



WA: The Essence of Japanese Design

By Stefania Piotti, Rossella Mennegazzo

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Explore the enduring beauty of Japanese design through some 250 objects, ranging from bento boxes, calligraphy brushes, and Shoji sliding doors to Noguchi's Akari lamp, the iconic Kikkoman soy sauce bottle, and a modern‐day kimono designed by Issey Miyake.

Printed on craft paper and bound in the traditional Japanese style, *WA* features stunning, full‐page illustrations and an introduction by MUJI art director Kenya Hara.

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Editorial Review

Review

"...Explores the beauty, essence, and enduring impact of Japanese design... Printed on craft paper and bound in the traditional Japanese style with a stitched spine and folded pages, the book itself is an art masterpiece."—*Chopsticks Magazine*

"For those unfamiliar with the Japanese term 'wa', it can be loosely translated to mean 'harmony.' The concept can be seen in many ways in Japanese culture; in this book it's defined through 250 objects - from a 16th century bamboo case to a 1950s Isamu Noguchi table to a modern-day silk robe by Kenzo. What you can be sure of: everything chosen for the book is beautifully designed - right down to the utilitarian Kikkoman soy sauce bottle."—*The New York Post*

"I used to be a graphic designer, so I think books as objects, like Phaidon's *WA: The Essence of Japanese Design*, make exceptional gifts. Intricately bound, it showcases a collection of Japanese products, from food to ceramics."—*DuJour (Denmark)*

About the Author

Rossella Menegazzo is Associate Professor of History of East Asian Art at the Università degli Studi di Milano. She completed her PhD Course in Oriental Studies at Ca' Foscari University of Venice in 2009, with a dissertation on Japanese art history and photography. She has curated several events and exhibitions and is the author of numerous texts on Japanese photography, graphic design and ukiyoe. She is a regular contributor to a number of national newspapers, writing articles on Japanese culture and art. Stefania Piotti received her BA in East Asian studies from Ca' Foscari University of Venice specializing in Japanese textiles and the development of kimono design and patterns in particular. She has worked as translator and scientific coordinator in various exhibitions on Japanese art and as editor of Italian and English publications such as *Imai. A Retrospective* (Electa, 1998), *Hokusai* (Phaidon, 2004) and *Japan Style* (Phaidon, 2007).

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