



# JAPANESE ART



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# Jōmon Art

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# Jōmon Art

- The Jōmon people are said to have been the first settlers of Japan.
- They are known for their “cord-markings”, impressions made with rope which was first applied to pottery. It’s said that the Jōmon pottery is the oldest yet discovered in the world.
- The Jōmon people made decorated pottery storage vessels, dogū (clay figurines), and crystal jewels.

# Jōmon Art

- Their pottery originally started out with flat bottoms, but pointed bottoms became common later.
- Flame vessels and crown-formed vessels are very distinctive from this time period.



Crown-Formed Vessel

# Jōmon Art

- These clay figurines, called dogū, feature geometric designs and short, stubby limbs.
- Their purpose is believed to be of religious or ritual significance.



Dogū Statuette

# Yayoi Art

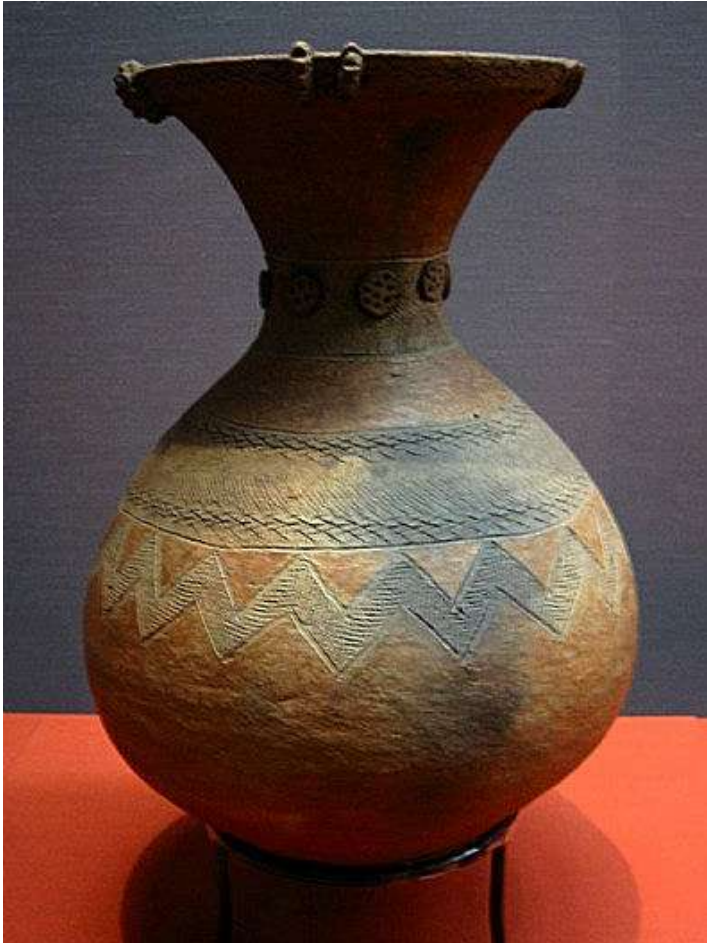
Elan De Luca



# Yayoi Art

- The Yayoi people arrived in Japan around 350 BCE with their skills in wetland rice cultivation, manufacturing in copper weapons and bronze bells, and wheel-thrown, kiln fire ceramics.
- It's believed that the Yayoi people came from the Korean peninsula, along with that came Korean and Chinese cultural influence.

# Yayoi Art



- Yayoi pottery tends to be smoother than Jōmon pottery.
- It features decorations made with sticks or combs, as opposed to rope.



# Kofun Art

Elan De Luca

# Kofun Art

- Kofun art is a modification of Yayoi culture. It's named Kofun for the amount megalithic tombs in Japan.
- Artifacts found from the Kofun period include, bronze mirrors, symbols of political alliances, and haniwa (clay sculptures).

# Kofun Art



- Example of stoneware and containers.
- Made of blue-gray clay that was typical of the Kofun art.

# Asuka & Nara Period (552-784)

Isabella Esser

# The Origins



- This period is named after the seat of Japanese government that was located in the Asuka Valley from 552 to 710 and in the city of Nara until 784.
- The transmission of Buddhism provided the initial impetus for contacts between China, Korea and Japan. This included adapting writing; historiography; complex theories of government, such as an effective bureaucracy; and, most important for the arts, new technologies, new building techniques, more advanced methods of casting in bronze, and new techniques and media for painting.

# The Buddhist Core

- 552 was the official date of the introduction of Buddhism into Japan.
- The earliest Japanese sculptures of the Buddha are dated to the 6th and 7th century. They ultimately derive from the 1st-3rd century CE Greco-Buddhist art of Gandhara, characterized by flowing dress patterns and realistic rendering, on which Chinese and Korean artistic traits were superimposed.
- Kōryū-ji Miroku Bosatsu and the Chūgū-ji Siddhartha statues.





