

Sun Tzu

## THE ART OF WAR

Year of publication: 2021\*  
Dimensions: 550 × 370 mm  
Number of pages: 122  
Edition: 30 copies

Artists:

Sergei Kondrashkin, Luo Lei

Ancient China's first treatise on warfare. A manual written by the outstanding general Sun Tzu that contains precisely formulated principles of strategy and tactics for waging war. The book continues a series of publications devoted to Chinese military craft.



\* Date when the first copy was produced

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### BINDING

To make the binding, the publishing house's craftspeople used a dark crimson leather with barely noticeable marbling.

The book is embellished with copper reliefs also created by the artist, Sergei Kondrashkin. A menacing, belligerent dragon seems to wrap itself around the cover, protecting the contents from prying eyes. Its supple, scaly body on the back is continued on the front cover by a predatory muzzle. Blood-red garnets adorning the mythical creature's pupils warn the reader with their glint – only someone worthy of being a true commander of men may open this book.

The endpapers are made from Chinese silk of a single shade. The book is protected by a case decorated with contrasting black and red Chinese silk with traditional embroidery. The luxurious fabric was brought specially from China for this publication, from a shop with a history going back over 500 years.

The top cover of the case is decorated with a gilded bronze relief bearing the name of the author.



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### TEXT

Sun Tzu's military treatise *The Art of War* consists of 13 chapters, each of which thoroughly and systematically explores certain aspects of preparing for war or actually waging it.

