

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Spring 2014
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The Local and the Global in the Art of Modern and Contemporary Japan
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Key Terms in Modern and Contemporary Japanese Art:

Nihonga: neo-traditional form of painting originating in Meiji period and continuing through today

Yōga: painting in media originating in Europe (oils, watercolors, pencil or pastel drawing); practiced most vigorously in the Meiji, Taishō, and Shōwa periods, through the 1960s

Nanga: a Japanese version of Chinese literati or Southern School painting; originating in the Edo period, practiced in the Meiji period, and revived in the Taishō and pre-WWII Shōwa periods

Creative prints: (*sōsaku hanga*): form of prints first practiced in early 20th century; the artist controls all aspects of production (self-designed, self-carved, self-printed)

Mingei: folk crafts, featured in a movement spearheaded by Yanagi Muneyoshi

Photojournalism (*hōdō shashin*): form of photography that saw its first heyday in the 1930s in the context of militarization and state propaganda

New prints (*shin hanga*): revivalist form of prints first practiced in the early 20th century; made collaboratively (by designer-artist, carver, printer) under direction of a publisher

War painting (*sensōga*): paintings in support of Japan's war efforts, usually identified with World War II

Gendai bijutsu: contemporary art (beginning in the 1960s) that operates outside of the art establishment (*nihonga* and *yōga*), often understood to have a connection with so-called "international" (European or American) art worlds

Historical Timeline

Meiji	1904-5	Russo-Japanese War
(1868-1912)	1904	Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis
	1907	Inauguration of national salon (the Bunten)
	1910	Annexation of Korea; Japan-British Exposition
Taishō	1912	Death of Meiji emperor; inaug. of Taishō emperor
(1912-1926)	1914-18	World War I; Japan at war with Germany
	1915	Panama-Pacific Exposition, San Francisco

Shōwa (1926-1989)	1926	Death of Taishō emperor, inaug. of Shōwa emp. (Hirohito)
	1931	Manchurian Incident, Manchukuo puppet state
	1933	Japan withdraws from League of Nations
	1937	War with China
	1939-40	New York World's Fair, San Francisco Golden Gate Fair
	1941	Attack on Pearl Harbor, Pacific War begins
	1942	Internment of Americans of Japanese descent
	1945	Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; end of war
	1945-52	Occupation of Japan, US-Japan Mutual Security Treaty
	1960	Renewal of Mutual-Security Treaty
	1964	Tokyo Summer Olympics, bullet train unveiled
	19	Vietnam War,
	Heisei (1989-)	1989
1986-1991		Bubble economy
2011		Earthquake and tsunami
2014		Tokyo selected for 2020 Summer Olympics

Further Reading (selected books and exhibition catalogs)

Kim Brandt, *Kingdom of Beauty: Mingei and the Politics of Folk Art in Imperial Japan* (Duke University, 2007)

Kendall H. Brown et al, *Shin-Hanga: New Prints in Modern Japan* (LACMA, 1996)

Ellen Conant, ed., *Nihonga: Transcending the Past* (St. Louis Art Museum, 1996)

Christine Guth, Alicia Volk, Emiko Yamanashi, *Japan and Paris* (Honolulu Academy of Art, 2004)

Helen Merritt, *Modern Japanese Prints: The Early Years* (University of Hawaii, 1990)

Alexandra Munroe, *Japanese Art after 1945: Scream Against the Sky* (Guggenheim, 1995)

J. Thomas Rimer, *Since Meiji: Perspectives on the Japanese Visual Arts, 1868-2000* (University of Hawaii, 2011)

Anne Tucker, *History of Japanese Photography* (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 2003)

Alicia Volk, *The Postwar Creative Print Movement* (University of Washington, 2005)

Alicia Volk, *In Pursuit of Universalism: Yorozu Tetsugorō and Japanese Modern Art* (University of California, 2010)

Gennifer Weisenfeld, *Mavo: Japanese Artists and the Avant-garde, 1905-1931* (University of California, 2002)

Bert Winther-Tamaki, *Art in the Encounter of Nations* (University of Hawaii, 2001)