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**Learning to Read Japanese Paintings**  
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**For the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) at the Program for Teaching East Asia,  
University of Colorado Boulder**

**Glossary of Terms**

*sumi-e*: black ink + picture (Jpn); monochromatic painting

*kakemono*: hanging + thing (Jpn); vertical scroll usually mounted on silk

7 basic elements of art: line, shape, form, space, texture, value, and color

*manga*: involuntary/unrestrained + illustration (Jpn); graphic novels

subject matter: whoever or whatever is depicted in a painting

visual path: the imaginary line a viewer's eye travels

perspective: point of view, as perceived by the audience

original intention: whatever or whoever primarily motivated the artist (e.g., religious, political, decorative, utilitarian or combination)

Zen: a sect of Buddhism favored by the warrior class in 13<sup>th</sup> century

*hanko*: official stamp, or seal

**Bibliography**

*Resources for more information on Sesshu Toyo and Japanese painting.*

**Books:**

Addiss, Stephen and Audrey Yoshiko Seo. *How to Look at Japanese Art*. New York: Abrams, 1996.

Mason, Penelope. *History of Japanese Art*. New York: Pearson, 2004.

Stanley-Baker, Joan. *Japanese Art*. Revised & Expanded Edition. London: Thames and Hudson, 2000.

Stevens, John and Alice Rae Yelen. *Zenga: Brushstrokes of Enlightenment*. New Orleans: New Orleans Museum of Art, 1991.

Tanaka, Ichimatsu. *Japanese Ink Painting: Shubun to Sesshu*. New York: Weatherhill, 1972.

**Online Resources:**

Amica Library, Art Museum Images from Cartography Associates, <http://tinyurl.com/ojzlld>

Metropolitan Museum of Art, [https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hi/te\\_index.asp?i=10](https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hi/te_index.asp?i=10)

Sesshu International Art Society, <http://www.reijinsha.com/e//sesshu/top.html>

Sesshu Toyo Autumn and Winter Landscapes, <https://tripod.brynmawr.edu/find/Record/.b4314334>

Tokyo National Museum, National Treasure Gallery “Landscapes of Autumn and Winter by Sesshu Toyo”  
[http://www.tnm.jp/modules/r\\_exhibition/index.php?controller=item&id=548&lang=en](http://www.tnm.jp/modules/r_exhibition/index.php?controller=item&id=548&lang=en)