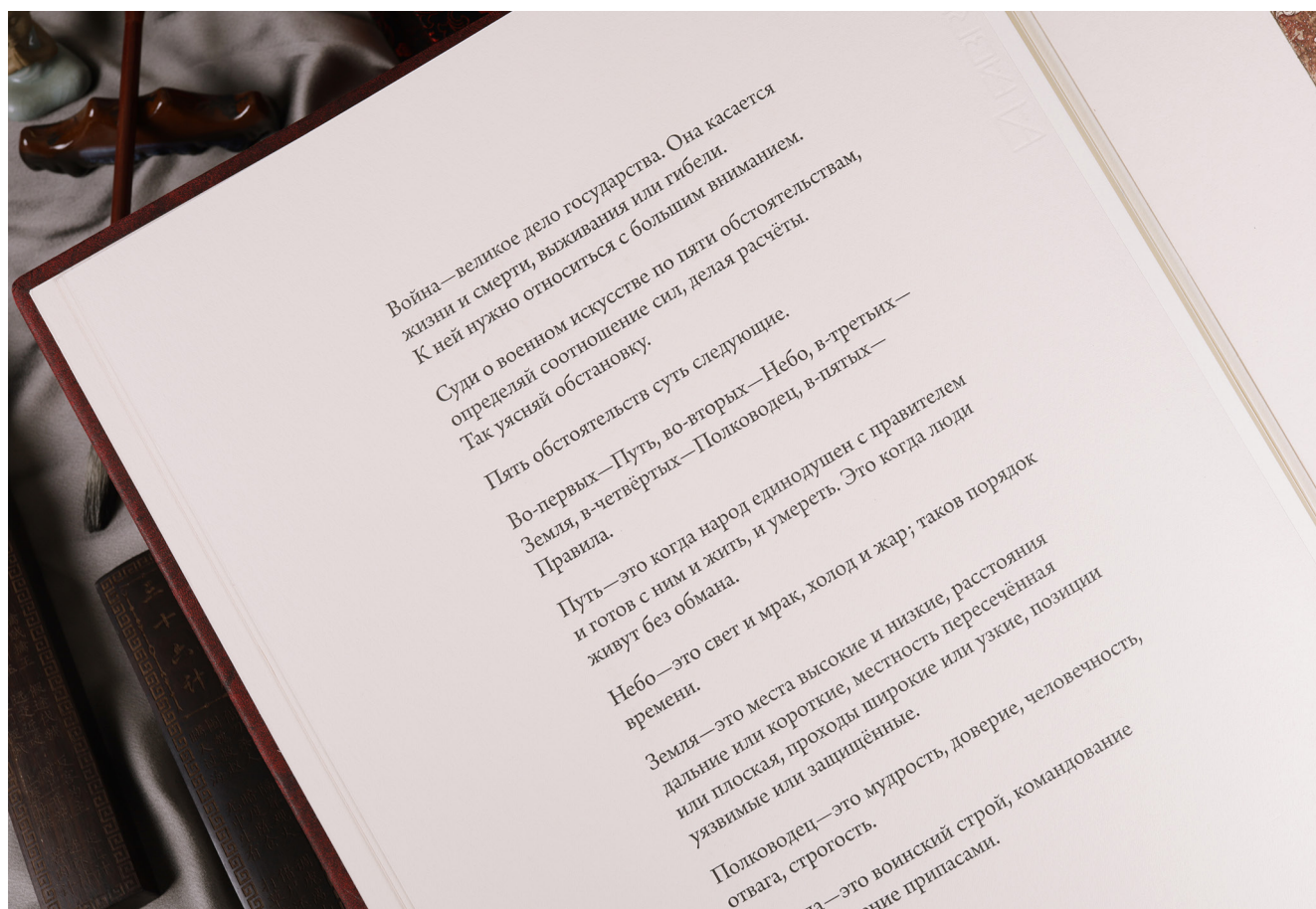
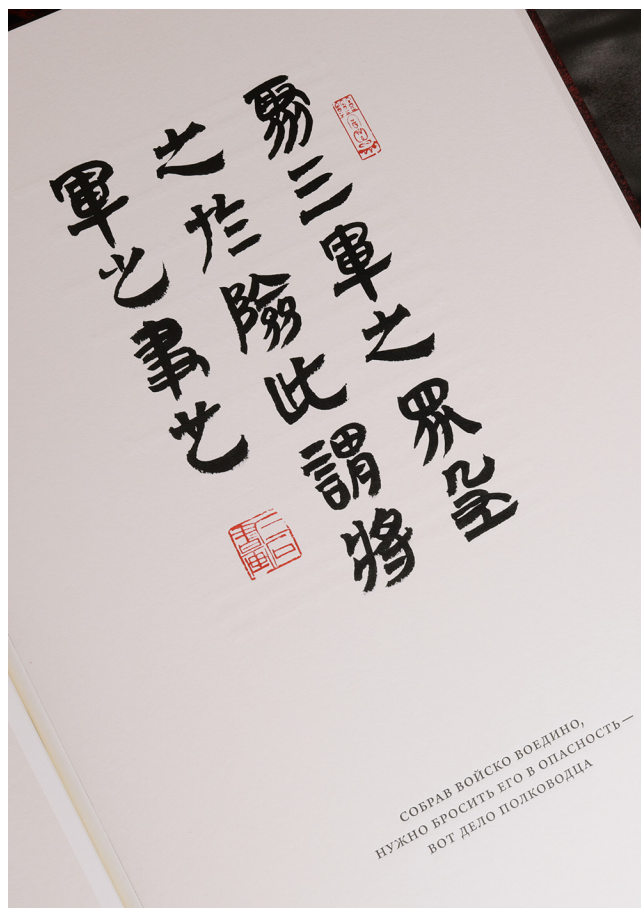
The translation used in the creation of the book was made by the Sinologist Vladimir Maliavin, a Doctor of Historical Sciences.

The text of the treatise was printed on a 19th-century Dingler hand press.

The edition also includes original calligraphy created by a master of the Chinese version of that art form, Luo Lei.

Paper: Fabriano (Italy), 280 g/m<sup>2</sup>, handmade

Languages: Chinese, Russian



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### ILLUSTRATIONS

The text of Sun Tzu's Chinese military treatise *The Art of War* is accompanied by 20 illustrations made in the colour etching technique by the artist Sergei Kondrashkin.

The expressive, compositionally complex, multifaceted pictures reflect the scope of Sun Tzu's military philosophy.

The basis of the artist's creative method is one of the four elements. Each of the illustrations is associated with an outburst. In place of fire intrinsic to war, Kondrashkin chose water. Belligerent dragons, serpents and sorcerers born of the watery element become the key to an emotional perception of the text, revealing the philosophical essence of Sun Tzu's work: war is fire, but it is the rational thinker who emerges victorious – someone who has a feeling for the fiery element (the illustrations are framed with fire, as it were) yet does not succumb to it, being of a different sort.



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Work on the publication of Sun Tzu's Art of War began in January 2020. The first copy was completed in May 2021.

