

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Spring 2017
Women, Real and Imagined, In Asian Art
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

What Becomes a Woman Most: Japanese Art and the Feminine Ideal

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This lecture considers three clusters of works in the AAM collection, groupings that exemplify three alternative approaches to understanding the role of women in Japanese art.

1. The Brundage perspective: women in the eyes of man

AAM works shown:

- Haniwa in the form of female shamans, 6th c. B60S164+, B60S165+
- Female Shinto spirit, approx. 1100-1200, B69S36
- Fish Basket Kannon, by Toshio Aoki (1853-1912), 2010.359
- Scenes from The Tale of Genji, 1700-1800, B60D46+ (one of pair shown)
- [Chasing the Ox, by Sekkyakushi (active early 15th c.), B69D46]
- Dog chasing, 17th c., B60D2, B60D1
- Standing beauty, by Baiyuken Katsunobu (1716-1735), B60D19
- Three types of beauties in Edo, by Chobunsai Eishi (1756-1829), B60D82
- Street scene in the pleasure quarter, by Okumura Masunobu (1686-1764), 2006.100.7
- *Hokkoku (Northern Quarter)*, by Kitagawa Utamaro (1754-1806), 2005.100.78

2. Female agency: women as arbiters and patrons

AAM works shown:

- *The Tale of Genji*, Tosa School, 17th c., B86D2 (album converted to handscroll)
- Scenes from the Tale of Genji, approx. 1700-1800, B60D46+, B60D47+ (pair of screens)
- Robe (kosode) with landscape and literary designs, approx. 1800-1850, 2007.15
- Long sleeved kimono (furisode) with imperial cart, aristocratic fans, ball-shaped floral sachet, and auspicious plants, approx. 1912-1935, 2011.16
- Cosmetic set, 1819, 1991.133.1.-.13
- Comb with floral design; Comb with blossoming pink design, 1989.40.10 and 1989.40.14
- Koto, 1700-1850, B72M1
- A beauty playing a koto, approx. 1720, by Furuyama Moromasa (1712-1772), 2006.56
- The bodhisattva Samantabhadra (Fugen Bosatsu), approx. 1225-1250, B66D2
- The deities Brahma and Indra (Bonten and Taishakuten), approx. 730-734, B65S12, B65S13

3. Female creators: conservatives, radicals, and subversives

Artists, with AAM works listed:

Kiyohara Yukinobu (1643-1682). Daughter of painter Kusumi Morikage; niece of Kano Tan'yu

Ike Gyokuran (1728-1784). Wife of painter Ike Taiga

- Peach blossom idyll, 1750-1784, B76D3 (shown with Fisherman under a willow tree, by Ike Taiga, B62D3 and Twelve views of West Lake, by Ike Taiga, B65D50)

Katsushika Oi (c., 1800-1866). Daughter of painter Katsushika Oi

Otagaki Rengetsu (1791-1875)

- Hut and pine tree, 2016.8

Noguchi Shohin (1847-1917)

- *Summer Mountains, Clear Autumn Weather*, 1912, 1988.36.1

Yoshida family: Fujio Yoshida (1887-1987); Chizuko Yoshida (b. 1924); Ayomi Yoshida (b. 1958)

- *Mambo B*, 1956 and *Sun in the Desert*, 1959, by Chizuko Yoshida, 1992.189 (with *Mask and Ancestor* by her husband, Hodaka Yoshida, 1992.190 and 1992.191)

Female artists represented in "The Sculptural Turn": Koike Shoko (b. 1943); Ogawa Machiko (b. 1946); Kishi Eiko (b. 1948); Katsumata Chieko (b. 1950); Fujino Sachiko (b. 1950); Futamura Yoshimi (b. 1959); Sakurai Yasuko (b. 1969); Fujikasa Satoko (b. 1980); Hattori Makiko (b. 1984)

Atsuko Tanaka (1932-2005)

Yayoi Kusama (b. 1929)

Tomoko Kashiki (b. 1982)

Selected Readings:

Allen, Laura. "Japanese Exemplars for a New Age: Classical Themes in Works from the Seventeenth--century Tosa School" In Elizabeth Lillehoj, ed. *Critical Perspectives on Classicism in Japanese Painting, 1600–1700*. University of Hawaii Press, 2004, 99–132.

Allen, Laura. "The Yoshida Women: Three Generations of Female Artists in Modern Japan" In Laura Allen, Kendall H. Brown et al. *Japanese Legacy: Four Generations of Yoshida Family Artists*. Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 2002, 150–215.

Fister, Patricia. *Japanese Women Artists 1600-1900*. Spencer Museum of Art, 1988.

Graybill, Maribeth. *Gender and Power in the Japanese Visual Field*. University of Hawaii Press, 2003.

Lillehoj, Elizabeth. *Woman in the Eyes of Man: Images of Women in Japanese Art*. Chicago: DePaul University, 1995.

Shiga-ken Tōgei no Mori, Shigarakiyaki Shiryō Bijutsukan, & Nyū Ōtani Bijutsukan. *Soaring Voices: Contemporary Japanese Women Ceramic Artists*. Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, 2007.

Weidner, Marsha. *Flowering in the Shadows: Women in the History of Chinese and Japanese Painting*. University of Hawaii Press, 1990.