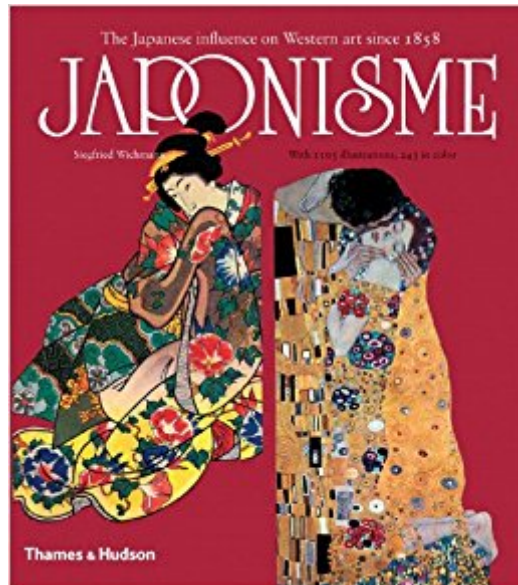


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Japonisme: The Japanese Influence On Western Art Since 1858



Synopsis

"An important phase in the history of decorative arts is here given authoritative treatment."—Interior Design

The impact of Japan on Western art was as immediate and almost as cataclysmic as the influence of the West on Japanese life. After Commodore Perry opened Japan's door to the outside world in 1858, ending a 200-year period of total isolation, a wealth of visual information from the superb Japanese traditions of ceramics, metalwork, architecture, printmaking, and painting reached the West and brought with it electrifying new ideas of composition, color, and design. One has only to see a celebrated painting by Monet, Degas, Whistler, or van Gogh, a print by Toulouse-Lautrec, an Art Nouveau glass vase, or a lacquered hair comb side by side with its Japanese source to see how these ideas have inspired European artists. Nor is the influence a superficial one: Japanese conventions of symbolism underlie the use of decorative motifs in European Symbolism and Art Nouveau, and the Zen idea of spontaneity is the ultimate source of both the apparently capricious shapes of Art Nouveau objects and the development of an abstract "calligraphy" in Abstract Expressionism. Siegfried Wichmann, the acknowledged expert on Japonisme, accompanies the breathtaking illustrations with a text that organizes a wealth of detail and opens up new lines of inquiry. 1,105 illustrations, 243 in color.

Book Information

Paperback: 432 pages

Publisher: Thames & Hudson; New edition edition (November 19, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0500281637

ISBN-13: 978-0500281635

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 10.8 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #590,473 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #132 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Ceramics](#) #2821 in [Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > Criticism](#) #4864 in [Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > History](#)

Customer Reviews

German historian and art curator Wichmann chronicles Japan's tremendous influence on the greats of 19th- and 20th-century art. His text is buttressed by more than 1100 illustrations, including 243 in color. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

An outstanding publication...may be viewed, read, and valued on many levels. -- School Arts Monumental, encyclopaedic, and copiously illustrated. -- Art in America Monumental, encyclopedic, and copiously illustrated. -- Art in America

A visual delight for anybody and a fantastic resource for designers. This treasure trove of images includes painting, prints, decorative art, and artifacts. The work is elegant, sensuous, and striking and the book is absolutely packed with images. Hiroshige and van Gogh, Kuniyoshi and Klimt, Japanese textiles and Art Nouveau--page after page of exquisite works, in wonderful juxtapositions. Asian art (including Chinese art, despite the title) is shown to be a source and inspiration of much 19th & 20th century European art-- but the Asian art alone would be worth the price. A slight issue I have, in fact, is the implied focus on the west. Sometime it feels the Asian images are presented primarily because they inspired European emulators rather than for their own sake--ie, "privileging" (to use a word I hate) European work over Asian work. But never mind. The book is just a goldmine of beautiful images.

One of the most influential movements in 19th century art that has endured.

It was what I had expected and appreciate the book. Longer delivery time but that happens when you use snail mail.

A superb addition to any artists reference library.

Exquisite book, most comprehensive I have seen on this subject. Worth ten times over the price!

I ordered this book mainly because of my fascination with a blog by the same name. Here is a link to the blog "Japonisme" [...] . I ordered my book "used, but in excellent condition". Its appearance is like any book that I have had for a few weeks. With 1105 illustrations and 432 large (10" x 12") pages I still haven't read it all. The layout of the book really helps a novice like me to understand the influence of Japanese art on the West. Wonderful western images that capture the spirit of the Japonisme but don't copy them are abundantly reproduced in black and white and in color. Japanese images from gardens to tea bowls place no one technique over any other as long as the result is beautiful. Each wood block print is carefully calculated to achieve the most impact within a

confined area. In all designs are based on nature, but don't replicate it. I will be looking at this book for years, reading, looking at the illustrations and just enjoying it.

For anyone interested in both Japanese Art and European Art at the turn of the last century, this book will become the most satisfying reference book in your collection. "Japonisme" is the term used to describe the Victorian fascination with all things Japanese. Wichmann's book successfully demonstrates the influence of this fascination on the fine art of the era. Lavishly illustrated with over a thousand images, Wichmann's essays are informed both historically and artistically on the detailed ins and outs of the sharing of the two cultures of East and West. Topics include the Asian influence in composition, pictorial space, design, choice of material, and subject matter in the visual art and architecture of turn of the century fin de siècle Europe and America. Visual examples are given from a wealth of artists including Van Gogh, Manet, Cassatt, Whistler, Degas, Mucha, Klimt, the architects Frank Lloyd Wright and Richard Neutra, and Japanese artists such as Hiroshige and Hokusai, just to name a few. Being a visual artist from the west trained in the Western tradition and yet fascinated with Japanese fine art and in particular the tradition of ukiyo-e, discovering this book for me was like finding the holy grail, a book filled to the brim with stunning visual compromises between the traditions of East and West from which to take my own influences. Fantastic.

This beautiful book really opened my mind to the influence that Japanese art had on the Impressionist movement. Some very interesting comparisons of woodblocks and the work of Van Gogh.....Wow...It had never occurred to me before & to see the works side by side is fascinating. I first found this book in the school library & kept borrowing it; such wonderful images. I decided I had to own a copy & made my first .com purchase. Great service, , thank you....so quick & efficient. This book is great value and very well illustrated. The text is extremely interesting and thought provoking.

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