# Buddhist Art, cont.

- Buddhist art show the terminal point of the Silk Road transmission of Art during the first few centuries of our era. Other examples include the development of the iconography of the Japanese Fūjin Wind God, the Niō guardians, and the near-Classical floral patterns in temple decorations.



# Architecture, Important Structures

- The earliest Buddhist structures still extant in Japan, and the oldest wooden buildings in the Far East are found at the Hōryū-ji to the southwest of Nara. First built in the early 7th century as the private temple of Crown Prince Shōtoku, it consists of 41 independent buildings. The most important ones, the main worship hall, or Kondō (Golden Hall), and Gojū-no-tō (Five-story Pagoda), stand in the center of an open area.



# Architecture

- Inside the Kondō are some of the most important sculptures of the period. The central image is a Shaka Trinity (623), the historical Buddha flanked by two bodhisattvas, sculpture cast in bronze by the sculptor Tori Busshi in homage to the recently deceased Prince Shōtoku.  
\*Also at Hōryū-ji is the Tamamushi Shrine, a wooden replica of a Kondō, set on a high wooden base that is decorated with figural paintings in a medium of mineral pigments mixed with lacquer.



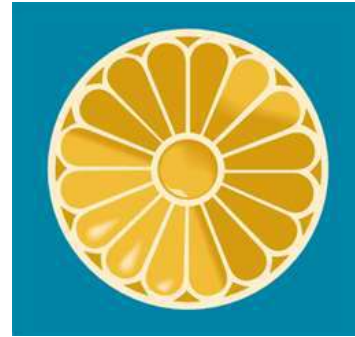


# Architecture

- Temple building in the 8th century was focused around the Tōdai-ji in Nara. Constructed as the headquarters for a network of temples in each of the provinces, the Tōdaiji is the most ambitious religious complex erected in the early centuries of Buddhist worship in Japan. Appropriately, the 16.2-m (53-ft) Buddha (completed 752) enshrined in the main Buddha hall, or Daibutsuden, is a Rushana Buddha.



# The Daibutsuden



- Around the Daibutsuden are a number of secondary halls.
- The storehouse, called the Shōsōin, is of great importance as an art-historical cache, because in it are stored the utensils that were used in the temple's dedication ceremony in 752, the eye-opening ritual for the Rushana image, as well as government documents and many secular objects owned by the Imperial family.



# Contemporary Japanese Art

- Japanese modern art is similar to modern art world wide. It ranges from advertisements, anime, video games, and architecture, to sculpture, painting, and drawing.
- Many artists however, still continue to paint in the traditional manner, with black ink and color on paper or silk. This is also true of sculpture; some artists stick to the traditional modes, some doing it with a modern flair, and some choose Western or brand new styles.
- Takashi Murakami is arguably one of the most well-known Japanese modern artists in the Western world. Murakami and the other artists in his studio create pieces in a style, inspired by anime, which he has dubbed "super flat". His pieces vary from painting to sculpture, some truly massive in size. But many clearly show an anime influence, using bright colors and simplified details.





# Heian Art

(794 – 1185)

Leanne White

# Early Heian Art

- The capital was moved to Heian-Kyou (Kyoto today). During this time the Kamakura Shogunate ruled and were responsible for bringing Buddhism to Japan. Buddhism influence. Most Heian sculpture featured thick drapery folds in a style called “hompashiki”, or “rolling wave” as well as restrained emotion.



Early Heian Sculpture of Ryoben Sojo  
Created between 794-897

# Buddhist Architecture



Japanese Stupa

- Japanese Architecture was heavily influenced by Buddhism. They took on the Indian “Stupa”. A mound that serves as a reliquary and usually holds relics of dead Buddha and used for worship.

# The Rise of the Fujiwara Family

- The Fujiwara family rose to power and were devoted to “Amida”, the Buddha of the western paradise. Their goal was beautifying the city to have a paradise on earth. E-maki, illustrated narrative handscrolls became popular. The first novel “Genji Monogatari” or “The Tale of Genji” was written Murasaki Shikibu.

There are two styles of E-maki, Otoko-e (men’s pictures) and Onna-e (women’s pictures). Genji Monogatari is drawn in Onna-e, aimed at females. Another famous E-maki, The Seige of Sanjou Palace, is drawn in Otoko-e style.



# Fujiwara Architecture

- The Fujiwara added on the “Amida Hall” to temples. Amida halls were two L shaped structures on both sides of a rectangular building with an Amida statue inside the building. These temples were constructed on the edge of an artificial pond.



Hou-ou-dou of Byoudouin  
Temple southeast of Kyoto

# Kamakura art

Savanth Reddy



# Kamakura Period

- With the shift of power from the nobility to the warrior class, the art had to please the new audience: men devoted to the skills of warfare and priests committed to making Buddhism available to illiterate common people.
- Realism, a popularizing trend, and a classical revival characterize the art of the Kamakura period.
- Kyoto and Nara were the main cities where the art flourished.