Participants in the work on this publication:

Creator of the illustrations and copper reliefs on the cover—  
Sergei Kondrashkin

Scholarly consultant to the project and author of the Russian translation—Vladimir Maliavin

Design of the cover—Piotr Suspitsyn

Gilding of the relief on the cover—Pavel Yekushev

Layout—Evgeny Grigoryev

Printing of the Russian text—Ruslan Knyazev

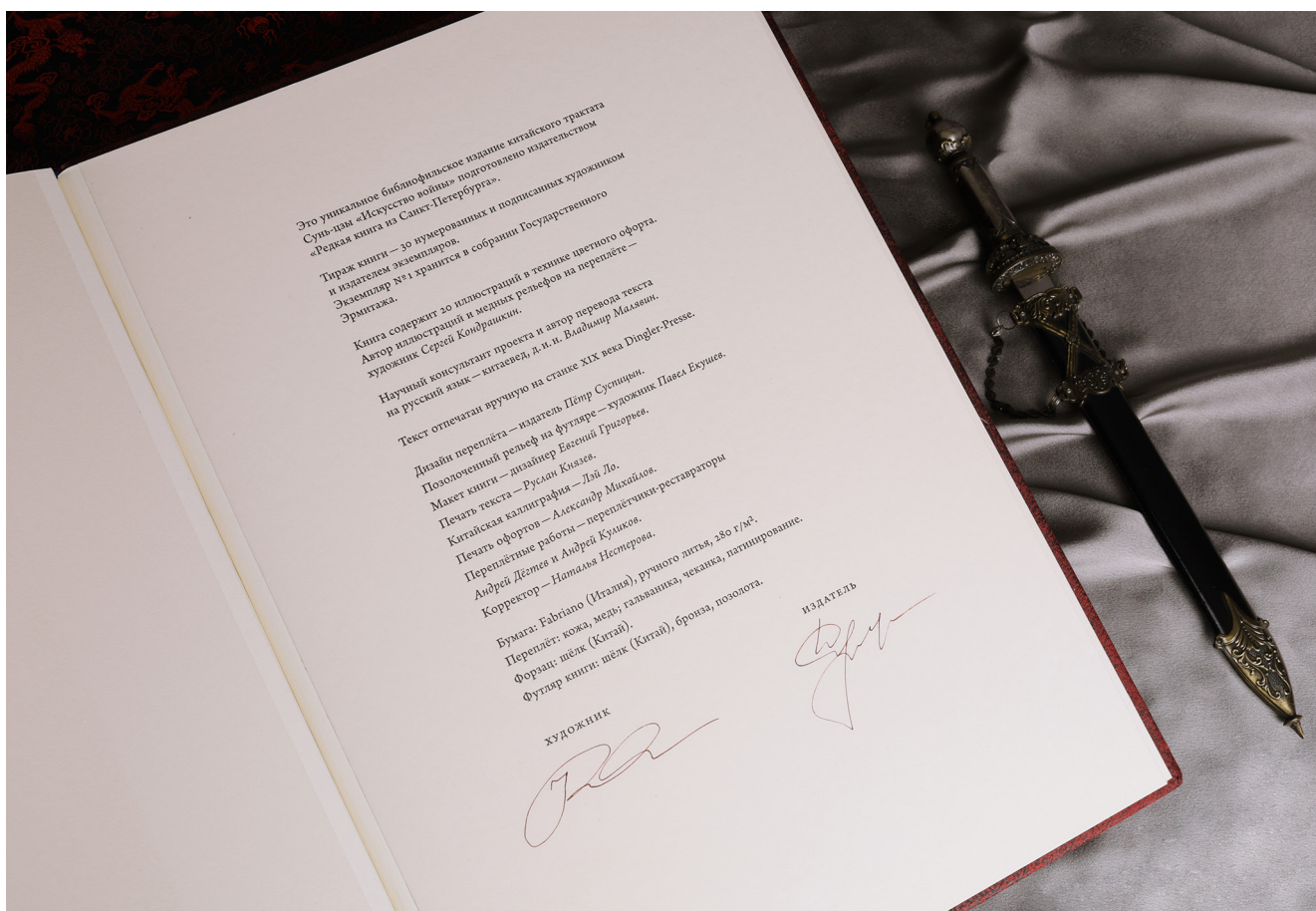
Chinese calligraphy—Luo Lei

Printing of the etchings—Alexander Mikhailov

Binding work—Andrei Degtev, Andrei Kulikov

Proof-reading—Natalia Nesterova

Each copy is numbered and signed by the publisher and the artist. Copy N°1 is in the collection of the State Hermitage.



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