

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Japanese Art History
ARTH 2071

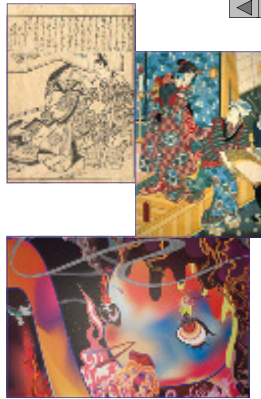
1

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

"Thanks to art, instead of seeing
a single world, our own,
we see it multiply until we have
before us as many worlds
as there are artists."
Marcel Proust (1871 – 1922)

21st Century Learning Skills

- As technology evolves, the pace of change accelerates.
- With constant change in our future, the most important job skill will be:
 - Learning how to learn.
- The most important learning skills are:
 - Observation
 - Analysis
 - Communication



2

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

21st Century Learning Skills

- Viewing and discussing artworks challenge you to strengthen your learning skills:
 - observing
 - analyzing
 - communicating
- In ART 2071 you'll sharpen those skills:
 - in class discussions
 - in writing assignments

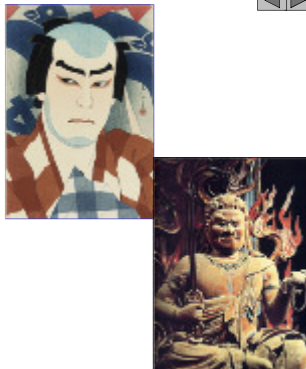


3

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Analysis

- Today you'll learn and practice skills of formal analysis – how artists combine elements and principles of design to create an image.
- In our next class you'll learn skills of contextual analysis – how religion, politics, economics, social organization, artistic and international influences affect artists and their patrons.

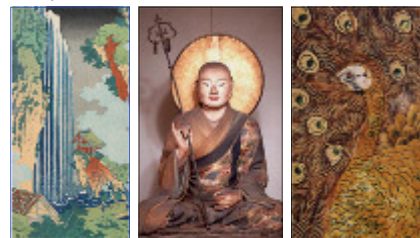


4

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

The Rich Aesthetic of Japanese Art

- The purpose of this presentation is to teach you how to do a formal analysis of an artwork to understand how artists communicate their ideas, feelings, beliefs and values. This gives us a common vocabulary for discussion.



5

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis of Visual Art

- This presentation follows the outline in your handout "Formal Analysis of Visual Art."



6

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis of Visual Art

- Formal Analysis explores:
 - Elements and Principles of Design
 - The Elements of Content
 - Composition
- We'll look at the Elements and Principles first.



7

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- The **Elements of Design** are the basic building blocks of art:
 - Line
 - Color
 - Shape
 - Texture
 - Space

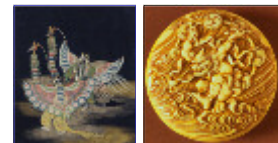


8

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Principles of Design

- The **Principles of Design** describe how an artist combines the Elements:
 - Repetition
 - Emphasis
 - Balance
 - Unity
 - Contrast



9

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- The **Elements of Content** are what the artwork is about:
 - Subject matter
 - Ideas in the work
 - Intention of the artist
 - Symbols and symbolism



10

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- First we will look at the **Elements of Design**. We'll use examples from our textbook and other sources.
- Elements of Design:**
 - Line
 - Color
 - Shape
 - Texture
 - Space

11

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Lines:
 - Outlines, edge, silhouette, lines that define the shape and space.



Amida Triad (Detail)
710 from Horyu-ji
Mason fig. 101

12

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Lines:
 - Variations of lines: the image is built up of more than one type of line.



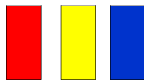
Playing the Koto in the Mountains by
Uragami Gyokudo
Early 19th century Mason fig. 393 *

13

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- The **primary colors** are made from pure color, not mixed:
 - Red
 - Yellow
 - Blue
- When they are mixed, they create the **secondary colors**:
 - Green
 - Purple
 - Orange

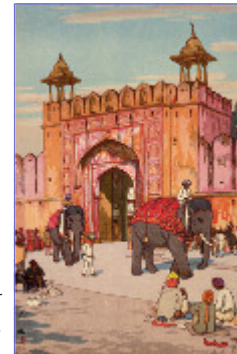


14

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Warm colors:
 - red, yellow and orange
 - seem to move towards us



Ajmer Gate, Jaipur
By Yoshida Hiroshi (1876-1950)
Freer & Sackler Galleries

15

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Cool colors:
 - blue, green and purple
 - seem to move away from us



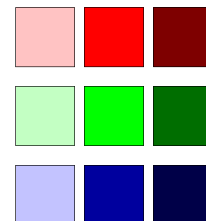
Fall At Ono on the Kiso Highway by
Hokusai Katsushika 1831
Minneapolis Institute of Art

16

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- This color chart shows the different color **values**:
 - **pure** colors are in the center
 - **Tints** are on the left
 - **shades** are on the right.