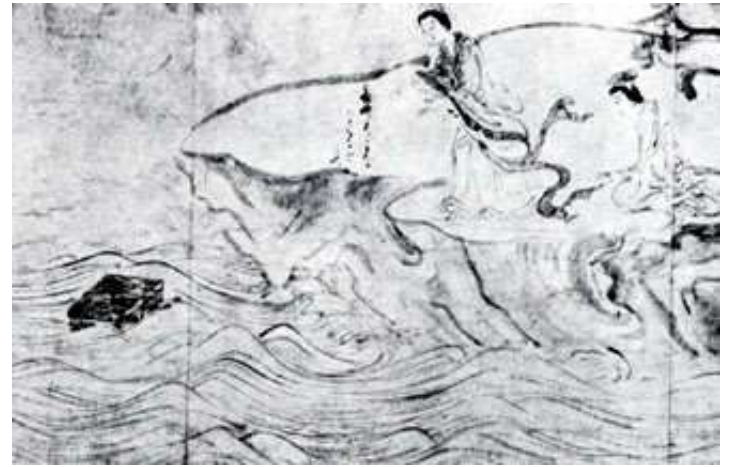


# Sculpture



- The Nio guardian images(1203) in the Great South Gate of the Todai-ji Nara illustrate Unkei's dynamic supra-realistic style. The images, about 8m tall, were carved of multiple blocks in a period of about three months.
- Unkei's polychromed wood sculptures of two Indian sages, Muchaku and Seshin, the most legendary founders of the Hosso sect, are among the most accomplished realistic works of the period; as rendered by Unkei, they are remarkably individualized and believable images.

# Calligraphy and Painting



- The Kegon Engi Emaki, the illustrated history of the founding of the Kegon sect, is an excellent example of the popularizing trend in Kamakura painting.
- The Kegon Engi Emaki combines passages of text, written with easily readable syllables and illustrations that have the dialogue between characters written next to the speakers, a technique comparable to comic strips. The plot of the Emaki, the lives of the two Korean priests who founded the Kegon sect, is swiftly paced and filled with fantastic feats such as a journey to the palace of the Ocean King.

# Muromachi art (1338–1573)

Saori Colombo

# Muromachi Period

- The Muromachi period started when the Ashikaga clan took control of the shogunate and moved its headquarters to Kyoto
- A profound change in Japanese culture happened during this period. The Muromachi period was economically and artistically innovative
- Cultural change:
  - Trends of the Kamakura period came to an end and cultural expression took on a more aristocratic, elitist character
- Religious change:
  - Zen Buddhism was introduced for the second time in Japan

# Art: Paintings



Ink Landscape  
Early 16th century

- Influences:
  - Many Chinese paintings were imported to Japan during the Muromachi Period. Japanese artists working for Zen temples and the shogunate were greatly influenced by the Chinese paintings
  - Changes:
    - Subject Matter
    - Modified use of color: Instead of bright colors, paintings generally only had black and white or different tones of a single color
    - Ink and wash paintings
- The “New style” (1413)
  - *Catching a Catfish with a Gourd*, painted by priest-painter Josetsu, marks the beginning of the new style
    - It is a hanging scroll with inscriptions
  - More sense of deep space



# Artists

- The primary artists of the Muromachi period are the priest-painters Shūbun and Sesshū
  - Shūbun
    - A monk at the Kyoto temple of Shokoku-ji
    - Chief painter to the Shogun
    - Painted *Reading in a Bamboo Grove* (1446)
    - He was seen a huge influence in Japan and had many followers
    - Painted many landscapes
  - Sesshū
    - Shūbun's student
    - Journeyed to China and studied Chinese painting
    - Most accomplished painting: *Landscape of the Four Seasons* (1486)
- Depiction of the legendary monk Kensu was typical for early Muromachi paintings
  - The priest-painter Kao painted this scene using quick brush strokes and minimum detail

# Reading in a Bamboo Grove

- Painted by priest-painter Shūbun
- Painted in 1446
- Ink painting
- Shows Chinese influence: Single toned color, Ink painting
- Designated as a national treasure in Japan
- Kept in the Tokyo National Museum



# Landscape of the Four Seasons



Only part of the scroll: spring season

- Painted by priest-painter Sesshū
- Painted in 1486
- Japanese Ink painting
- This long scroll is over 15 meters in length
- Depicts landscapes in the four seasons
- Careful brush strokes and strict composition
- Shows Chinese influences: Single toned color, Ink painting

