

Japanese Visual Culture

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born of japan's cultural encounter with western entertainment media manga comic books or graphic novels and anime animated films are two of the most universally recognized forms of contemporary mass culture because they tell stories through visual imagery they vault over language barriers well suited to electronic transmission and distributed by japan's globalized culture industry they have become a powerful force in both the mediascape and the marketplace this volume brings together an international group of scholars from many specialties to probe the richness and subtleties of these deceptively simple cultural forms the contributors explore the historical cultural sociological and religious dimensions of manga and anime and examine specific sub genres artists and stylistics the book also addresses such topics as spirituality the use of visual culture by japanese new religious movements japanese goth nostalgia and japanese pop cute kawali subculture and comics for girls and more with illustrations throughout it is a rich source for all scholars and fans of manga and anime as well as students of contemporary mass culture or japanese culture and civilization

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engaging some of the most canonical and thought provoking anime manga and science fiction films tokyo cyberpunk offers insightful analysis of japanese visual culture steven t brown draws new conclusions about the cultural flow of art as well as important technological issues of the day

this volume examines the visual culture of japan s transition to modernity from 1868 to the first decades of the twentieth century through this important moment in japanese history contributors reflect on japan s transcultural artistic imagination vis a vis the discernment negotiation assimilation and assemblage of diverse aesthetic concepts and visual pursuits the collected chapters show how new cultural notions were partially modified and integrated to become the artistic methods of modern japan based on the hybridization of major ideologies visualities technologies productions formulations and modes of representation the book presents case studies of creative transformation demonstrating how new concepts and methods were perceived and altered to match views and theories prevalent in meiji japan and by what means different practitioners negotiated between their existing skills and the knowledge generated from incoming ideas to create innovative modes of practice and representation that reflected the specificity of modern japanese artistic circumstances the book will be of interest to scholars working in art history japanese studies asian studies and japanese history as well as those who use approaches and methods related to globalization cross cultural studies transcultural exchange and interdisciplinary studies

the culture of japanese poetry waka is richly visual in poetry as image tomoko sakomura examines the ways the visual culture of waka in sixteenth century japan engages with practice and protocol developed over the course of the previous six centuries and what these engagements reveal about the role of the past in cultural productions of the present

in a study driven by stunning images of japanese advertisements and the artworks they quote from ory bartal offers a first of its kind interpretation of the postmodern genre of advertising in japan which both shaped and reflected the new consumer driven culture that arose during the bubble era of the 1980s and 1990s through a fascinating tale of art directors and their works and influences bartal shows how this postmodern visual language like postmodernism in other streams is distinguished by its m lange of styles blurring of boundaries between art and design and reliance on visual and textual quotations from sources past and present domestic and foreign although this advertising culture partakes of global trends bartal draws attention to the varied local artistic sensibilities structures of thought and underlying practices challenging the often simplistic characterization of japaneseness as being rooted in a zen tradition of aesthetic indirectness and ambiguity combining multilingual scholarship with a wealth of information gleaned through years of personal interviews with the principals involved this is a truly original contribution to the discussion of japanese art and advertising as well as an insightful reading of more general issues in the study of visual culture and media

the city of kyoto has undergone radical shifts in its significance as a political and cultural center as a hub of the national bureaucracy as a symbolic and religious center and as a site for the production and display of art however the field of japanese history and culture lacks a book that considers kyoto on its own terms as a historic city with a changing identity examining cultural production in the city of kyoto in two periods of political transition this book promises to be a major step forward in advancing our knowledge of kyoto s history and culture its chapters focus on two periods in kyoto s history in which the old capital was politically marginalized the early edo period when the center of power shifted from the old imperial capital to the new warriors capital of edo and the meiji period when the imperial court itself was moved to the new modern center of tokyo the contributors argue that in both periods the response of kyoto elites emperors courtiers tea masters municipal leaders monks and merchants was artistic production and cultural

revival as an artistic cultural and historical study of japan s most important historic city this book will be invaluable to students and scholars of japanese history asian history the edo and meiji periods art history visual culture and cultural history

capture japan investigates the formation of visual tropes and how these have contributed to perceptions of japan in the global imagination the book proposes that images are not incidental in the formation of such perceptions but central to notions about identity history and memory from a tentative western ally in 1952 to a soft power superpower with a huge global influence in the 21st century the book locates questions about japan in the global imagination to the country s transforming geopolitical position by adopting an interdisciplinary approach with a multiplicity of perspectives from around the world capture japan goes beyond binarisms to uncover how images can also produce discourses that challenge subvert or even contradict each other the word capture in the title of the book recognises both the deeply problematic role that images have played in relation to colonialism as well as the potential dominance that visual spectacles can wield in a contemporary context diverse essays from a wide range of perspectives investigate the institutional framework that has allowed certain types of images of japan to be promoted while others have been suppressed in doing so the book points to a vast network of images that have shaped the perception of japan both from within and from outside revealing how these images are inextricably linked to wider ideological political cultural or economic agendas

