

A 1000-Year Map of Japanese Art

Eras, Ideas, and Forms at a Glance

Heian Period (900–1185)	Kamakura Period (1185–1333)	Nanbokuchō– Muromachi Period (1333–1573)	Azuchi-Momoyama Period (1573–1603)	Edo Period (1603–1868)	Meiji-Taishō Period (1868–1926)	Shōwa Period (1926–1989) Pre- and Postwar	Heisei-Reiwa Period / Contemporary (1989–2025)
Style: Yamato-e; emergence of native aesthetics 	Realistic Buddhist sculpture; warrior culture 	Ink painting; wabi-sabi aesthetics 	Gold-leaf screen paintings; decorative grandeur 	Ukiyo-e; Rinpa school; townspeople's culture 	Western painting and redefinition of Japanese painting 	Avant-garde and postwar art 	Pop aesthetics; reinterpretation of Japanese motifs 
Representative works: The Tale of Genji Shigisan Engi Emaki 	Unkei and Kaikei's Buddhist sculptures 	Sesshū landscape painting 	Kanō Eitoku Scenes In and Around Kyoto 	Katsushika Hokusai "Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji" Ogata Korin's "Wind God and Thunder God" 	Kuroda Seiki Yokoyama Taikan 	Gutai Art Association Taro Okamoto 	Takashi Murakami Yayoi Kusama teamLab 
Focus: Narrative expression; courtly culture narrative culture court art	Realism; faith of the samurai class realism samurai culture	Zen thought; spiritual depth through monochrome faith ink painting	Visualization of political power; monumental scale luxury authority	Popularization of art; design and reproducibility popular culture Design	Modernization; hybridization of East and West modernization Japanese-Western eclectic	Experimental spirit; rejection of academic norms vanguard experiment	Fusion of subculture and technology reinterpretation technology
Global Context: Decline of Tang influence; rise of Japanese identity	Connected with Song-Yuan China	Close ties with Chinese ink-painting traditions	Contact with Christian and European cultures	Influence on Europe through Japonisme	Connection with Western culture and technology	Influence of American Abstract Expressionism and international avant-garde movements	Expansion into the global art market

Note:

This map does not aim to catalogue all major works of Japanese art. Rather, it offers a visual overview of how aesthetic ideas and forms have evolved over time.

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