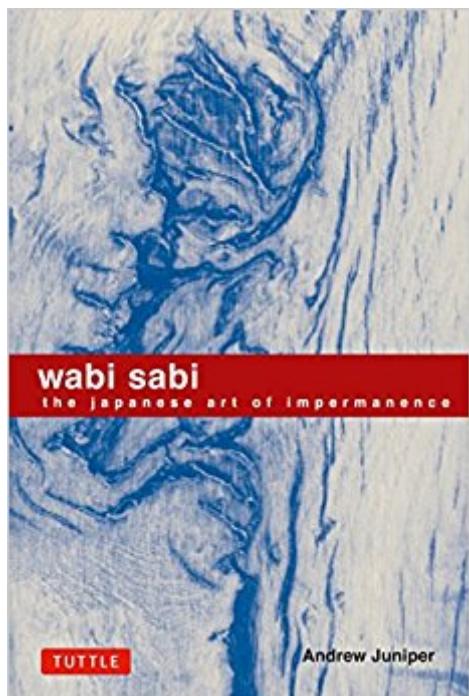


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Wabi Sabi: The Japanese Art Of Impermanence



Synopsis

Developed out of the aesthetic philosophy of cha-no-yu (the tea ceremony) in fifteenth-century Japan, wabi sabi is an aesthetic that finds beauty in things imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete. Taken from the Japanese words wabi, which translates to less is more, and sabi, which means attentive melancholy, wabi sabi refers to an awareness of the transient nature of earthly things and a corresponding pleasure in the things that bear the mark of this impermanence. As much a state of mind—•an awareness of the things around us and an acceptance of our surroundings—•as it is a design style, wabi sabi begs us to appreciate the simple beauty in life—•a chipped vase, a quiet rainy day, the impermanence of all things. Presenting itself as an alternative to today's fast-paced, mass-produced, neon-lighted world, wabi sabi reminds us to slow down and take comfort in the simple, natural beauty around us. In addition to presenting the philosophy of wabi-sabi, this book includes how-to design advice—•so that a transformation of body, mind, and home can emerge. Chapters include: History: The Development of Wabi Sabi; Culture: Wabi Sabi and the Japanese Character; Art: Defining Aesthetics; Design: Creating Expressions with Wabi Sabi Materials; and Spirit: The Universal Spirit of Wabi Sabi.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A rich read detailing the history, art, culture, design, and spiritual aspects of all things wabi sabi. Explains it deeply and accessibly at the same time." —Chicago Tribune "For the majority of Japanese, traditional Japanese culture is a lot like fishing. Everyone has fished, but not everyone is

a fisherman. Only a few can tell you what every lure, bobber, and fly in a tackle box is. Even less could use them. The fact is, after reading this book, you'll understand both wabi sabi and Zen Buddhism better than 99.99% of the Japanese population."  • Introvert Japan

Andrew Juniper provides a fascinating explanation of wabi sabi, taking the reader from the art's fifteenth-century Japanese origins to its modern day practical applications. The book is peppered with photographs and illustrations that demonstrate how wabi sabi can help provide an alternative to the fast paced, mass produced, neon lit world of today. He lives in Sussex, England where he runs the Wabi-Sabi Art Gallery.

This book is a serious examination of Wabi Sabi as an art form. The author Andrew Juniper set himself a daunting task in his endeavour to explain a virtually inexplicable philosophy which has its origins steeped on oriental antiquity. In carefully thought out comparisons he clarifies the qualities of Wabi Sabi as opposed to the qualities of western art. Wabi Sabi is not about the perfection so often sought after in western art: it is about imperfection found in a myriad of art forms which show reality as it really is and not as he says "through the window of the intellect". I found this to be an informative book, one which I will return to as a reference for my own artistic endeavours, as I have concluded that within us all there is a little of the "intuitive appreciation of transient beauty in the physical world" which is Wabi sabi.

A great overview to the ideology and influence of wabi sabi without becoming overwhelming, this is succinct, thoughtful text that will benefit anyone who wants to have a better understanding of and appreciation for the acceptance of imperfection and mortality in all things. I highly recommend this text to all who are brittle Type As (much like myself) and would benefit from both a micro and macro perspective shift that will allow increased productivity and peace from learning to value the flux and lack of control within life.

Most articulate and engrossing insight into the concept of wabi sabi, by a knowledgeable and talented author. Now I better understand the qualities that have always appealed to me in handmade pottery and other art works. It seemed impossible to capture the spirit and power of such a Zen idea in words, but this author succeeded.

I liked this book so much that I purchased another copy for our local library. I was very surprised

that it could not be found in our library system.

Excellent insight into philosophy of Japanese design. I had careers as a landscape architect/urban designer, photographer, but wanted to learn more about the philosophy for Japanese design. This is an excellent book for the philosophy, but isn't a how-to-do-it book. I would recommend to anyone interested in learning about the Japanese philosophy of design.

Having read a few confusing articles on wabi sabi, I found this to be enlightening. Anyone interested in wabi sabi should read this.

Well written intro to Wabi Sabi that is nicely organized and provides many good examples in the context of design and our personal lives.

Mr. Juniper presents a difficult subject in a beautiful, simple and accessible way. I hope he's written other books as good as this one.

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