# Architecture



- The Golden Pavilion was remodeled in 1397 by Ashikaga Yoshimitsu as a retirement retreat where he planned to become a monk
- Originally built in the Kamakura Period, it reflects three different styles of architecture. The first floor reflects Heian architecture, the second Kamakura architecture and the third Muromachi architecture. The major type of Muromachi architecture seen at the Golden Pavilion is shoin or study.
- When Yoshimitsu died in 1408, it became a Zen temple and was renamed Kinkakuji

# Momoyama Period (1573-1615)

Jeff Tidona

# Momoyama Period

- Four decades long; period of warfare between feudal barons, eventually peace was restored
- Momoyama means “Peach Hill” which refers to where Toyotomi Hideyoshi built his castle in Kyoto
- Art style characterized as “robust”, “opulent”, and “dynamic”
- Strong use of gold on architecture, paintings, garments, and furnishings
- Meanwhile, there was a “counter-aesthetic” influence from the military elite, encouraging “rustic simplicity”
- Foreign influence became more prevalent
  - Arrival of European merchants
  - Hideyoshi’s invasion of Korean peninsula



# “Meeting of Emperor Wen and Fisherman Lü Shang”



- Attributed to painter Kano Takanobu
- Two six-panel folding screens
- Medium: Ink on gilt paper
- Strong use of gold in the background as well as details
- Emperor and entourage display opulence + provide a strong contrast with the fisherman (pictured on other half)
- Large gap of space separating Emperor and Fisherman
- Evidence in the painting's details (gold highlights on rocks and tree trunks etc.) indicate that it was Takanobu's work
- No actual signature or seal by artist





Pictured above: The other folding screen of the pair (Left side)



Left: Picture of the actual panels

# The Edo Period

(1615–1868)

Ryan Smith

# How it Began

- The Edo period in Japan came when Tokugawa Leyasu effectively gained control of Japan as shogun.
- The capital, where Leyasu's throne was, became the small fishing village of Edo. Which is present day Tokyo.
- With the new stable government, the economy splurged.
- There came a flow of artistic creativity.
- Schools of painting, decorative arts such as ceramics, lacquer ware, textiles, and metalwork flourished like never before
- This is probably due to now less preoccupied people, that can now concentrate on other things like art besides war, money, and jobs.

# Woodblock Printing

- Ukiyo-e known as "pictures of the floating world," first emerged in the seventeenth century.
- It is also known as woodblock printing.
- This new art form was created for the urban townspeople.
- Affordable artwork.
- Mass-produced
- Were available to everyone.

- At first, artists specialized in depicting famous Kabuki actors, women.
- By the 19th century they also produced designs featuring landscapes, legendary heroes, and nature studies.



# Otani Oniji II (1794)

Toshusai Sharaku

- Polychrome woodcut print on paper
- A famous actor from Kabuki play is depicted here
- A henchman to samurai used to do violent deeds
- Three-quarter view, outstretched hands, qualities of kabuki characters, not idealized, unrealistic qualities (lips), strong lines





# Painting

- Painting was very popular during the Edo period.
- Features of these paintings include:
  - Flat planes
  - Strong linear outlines
  - Gold-leaf background
- Many paintings depict nature due to the religion of Confucianism. Very philosophical with nature.
- Vincent Van Gogh was greatly influenced by these paintings.

# Rough Waves

Ogata Korin



- Created between 1704-1709
- Two-panel screen; ink, color, and gold on gilded paper
- Gold background, flat, a little shading, strong outlines, unrealistic, nature

# The Great Wave at Kanagawa

(from a Series of Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji)

- Polychrome ink and color on paper
- Flat, strong lines unrealistic, nature



# Daimyô Wedding Set

19th century



- Has bamboo, pine, and cherry blossom decoration
- Sprinkled gold, lacquer
- Carvings, engravings, nature motifs

# Prewar Art

Elan De Luca



# Prewar Art

- In architecture, the construction of Tokyo Station was made full of bricks and pseudo-European style. They were built in the urban area.
- Today, about over 3,000 trains go through Tokyo Station





# Postwar Period

## End of World War II, 1945

Sophie Kaplan

# Art

- Artists work moved away from local developments into mainstream world art
- Work derived from the International Scene
- Use of modular space in architecture
- Space intervals used in music and dance
- Tendency for certain color combinations
- Art during this period was supported by merchants
- 1950's & 1960's avant garde involved Gutai group
- This originated postwar genres, specifically installation art, conceptual art, performance art, and wearable art

# Influences

- American art and architecture largely impacted Postwar art
- Japanese feared to build skyscrapers because of earthquakes
- Technology advanced, Japanese were able to build taller buildings
- Buildings consisted of more artistic outlooks



“Tokyo Sky Tree”

# Entertainment Contributions



- Japan has largely contributed to the world of entertainment
- Impacted fields such as commercials and graphic design

# Anime

- Cartoons from America led to the creation of anime
- Japan is home to Studio Ghibli, the best anime in the world



“Trapped in Japan” by Studio Ghibli