17

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Colors change in **value**:
 - white is added to make a **tint**, a lighter color.



Puppies in Snow
By Isoda Koryusai 1778
Freer & Sackler Gallery

18

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Colors change in **value**:
 - black is added to make a **shade**, a darker color.



Taj Mahal, Night
By Yoshida Hiroshi 1932
Freer & Sackler Galleries

19

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- **Saturation**:
 - describes the intensity of the colors
 - bright colors are highly saturated



The World Which Woke Up
By Senoo Ichirou 1986
Web Exhibit

20

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- **Less saturated** colors:
 - dull shades or tints of a color
 - quiet or subdued colors



Hachiman In The Guise of a Monk
By Kaikei 1201
Mason fig. 222

21

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Texture:
 - **real** textures are those that can be felt



Jomon Early Vase
5,000 – 2,500 BC
Dr. Hirayama

22

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Textures:
 - **implied** textures are painted or drawn to look like real texture



Peacock (Detail of Screen)
By Ogata Korin (1658 – 1716)
Scanned Image

23

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Shapes:
 - geometric: made of lines, angles and measured curves



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

24

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Shapes:
 - organic: following natural curves



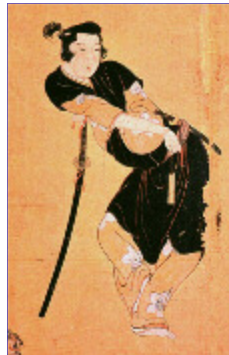
Chujojin Hand Scroll
Mid-12th century
Mason fig. 142 – 144 *

25

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Space:
 - two-dimensional with height and width, a painting, print or photograph.



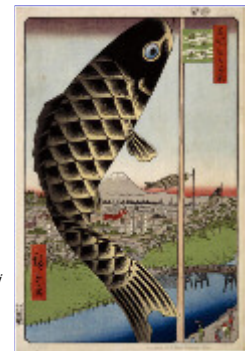
Detail from Hikone Screen
1624 – 1644
Mason fig. 283

26

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Space:
 - pictorial depth, showing three-dimensional space on a two-dimensional surface



Suido Bridge and Surugaidai
By Ando Hiroshige 1857
The British Museum

27

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Three-dimensional
 - having height, depth and width, such as a sculpture or building.



Bodhisattva from Kyoogokokuji
c. 825
Mason fig. 157

28

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Next we will look at the **Principals of Design**. We'll use examples from our textbook and other sources.
- **Principals of Design:**
 - Repetition
 - Emphasis
 - Balance
 - Unity
 - Contrast

29

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Repetition:
 - repeating one or more elements



Raijin, God of Thunder
By Kaigyokusai c. 1875
Diameter 2.5 inches
L. A. County Museum of Art

30

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Repetition:
 - Pattern, repeating the same element to create an overall design



Tabako (Covered Box)
By Hirai Koshu 1924 – 1930
Freer & Sackler Galleries

31

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Emphasis:
 - one part larger, darker or brighter



Amitabha Rising Above The Hills
14th century
Freer & Sackler Galleries

32

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Balance - Symmetrical:
 - calm or formal, same on left and right, a mirror image; if a line is drawn through the middle, it is the same on the left and the right.



