try to draw some waves like those yourself.

Did you draw a few waves? Wow! It's a lot of lines to make, isn't it? Now imagine carving all those lines in stone. In this scene, did you first notice the two dragons or that ball-shape between them? I think those dragons are eager to do something with that ball. If you take a good look at it, you will find that it



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has a spiral shape at its center and is surrounded by what is meant to be fire. The ball is actually a precious pearl, the flaming pearl of wisdom and life.

So, what do those dragons want with the pearl? Are they guarding it or chasing it? Maybe fighting over it? Did the artist give them open mouths because they want to eat it? Which one do you think will get it first?

Maybe you would like to write a story about these two dragons and the magical pearl. I'd love to hear your story. And if you want to see these amazing stone dragons with your own eyes, you'll find them in our gallery 112. Please take a good look all around that gallery because you'll find that there are two of these dragon walls and a Chinese temple. Thanks for joining me!

END TRANSCRIPT

Click [here](#) for full multimedia presentation.

QUESTIONS OR IDEAS FOR FUTURE VIDS?

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