



Non-Western Art History

The Art of Japan
Part One

End

Art of Japan I



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End

Major Characteristics of Traditional Japanese Art

- Reverence for nature and awareness of the seasons from the native Shinto religion.
 - Preference for asymmetry and natural imperfections
 - Deep love for unspoiled nature
 - Reverence for natural materials, clay and wood
 - Tradition of rustic, handmade objects
 - Periods of silence for contemplation in poetry, drama and tea ceremony, experience slowly and thoughtfully

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Major Characteristics of Traditional Japanese Art

- Influenced at key points by the art, architecture and religions of other cultures
 - China, beginning in 6th century
 - Europe, briefly between 1543 – 1638
 - Europe and America, beginning in 1853
- During periods of isolation, adapted foreign influences into arts to develop a unique aesthetic based on Japanese values
- Developed one of the first popular culture artistic traditions spread through printed communications, wide-spread travel and theater.

End

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Japanese Art History

- * Pre-history: 5,000 BC to 710 AD, Jomon, Yayoi, Kofun
- * Nara & Asuka: 552 - 794
- Heian: 794 - 1185
- Kamakura: 1185 – 1333
- Muromachi: 1392 – 1573
- Momoyama: 1573 – 1615
- Edo: 1615 – 1868
- Meiji: 1868 – 1911
- Modern: 1911 – Present, Taisho, Showa, Heisei

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Jomon Culture 11,000 – 400 BC

- Religion: 1,500 – 1,000 BC created stone circles for rituals
- Social: 11,000 – 2,500 BC hunter-gatherer society, about 20,000 people scattered around Japan
- Social: 2,500 – 1,500 BC simple cultivation of crops, larger villages, perhaps 250,000 people
- Social: 1,500 – 400 BC collapse of population to 70,000 people, concentrated on the coasts, around Tokyo
- Artistic: 16,000 BC evidence of world's oldest ceramic producing culture in Japan

End

Art of Japan I



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Storage Jar, Middle Jomon
2,500 - 1500 BC
H: 27.5 inches
Earthen ware, unglazed
Metropolitan Museum of Art



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Deep Bowl with Sculptural Rim
c. 1,500 BC, Earthenware,
H: 13 in.
Metropolitan Museum of Art



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Oyu Stone Circle, c. 2000 BC
Kazuno, Akita Prefecture

In Other Cultures



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Stonehenge, England
2,950 - 1,600 BC



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Small Figurine, 1,000 - 300 BC
H: 2.5 inches, Earthenware
Metropolitan Museum of Art



Venus of Willendorf
24,000 - 22,000 BC
H: 4.4 inches



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Dogu #2
1,000 - 400 BC
H: 14 inches
Tokyo National Museum

Yayoi Culture 400 BC – 300 AD

- Political: women held significant positions of power among Yayoi elite
- Religion: beginning of ceremonial graves and use of the three treasures – sword, mirror and jewel
- Economic: bronze and iron objects now manufactured; skills developed quickly
- Social: agricultural based society developed, cultivation of rice and larger settlements
- Artistic: most common ceramic objects are jars with faces found in burials; most dramatic artwork are *dotaku* bronze bells

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*Eight Handed Mirror
Sacred Sword
Curved Jewel*
Source: Russell Cooley, UWEC

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Dotaku (Bronze Bell)
H: 17 inches
2nd – 1st century BC
Tokyo National Museum

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Kofun Culture 300 – 710 AD

- Political: Yamato Dynasty centralized power in the area around Nara and Kyoto
- Political: large keyhole tombs for emperors and aristocrats were erected all around Japan; Haniwa figures were placed around the tombs.
- Religion: Shintoism practiced by Japanese
- Economic: Kofun period grave goods included iron weapons, bronze mirrors and jewelry, including gold.
- Social: communities traded in regional areas
- International: First evidence of Chinese and Korean influences seen in grave goods.

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Aerial View - Emperor Nintoku's Tomb
Length: 1,580 feet
Osaka, Japan

17 Art of Japan I **End**



Top: *Haniwa of Musicians,*
Right: *Warrior in Keiko Armor*
Kofun Period
Japanese National Museum of History

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Asuka - Nara Periods 552 - 794

- Politics: Emperor head of warrior clan leaders; no land, no revenues, weak
- Politics: Emperor learned of the Chinese system of government with tax revenue and bureaucracy - adopted it.
- Religion: Buddhism introduced to Japan in 552 by Korean diplomatic mission from Paekche Kingdom
- Religion: By 680 Buddhism was well established in Yamato Dynasty. Buddhist institutions established in all provinces
- Economics: The imperial court, aristocrats and Buddhist temples were great patrons of the visual and performing arts

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Asuka - Nara Periods 552 - 794

- Social: The imperial family and aristocrats were artists as well as patrons, especially in calligraphy and poetry
- Artistic: This was the beginning of the *iemoto* system, a master directs a workshop of assistants and trains a successor
- International: After 552 there were many diplomatic, trade, religious and artistic exchanges between Japan and China – people and ideas
- International: The social, political and artistic life were all influenced by the Chinese Tang Dynasty