Pagoda at Daigoji
10th century
Mason fig. 167

33

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Balance - Asymmetrical:
 - energetic, unequal on the left and right



Old Plum Screen
Attributed to Kano Sansetsu 1645
Metropolitan Museum of Art

34

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Unity:
 - proportion, pleasing relationship of all parts to each other and to the whole



Haniwa Horse
300 – 550 AD
Minneapolis Institute of Art

35

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Unity:
 - Variety, differences that give interest to artwork



Tiger, One of A Pair of Screens
By Yamada Yōrikiyo c. 1550
Minneapolis Institute of Art

36

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Design

- Contrast - opposites, differences between the elements:
 - line (straight vs. curved)
 - color (dark vs. light)
 - shapes (organic vs. geometric)



Lotus Sutra, Chapters 20-23
Handscroll, 1180 AD
Freer & Sackler Galleries

37

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- Next we will look at the **Elements of Content**. We'll use examples from our textbook and other sources.
- **Elements of Content:**
 - Subject Matter
 - Intention
 - Ideas
 - Symbols

38

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- Subject Matter:
 - representational, a viewer can identify the subject - the person, place or thing



Fudo Myoo at Todaiji
9th century
Scanned Image

39

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- Subject:
 - Non-representational, made of lines and/or shapes, but there is no recognizable subject



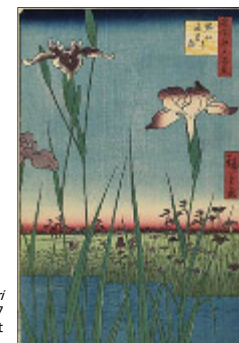
Touch the Earth # 800
By Ida Shoichi 1994 – 1997
Freer & Sackler Galleries

40

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- Intention:
 - record beautiful people, places or things



Iris Garden at Horikiri
By Ando Hiroshige 1857
Minneapolis Institute of Art

41

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- Intention:
 - honor a person or religious figure



*Portrait of Minamoto Yoritomo
(the first shogun)
13th century
Kyoto National Museum*

42

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- Intention:
 - record history, legend or tradition



*History of the Founding of Tsukimine Temple
By Tosa Mitsunobu 1495
Freer & Sackler Galleries*

43

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- Intention:
 - create beautiful objects to enjoy everyday



*Negoro Bale-handled Footed Bowl
Muromachi Period 1333 – 1573
Minneapolis Institute of Art*

44

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- Intention:
 - Experiment with materials, techniques or subjects - this is one of the first colored wood-block prints.



*Goro Uprooting a Bamboo Tree
(hand-colored print)
by Torii Kiyomasa 1697
Mason fig. 320*

45

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- Ideas:
 - Social commentary, a hero for a troubled time



*Sugawara Michizane Expelled
By Kiyochika Kobayashi 1884
Minneapolis Institute of Art*

46

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- Ideas:
 - Political - a condemnation of the Japanese military in WWII.



*Hinomaru Illumination
By Yanagi Yukinori, 1991
Mason fig. 468*

47

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- Ideas:
 - religious and spiritual, a powerful protector of Buddha



Kujaku Myoo
12th century
Tokyo National Museum

48

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- Ideas:
 - Artistic: continue traditions or experiment; this painting uses traditional ink and brush but uses Western perspective.



Waterfall in the Cascades
By Takashima Hokkai
(1850 - 1931)
Freer & Sackler Galleries

49

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- Symbols
 - Myths and legends



New Year's Eve Foxfires
By Ando Hiroshige, 1858
Freer & Sackler Galleries

50

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Elements of Content

- Symbols
 - Religious signs or ways of representing spiritual beings, the halo and lotus pedestal indicate a Buddhist deity



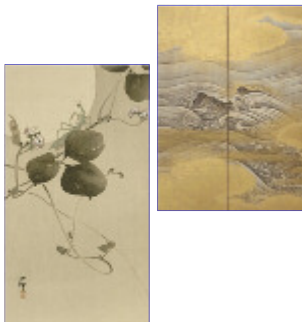
Standing Amida Nyori Buddha
13th century
Tokyo National Museum

51

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Now we will explore the next last part of a formal analysis:
 - Composition



52

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Composition is the manner in which the subject is presented:
 - Framing
 - Pose
 - Placement
 - Background
 - Lighting



53

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

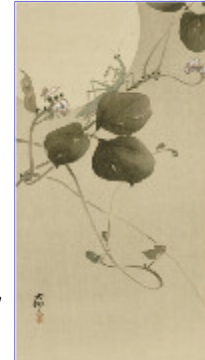
- We'll continue to use examples from our textbook and other sources.
- **Elements of Composition:**
 - Framing
 - Pose
 - Placement
 - Background
 - Lighting

54

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Framing:
 - Point of view, how much of the subject is shown and from what angle



Vine by Moon
By Ohara Koson (1877-1945)
Freer & Sackler Galleries

55

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Framing:
 - Point of view, how much of the subject is shown and from what angle