in promiscuous media hikari hori makes a compelling case that the visual culture of showa era japan articulated urgent issues of modernity rather than serving as a simple expression of nationalism hori makes clear that the japanese cinema of the time was in fact almost wholly built on a foundation of russian and british film theory as well as american film genres and techniques hori provides a range of examples that illustrate how maternal melodrama and animated features akin to those popularized by disney were adopted wholesale by japanese filmmakers emperor hirohito s image hori argues was

inseparable from the development of mass media he was the first emperor whose public appearances were covered by media ranging from postcards to radio broadcasts worship of the emperor through viewing his image hori shows taught the japanese people how to look at images and primed their enjoyment of early animation and documentary films alike promiscuous media links the political and the cultural closely in a way that illuminates the nature of twentieth century japanese society

in this the first collection in english of feminist oriented research on japanese art and visual culture an international group of scholars examines representations of women in a wide range of visual work the volume begins with chino kaori s now classic essay gender in japanese art which introduced feminist theory to japanese art this is followed by a closer look at a famous thirteenth century battle scroll and the production of bijin beautiful women prints within the world of edo period advertising a rare homoerotic picture book is used to extrapolate the grammar of desire as represented in late seventeenth century edo in the modern period contributors consider the introduction to meiji japan of the western nude and oil painting and examine nihonga japanese style painting and the role of one of its famous artists the book then shifts its focus to an examination of paintings produced for the japanese sponsored annual salons held in colonial korea the postwar period comes under scrutiny in a study of the novel woman in the dunes and its film adaptation the critical discourse that surrounded women artists of the late twentieth century the super girls of art is analyzed followed by a consideration of gender ambiguity and cross gender identification in contemporary anime and manga contributors grunhild borggreen norman bryson chino kaori doris croissant ikeda shinobu kim hye shin chigusa kimura steven joshua s mostow sharalyn orbaugh david pollack

this book uncovers and explains the ways by which politics is naturalized and denaturalized and familiarized and de familiarized through popular media it explores the tensions between state actors such as censors politicized and nonpoliticized audiences and visual media creators at various points in the history of japanese visual media it

offers new research on a wide array of visual media texts including classical narrative cinema television documentary film manga and animated film it spans the militarized decades of the 1930s and 1940s through the asia pacific war into the present day and demonstrates how processes of politicization and depoliticization should be understood as part of wider historical developments including japan s postwar devastation and poverty subsequent rapid modernization and urbanization and the aging population and economic struggles of the twenty first century

vera mackie a leading scholar of japanese history takes the original approach of using examples of the extraordinary visual culture of the last century to bring new insights into the political and cultural history of twentieth century japan each chapter focuses on one example of a particular genre of visual culture a poster a cartoon a postage stamp a photograph a painting or digital collage and places them in the context of its artistic cultural and political milieu providing a methodological introduction to the use of visual materials as a resource in the study of japanese history this book will be of interest to students and scholars of japanese culture history politics and visual culture

under pressure of cultural colonization from the west and expanding an imperialist force and cultural colonizer within asia japan occupied a unique space on the international landscape in the years from the beginning of the meiji period to the pacific war this special issue of positions examines the integral role that visual culture played both in representing and constituting this imperial reality the articles contributed by scholars in the fields of art history cultural history and japanese literature address the interactions between japan the west and the rest of asia costumes architecture tourism propaganda pottery and a host of other sources provide the raw materials for visual cultures of japanese imperialism and the incisive essays built from these sources will change readers understanding of the visual culture s of imperialism contributors kim brandt leo ching carol ann christ christine guth jordan sand gennifer weisenfeld cherie wendelken

this companion is a comprehensive examination of the varied ways in which gender issues manifest throughout culture in japan using a range of international perspectives to examine private and public constructions of identity as well as gender and sexuality inflected cultural production the routledge companion to gender and japanese culture features both new work and updated accounts of classic scholarship providing a go to reference work for contemporary scholarship on gender in japanese culture the volume is interdisciplinary in scope with chapters drawing from a range of perspectives fields and disciplines including anthropology art history history law linguistics literature media and cultural studies politics and sociology this reflects the fundamentally interdisciplinary nature of the dual focal points of this volume gender and culture and the ways in which these themes infuse a range of disciplines and subfields in this volume jennifer coates lucy fraser and mark pendleton have brought together an essential guide to experiences of gender in japanese culture today perfect for students scholars and anyone else interested in japan culture gender studies and beyond

this book examines the public perception scholarly reception and critical analysis of japan through translations of its literature and artistic endeavors within the temporal frame and geopolitical confines of the countries that were either occupied or left under the influence of the soviet union after world war ii by engaging with literary translations from japanese into languages such as romanian russian czech hungarian german and slovenian alongside art exhibits and performance shows focused on japan this book provides an original contribution to the field of japanese studies in eastern and central europe and the former soviet space in addition by offering a multifaceted multilingual and multicultural approach to the diverse realities of countries from the former communist bloc the book sheds light on the unique relationships they created with literary and artistic japan as well as the unique ways in which they attempted to lift the iron curtain and gaze at the asian other a subject of both fascination and identification approaching the subject of japanese culture through the unique lens of former communist bloc nations this book will

appeal to students and scholars of Japanese studies and Japanese literature particularly in the context of translations

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