



Non-Western Art History

The Art of Japan  
Part Four

1 Art of Japan 4 End



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Major Characteristics of Japanese Art

- Reverence for nature and awareness of the seasons from the native Shinto religion.
- Influenced at key points by the art, architecture and religions of other cultures.
- 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

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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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Meiji Period - Taisho 1868 - 1926

- Politics: The shogun was overthrown in 1868 and the Emperor was restored to political power.
- Politics: The new Meiji government recognized the technical superiority of the West and promoted Westernization, including the arts.
- Religion: Shintoism became state religion 1900 - 1945. Buddhist temples were no longer supported by the government and many temples were destroyed.
- Economics: Artists lost their traditional patrons and had to find new markets - the government promoted artists at International Expositions.

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Meiji - Taisho Periods 1868 - 1926

- Economics: Japanese craftsmanship was prized and soon goods were exported around the world - silk, porcelain and woodblock prints.
- Social Context: The Japanese struggled to choose what to keep from their traditional culture and how to preserve it.
- Artistic Context: Mingei Movement developed to preserve traditional Japanese crafts
- International Context: Japanese art influenced Impressionism, Post-Impressionism and Art Nouveau.
- International Context: Western architects studied Japanese architecture; it influenced Bauhaus and International Style.

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**End**

*Empress Haruko and Emperor Meiji*  
By Uchida Kyuchi, 1872  
Scan: Japan Photographs 1854 - 1905

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**End**

*The Great Benkei Standing In His Ship (right, detail), 1886*  
By Tsukioka Yoshitoshi  
Woodblock Print  
Freer and Sackler Galleries

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**End**

*Ichikawa Danjuro VIII in Shibaraku, 1854, By Kunisada,*

*Jitsukawa Enjaki in the Role of Danshichi, 1926*  
By Natori Shunsen, (1886 – 1960)  
Woodblock Print  
Freer & Sackler Galleries

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**End**

*Midnight: The Hours of the Rat: Mother and Sleepy Child*  
Kitagawa Utamaro,  
ca. 1790  
Woodblock print  
Metropolitan Museum of Art

*Maternal Caress*  
Mary Cassatt (1844-1926)  
Etching, 1891  
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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**End**

*Ichikawa Danjuro I*  
By Torii Kiyomasu

Poster: *Jane Avril*  
By Toulouse Lautrec 1899  
Web: Allposters.com

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**End**

*Landscape: High Cliffs, Water and A Temple*  
By Kano Hogai (1828 – 1888), 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Ink on paper, H: 59 inches  
Freer & Sackler Galleries



Satsuma Vase  
 By Yabu Meizan  
 H: 5 3/8 inches  
 Web: Golden Age Antiques

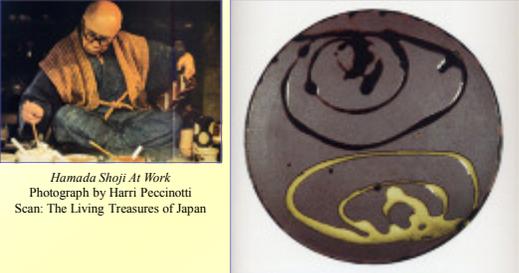
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Stone Plate, 19th century  
 Unknown Artist  
 Scan: Mingei Japanese Folk Art

Soetsu Yanagi From the Japan Folk  
 Crafts Museum, Scan: Mingei  
 Masterpieces of Japanese Folkcraft

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Hamada Shoji At Work  
 Photograph by Harri Peccinotti  
 Scan: The Living Treasures of Japan

Large Plate, 1954, Diameter 11 inches  
 By Hamada Shoji (1894 – 1977)  
 Glazed Stoneware, Scan: History of Japanese Art

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Showa - Heisei 1926 - Present

- Politics: Military leaders took control of Japan in the 1930s; occupied China. WWII was justified to secure needed resources, especially energy
- Politics: After WWII rebuilt country on the traditional islands. New constitution built on America's; no military. Japan's focus became business and technology.
- Religion: Religious subjects are not prominent in art.
- Religion: Modern Japanese will say they are not religious. However, many Buddhist and Shinto traditions continue to be important in their private lives and often in the arts.

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Showa - Taisho Periods 1912 - 1926

- Economics: After WWII America helped Japan rebuild its manufacturing base. Japan eagerly sought new technologies and exploited them.
- Economics: Japan is now the world's third largest economy.
- Artistic Context: In the 1950's and 1960's there was an explosion of new styles. The Japanese embrace Western art, music and theater while continuing to study traditional Japanese arts, including tea ceremony, martial arts and calligraphy.
- International Context: Japanese artists set trends in the international art world and question the role of the artist; now see themselves as provocateur.

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Portrait of Mrs. F, 1939  
 By Yasui Sotaro  
 Oil on canvas  
 H: 34.5 inches  
 Mason fig. 450

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*Ju (Big Tree)*, by Morita Shiryu, 1968, 122 x 162 inches  
Lacquer and gold, Cincinnati Art Museum

End

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Art of Japan 4

Morita Shiryu at Work  
Web: japan-art.com

Jackson Pollock Painting In His Studio,  
1949, By Martha Holmes,  
www.monroegallery.com

End

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*Butterfly Stool,  
(Model T-0521)*  
1956, Sori Yanagi,  
Metropolitan Museum  
of Art

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*Kanaya, from Tokaido Munakata  
Hanga*, 1964  
By Munikata Shiko  
Woodblock print  
The British Museum

End

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Rice Straw Traditional Package  
Yamagata, N. Japan  
Scan: *How To Wrap Five Eggs*

Bunraku Design For Candy Package  
Tokyo, Japan  
Scan: *How To Wrap Five Eggs*

End

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Poster for Parco Department  
Boutiques, 1980s  
Designer: Eiko Ishioka  
Scan: *Japan Color*

End

Takeshi Obata

*Death Note, Volume 1*  
 Story by Tsugumi Ohba  
 Art by Takeshi Obata

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Still from Anime: *Spirited Away*, 2001  
 Director: Hayao Miyazaki, born 1941  
 Web: animewallpapers.com

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*Magma Spirit Explodes, Tsunami is Dreadful*  
 By Chiho Aoshima (b. 1974), 2004, size varies depending on installation  
 Web: blumandpoe.com

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*Magma Spirit Explodes, Tsunami is Dreadful*  
 By Chiho Aoshima (b. 1974), 2004  
 Web: blumandpoe.com

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*Listening to Waves Vase*, 2004,  
 Sakiyama Takayuki,  
 Sand-glazed stoneware,  
 H: 15/75 inches  
 Metropolitan Museum of Art

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Masamichi Oikawa, born 1939

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End

沢田としき  
OSADA TOSHIKI

Let's Make Friends with African Children

11の約束

Toshiki Sawada, born 1959

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◆ This ends our presentation on the Art of Japan Part Four.

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