

Welcome

Japanese Art History
ARTH 2071
Chapter Six: Kabuki & Decorative Arts

The Rich Aesthetic of Japanese Art



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Chapter Six: Kabuki & Decorative Arts

Lecture Summary

- Kabuki Theater
 - One of the three great theater traditions of Japan (Noh and Bunraku are the other two)
 - Begun by a woman in 1603, shocking and new
 - Originally a variety show that evolved into full plays with plot and character development
 - The favorite entertainment of chonin and samurai through the Edo Period 1615 - 1868.

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Lecture Summary

- Kabuki Theater
 - Performances were:
 - historical tales,
 - contemporary domestic dramas,
 - ghost stories
 - dance pieces
 - "Arragoto," rough business style, became very popular
 - Fan clubs commissioned prints of their favorite actors in dramatic scenes
 - Kabuki prints were affordable art for the masses; publishers competed to supply the market

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Lecture Summary

- Kabuki Artists
 - Caught the actors in mie poses – dramatic moments from favorite plays, frozen on stage
 - Emphasized the exaggerated costumes, wigs and behavior that set fashion trends
 - Most famous artists:
 - Torii Kiyomasu
 - Utagawa Kunisada
 - Toshusai Sharaku

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Edo 1615 – 1868

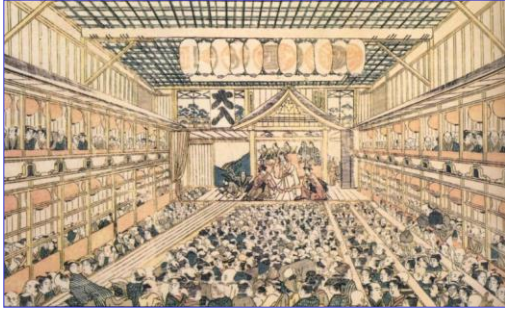


Screen Showing Open Air Kabuki
17th century

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Edo 1615 - 1868



Kabuki Theater Interior
Woodblock Print, Edo Period

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Edo 1615 - 1868

A



*Ichikawa Danjuro I as
Soga no Goro*
By Torii Kiyomasu
Color Woodblock Print
Mason Fig. 320

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Edo 1615 - 1868



Ichikawa Danjuro IX as Benkei in Kanjincho
By Tsukioka Yoshitoshi, 1890
Fitzwilliam Museum

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Edo 1615 - 1868



Scene of a Kabuki Play By Torii Kiyonobu, 1719
Woodblock Print, hand colored
Minneapolis Institute of Art

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Edo 1615 - 1868



*Two Ghosts from Famous
Ghosts Series*
By Utagawa Kuniyoshi, c. 1847
Color Woodblock Print
H: 14 inches
Minneapolis Institute of Art

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Edo 1615 - 1868



Night Scene Lit By A Lantern,
1847-1852
By Utagawa Kunisada,
Library of Congress

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Edo 1615 - 1868



Night Scene Lit By A Lantern, 1847-1852
By Utagawa Kunisada, Library of Congress

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Ichikawa Danjuro V in Shibaraku
By Katsukawa Shun'ei, 1790
Woodblock print, H: 12.5 inches
Freer & Sackler Galleries

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Ichikawa Danjuro V in Shibaraku
By Katsukawa Shun'ei, 1790
Woodblock print, H: 12.5 inches
Freer & Sackler Galleries

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Ichikawa Ennosuke
In Fushimi Inari Shrine
Photo by Chiaki Yoshida
Scan: Kabuki by M. Gunji

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Nakamura Matazo
Applying kumadori makeup
Scan: *Kabuki Backstage,*
Onstage by Nakamura Matazo

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A Lavish Kabuki Robe
Edo Period
Scan: *The Story of the Kimono*

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Otani Oniji III as the yakuza Edobei
By Toshusai Sharaku, 1794
H: 14 inches
Tokyo National Museum
Mason fig. 325 *

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Edo 1615 - 1868

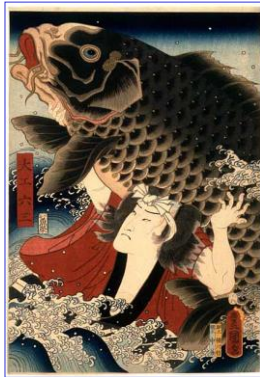


Ichikawa Danjuro VIII as Gongoro in Shibaraku
By Utagawa Kunisada, 1836
Fitzwilliam Museum

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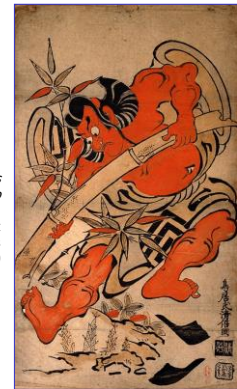
Rokusaburo The Carpenter
By Utagawa Kunisada, 1856
Fitzwilliam Museum

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Edo 1615 - 1868

A



Ichikawa Danjuro I as Soga no Goro
By Torii Kiyomasa
Color Woodblock Print
H: 15 inches
Mason Fig. 320

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Lecture Summary

- Decorative Arts
 - Netsuke became exquisite works of art to display wealth and taste
 - Many netsuke show asobi, playfulness
 - Luxury and ostentation were key design concepts for lacquer ware
 - Lacquer designs often alluded to poetry and used traditional Japanese motifs