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Long-necked Bottle, Sue Ware
8th century
H: 8.5 inches
Stoneware with natural ash glaze
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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Ise Inner Shrine
Founded 1st century
Mason fig. 60

22 Art of Japan I End



Ise Inner Shrine
Founded 1st century
Mason fig. 60

23 Art of Japan I End



Ise Inner Shrine
Founded 1st century
Mason fig. 60 *

24 Art of Japan I End

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Ise Inner Shrine
Founded 1st century
Mason fig. 60

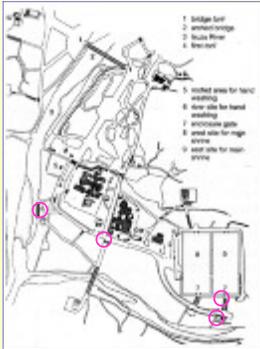


Art of Japan I

End

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Ise Inner Shrine
Founded 1st century
Mason fig. 59



Art of Japan I

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Ise Jingu Inner Shrine, Isuzu River Hand Washing Site
Photo: H. Rindsberg



Art of Japan I

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Ise Jingu Inner Shrine, A Meeting Hall at the Site
Photo: H. Rindsberg



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Ise Jingu Inner Shrine
Approach to the
Enclosure Gate
Photo: H. Rindsberg



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Ise Jingu Inner Shrine
Approach to the
Enclosure Gate
Photo: H. Rindsberg



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Ise Jingu Outer Shrine, Ritual Cleansing Fountain
Photo: H. Rindsberg

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Ise Jingu Outer Shrine, An Individual Shrine
Photo: H. Rindsberg

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Sanja Matsuri (Festival) May 2007
Photo: H. Rindsberg

Art of Japan I

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Sanja Matsuri (Festival) May 2007
Photo: H. Rindsberg

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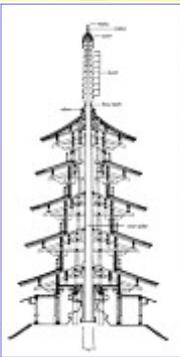


East Pagoda Yakushiji
First half 8th century
Source: Wikipedia

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End

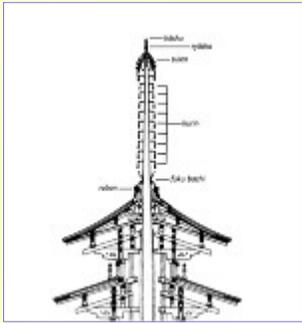
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Five-Storeyed Pagoda
Elevation, Horyuji Temple
H: 122 feet
Source: P. Mason
History of Japanese Art

Art of Japan I

End

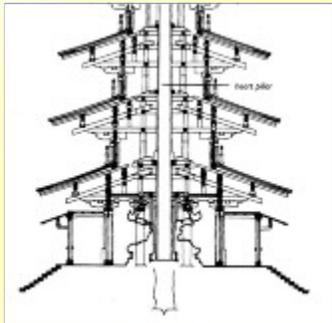


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Five-Storyed Pagoda
Elevation, Horyuji Temple
H: 122 feet
Source: P. Mason
History of Japanese Art



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Five-Storyed Pagoda
Elevation, Horyuji Temple
H: 122 feet
Source: P. Mason
History of Japanese Art



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Chugui Miroku
(Buddha of the Future)
7th century H: 52 inches
Source: Wikipedia, left



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Chugui Miroku (detail)
(Buddha of the Future)
7th century H: 52 inches



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Yakushi Temple, view of the Triad, Yakushiji Temple, Nara, c. 680, Source: taleofgenji.org



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End

Yakushi Triad, c. 680, Yakushiji Temple, H: 100 inches, central figure Source: P. Mason History of Japanese Art

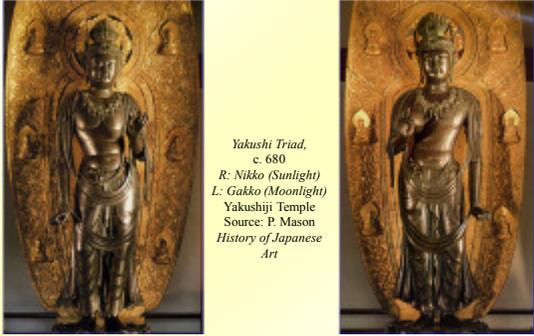


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Yakushi from Triad, H: 100 inches, c. 680
Source: P. Mason, *History of Japanese Art*

End



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Art of Japan I

Yakushi Triad,
c. 680
R: *Nikko (Sunlight)*
L: *Gakko (Moonlight)*
Yakushiji Temple
Source: P. Mason
History of Japanese Art

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Art of Japan I

The Daibutsu Birushana
Todaiji Temple
H: 53 feet
Established 752 in Nara

End



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Art of Japan I

The Daibutsu Birushana
Todaiji Temple
For a sense of scale
Web: Asian Historical Architecture

End




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This ends our presentation on the Art of Japan Part One.

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