

Spring 2022 Arts of Asia Lecture Series
Gifts of Rivers and Resources: Art and Power in Ancient Asia
Sponsored by the *Society for Asian Art*

**Japanese Material Culture, Ecology and Landscape Practice
from the Prehistoric Jomon to the Early Historic Period**

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Chronology of Japan

PALEOLITHIC (旧石器 35,000? - 14,000 BC)

JOMON (縄文 14,000-800/300 BC)

INCIPIENT JOMON (14,000 - 9,000 BC)

INITIAL JOMON (9,000 - 5,000 BC)

EARLY JOMON (5,000 - 3,400 BC)

MIDDLE JOMON (3,400 - 2,400 BC)

LATE JOMON (2,400 - 1,300 BC)

FINAL JOMON (1,300 - 800/300 BC)

YAYOI (弥生 800/300 BC – AD 250)

KOFUN (古墳 250-710)

ASUKA (飛鳥 593-710)

NARA (奈良 710-994)

HHEIAN (平安 794-1192)

MEDIEVAL (中世 1192-1603)

EDO (江戸 1603-1868)

MODERN (近現代 1868-)

Jomon: name of a prehistoric culture and period that flourished on the Japanese archipelago from ca. 14,000 BC to 800 BC (southern Japan)/300 BC (northern Japan) with a focus on hunting, plant food collecting, fishing and active environmental managements. An abundance of pottery decorated with cord-marks (*jomon*) characterizes this period.

Yayoi: name of a prehistoric/early historic culture and period that was associated with rice and millet agriculture.

Kofun: name of an early historic culture and period that was associated with mounded tombs (*kofun*), including large keyhole-shaped tombs.

uruhi lacquerware: wooden artifacts and baskets covered with lacquer that is extracted from the lacquer tree (*Rhus* or *Toxicodendron*, a species of poison oak)

kaen doki or “fire-frame” pottery: heavily decorated Middle Jomon pottery on the Japan Sea area of central Japan.

dogu: clay figurines from the Jomon period, the majority of which represent female bodies, particularly the pregnant ones.

obsidian: volcanic glass that is formed by rapid cooling of molten, high silica lava, which is often used as the raw material for stone-tool production.

haniwa: clay funerary objects associated with mound tombs of the Kofun period.

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