Ippen Hijiri Handscroll
Late 13th century
Mason fig. 236, 237 *

56

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Pose:
 - The position of the living subject - a person or an animal



Zochoten Guardian King
At Todaiji mid-8th century
Mason fig. 114

57

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Pose:
 - The expression on the face is an important part of the pose



Zochoten Guardian King
At Todaiji mid-8th century
Mason fig. 114

58

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Placement
 - grouping of persons or objects



Ichikawa Danjuro VIII as Gongoro in Shibaraku
(Poster for a kabuki performance)
By Utagawa Kunisada, 1836, Fitzwilliam Museum

59

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Placement
 - proximity, how near, how far



The Armor Pulling Scene
c. 1720 – 1738
Freer & Sackler Galleries

60

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Placement
 - proximity, how near, how far



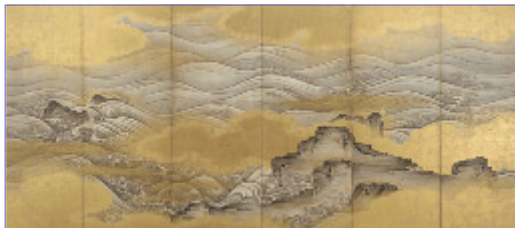
Monkey Reaching for the Reflection of the Moon
By Ohara Koson (1877 – 1945)
Freer & Sackler Galleries

61

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Placement: sightlines
 - horizontal lines are calming



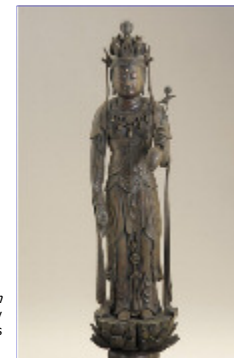
Waves (detail of a screen)
17th century
Freer & Sackler Galleries

62

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Placement - sightlines
 - Vertical lines are formal



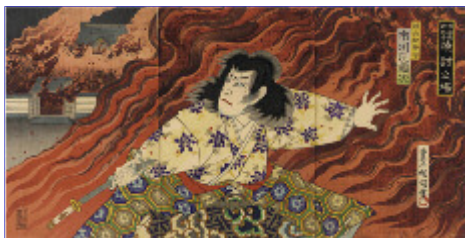
Kannon
Late 12th century
Freer & Sackler Galleries

63

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Placement - sightlines
 - diagonal lines imply movement



The Actor Ichikawa Sadanji as Akiyama Kimori
By Toyohara Kunichika 1894
Freer & Sackler Galleries

64

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Background
 - general, could be anywhere



Rice Planting (Detail from Four Seasons Screen)
14th century, Tokyo National Museum

65

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Background
 - specific or historical



Moonlight Revelry at Dozo Sagami
Late 18th century
Freer & Sackler Gallery

66

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Background
 - none



Courtesans Parading With Attendants
By Suzuki Harunobu 1766
Minneapolis Institute of Art

67

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Lighting
 - flat lighting, no shadows



Jitsukawa Enjaki in the Role of Danshichi
By Natori Shunsen 1926
Freer & Sackler Galleries

68

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Lighting
 - contrasting with highlights and shadows



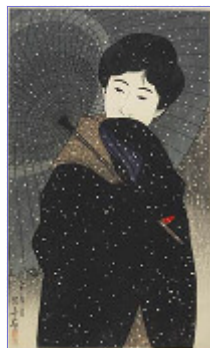
Night View, Sarawaku Street
By Ando Hiroshige 1857
Minneapolis Institute of Art

69

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis: Composition

- Lighting
 - dramatic focus, in a spotlight



Snowy Night
By Ito Shinsui 1923
Minneapolis Institute of Art

70

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

In Class Worksheet

- It's time to practice your new skills in analyzing the formal elements of an artwork.
- Each of you will have a worksheet with questions for one of the four areas of formal analysis.
- You'll analyze a Japanese artwork, using your skills of observation and analysis.



Ichikawa Danjuro VIII as Gongoro in Shibaraku
(Poster for a kabuki performance)
By Utagawa Kunisada, 1836
Fitzwilliam Museum

71

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Practice: Formal Analysis

- Answer the questions on your worksheet based on your close observation of this artwork.



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

72

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art

Formal Analysis of Art

- I hope that you now have a better understanding of how Japanese artists use the Elements and Principals of Design, the Elements of Content, Composition and Style to express their feelings, ideas, values and beliefs.



73

Formal Analysis of Japanese Art