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Netsuke
Late 18th – early 19th centuries
Wood & Ivory, H: 1.5 inches
Museum of Fine Arts Boston

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Netsuke of Curled Rat
By Masano of Ise
17th century
Wood, H: 1.5 inches
Minneapolis Museum of Art



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Edo 1615 - 1868



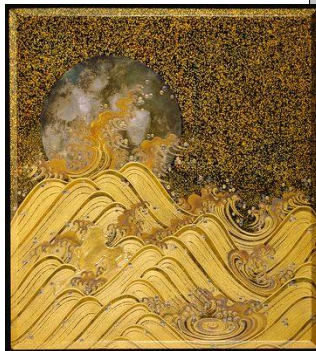
Lacquer Flute Box
Design of Cherry Trees in Gold Dust
Museum of Japanese History

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Edo 1615 - 1868

Suzuribako (Writing Box)
18th century, H: 9.75 inches
Lacquer with gold and silver
Minneapolis Institute of Art



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Edo 1615 - 1868



Sword Furniture
Bronze, Date Unknown
Minneapolis Institute of Art

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Lecture Summary

- The Porcelain Revolution
 - Korean potters introduced porcelain and high fire kilns to Japan in the late 16th century
 - Pottery from Arita, including Nabeshima, Kutani and Imari styles were popular all over Japan
 - Ogata Kenzan developed a simple calligraphic style applying glaze in a painterly fashion
 - Kenzan's styles were mass produced because they were so popular

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In Other Cultures



Porcelain Bowl With Lotus Petals On Exterior
Early 15th Century, Ming Dynasty China
Cobalt under clear glaze, Freer & Sackler Galleries

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Nabeshima Ware Dish
Late 17th century
Porcelain clay with cobalt
pigment under clear glaze,
celadon glaze and iron
pigments on unglazed clay
Freer & Sackler Galleries
Mason Fig. 337 *



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Edo 1615 - 1868

Hizen Ware Dish
In Imari Style
c. 1700 - 1725
Porcelain with cobalt under
colorless glaze, enamels
over the glaze
Freer & Sackler Galleries



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Edo 1615 - 1868

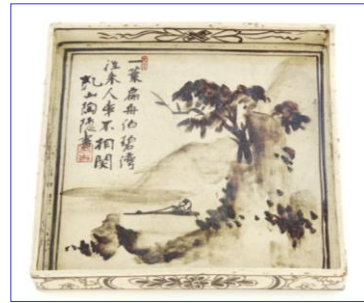


Tea Bowl with Design of Pampas Grass, By Ogata Kenzan
1712 - 1731, buff clay; white slip, cobalt and iron pigments
Mason fig. 343 *

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Square Dish with "Splashed Ink" Landscape
Kenzan Style, Kyoto, early 18th century
Buff clay, iron pigments, clear glaze

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Edo 1615 - 1868

Bizen Ware Sake Bottle in the
Shape of a Wild Duck
By Terami Enkichi
Early 19th century
Stoneware with ash glaze drops
H: 7.75 inches
Freer & Sackler Galleries



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Edo 1615 - 1868



A

Kutani Dishes, Left: *Ai Kakiemono*; Right: *Ai Kutani*
c. 1670-90, porcelain clay with cobalt under clear glaze
Mason fig. 339

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Edo 1615 – 1868

Kutani Dish: Ai Kakiemono
c. 1670-90,
porcelain clay with
cobalt under clear glaze
Mason fig. 339

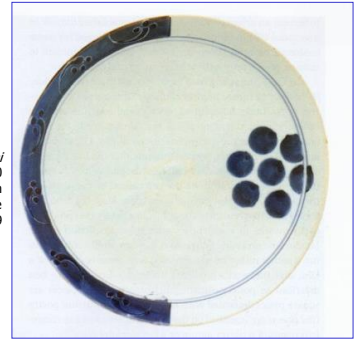


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Kutani Dish: Ai Kutani
c. 1670-90
porcelain clay with
cobalt under clear glaze
Mason fig. 339



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A

Kutani Dishes, Left: Ai Kakiemono; Right: Ai Kutani
c. 1670-90, porcelain clay with cobalt under clear glaze
Mason fig. 339

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Lecture Summary

- Decorative Arts
 - Kanban were shop signs developed to be big and bold to attract attention
 - Kanban became works of eye-catching graphic design

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Suruga Street
By Ando Hiroshige
Woodblock print, 1854
Minneapolis Institute of Art



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Kanban for Inro Maker
Late Edo Period
22 x 6.5 inches
Lacquer on wood and silk
Kenichi Higasa Collection, Kobe



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Kanban for Pharmacy
32.5 x 17 inches
Painted Wood
Peabody Museum of Salem



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Edo 1615 - 1868



Hisadaya Inn at Takayama
Scan: Kanban The Art of the Japanese Shop Sign

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A

Ichikawa Danjuro I as
Soga no Goro
By Torii Kiyomasu
Color Woodblock Print
Mason Fig. 320



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A

Kutani Dishes, Left: Ai Kakiemono; Right: Ai Kutani
c. 1670-90, porcelain clay with cobalt under clear glaze
Mason fig. 339

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