

The Shapeshifter Challenge: Transform the Fonthill Vase

The Fonthill Vase was made in China more than 700 years ago, sometime between 1300 and 1340.

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What a
beautiful
design!

Fonthill Vase

Why is the Fonthill Vase important?

It is a very important and valuable object because we know so much about the journey it's been on since it was made, such as who owned it and where it has been throughout history.

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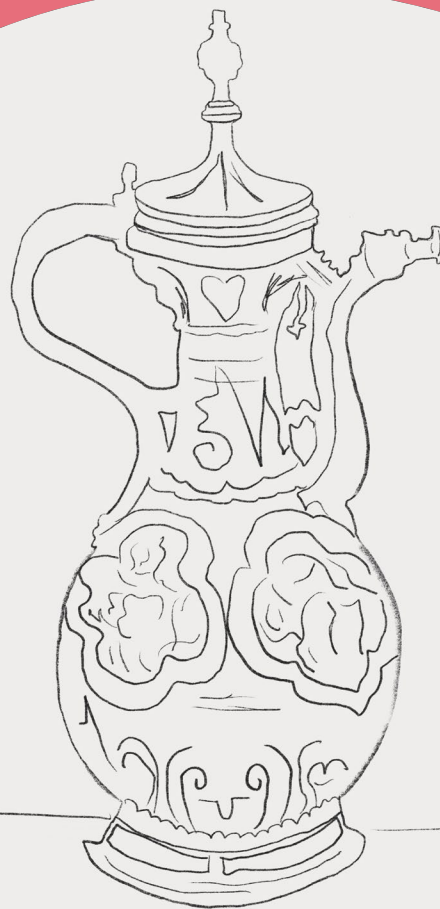
National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

What is it made from?

The vase is made of a type of pottery called porcelain; it is very strong but looks very delicate. It was especially precious in Europe at the time that the Fonthill Vase was made, as the secret of how to make porcelain was only known in China. Because the vase was thought to be so precious, a fancy spout and handle were added to the vase to turn it into a jug, like this:

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Can you see the way the vase has changed?

A gift fit for a king!

The Fonthill Vase is the oldest example of Chinese porcelain in Europe and was the first porcelain artefact to be written about. The vase has been given as a gift to kings, and has been owned by Princes and Dukes before being bought by the National Museum of Ireland about 138 years ago in 1882.

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National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

This famous vase is in Dublin!

You can see the Vase in the exhibition, 'Curator's Choice' at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks in Dublin. Find out more about the Fonthill Vase on the Museum's website.

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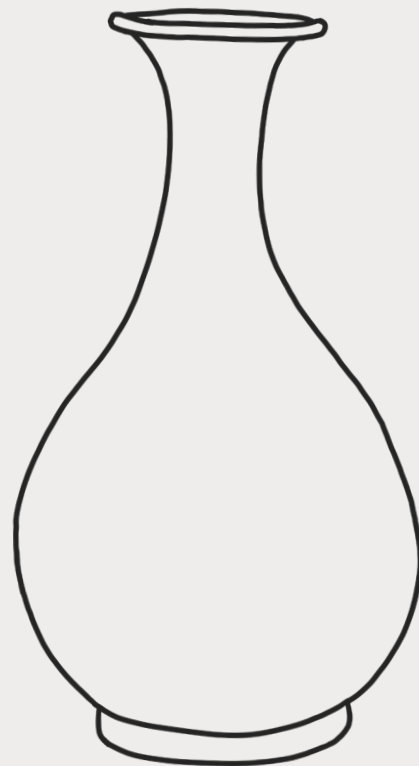
Here's a Task!

Try turning the Fonthill Vase into something else using your imagination and a pencil, or paintbrush or you could try collage using cut out shapes!

Here's a top tip!

If you don't have access to a printer, you can use a sheet of paper to draw the outline of the vase or turn your tablet into a 'Light Box' to trace the shape of the Fonthill Vase, before transforming it into something new!

Hint: You could add a spout and handles, or you could add a face, legs or even wings!



Please show us your masterpiece!

Send us your artworks, by email to athome@museum.ie or online with the hashtag #MuseumAtHome

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