Kyoto Artisans and their Worlds KCJS 23, Spring 2012
Monica Bethe Fridays 13:15～16:30

One of the attractions of the ancient capital of Japan is the variety of fine and applied arts that continue to feed the city. Geographically these include the textile workshops of Nishijin in the north west of the City, the ceramic workshops in the South East around Gojozaka, and the web of artisans supporting the traditional artist guilds: pigment producers, dyers, gold foil craftsmen, carpenters, carvers and printers. Through visits to studios and museums, the course will seek to give the students first-hand experience of not only the crafts, but also their changing role in supporting the lifeblood of Kyoto as a city. In addition direct contact with artisans working in small workshops that have been passed down through generations will provide a window into old Kyoto houses and traditional work environments.
Weekly lectures and readings will provide historical, cultural, and technological background for each topic. Most classes include a fieldtrip, either before or after classroom discussion.
Students will be expected to choose a personal focus to explore in depth and to present this to the class at the end of the semester. Final paper of around 10 pages should support the research, fieldwork and/or hands-on project.

Prerequisite: no previous knowledge is required, but commitment and consistent class attendance is imperative.
Assessment will be based on class participation, weekly reports, presentations, and final paper.

Tentative schedule

Jan 20 Reinventing tradition: Kyoto Artisans today and through history.. The web of interdependent artisans.

Jan 27 Lecture Demonstration on Japanese Woodcuts
Read before class:

*Rebecca Salter. *Japanese Woodblock Printing.* A&C Black, London, 2001. History, Materials, Method (p. 9-97)

*History: Paine & Soper. *The Art and Architecture of Japan.* Ch 16 "Print Designers of the Ukiyo-e School; Edo Period"

Feb 3 Pigments and color: history and use. Trip to traditional Japanese pigment makers and to Sato's print studio.

Read before class:

*Toshio Tabuchi and Masaaki Miyasako, "Distinctive Aspects of Japanese Painting: Materials and Techniques" in *Zaigai Nihon no Bijutsu.* (147-157)

*Salter. *Japanese Woodblock Printing.* "Pigments" (p. 26-32)

*Bethe, "Color: Dyes and Pigments" in *Kosode: 16th to 19th Century Textiles from the Nomura Collection.* (58-76) & (202-209)

Feb 10 Natural dyes: dyeing yarn, cloth, paper. Visit to the studio of the indigo artist Fukumoto Shiho

*Bethe, "Reflections on *Beni*: Red as a Key to Edo-Period Fashion" in *When Art Became Fashion.* (133-151)

*Sandberg. *Indigo Textiles: Technique and History.* (13-29), & (71-76) & (93-97)

*Brandon. *Country Textiles of Japan: The Art of Tsutsugaki.* "Indigo" (43-52)

Feb 17 Pictures on cloth: resist-dye techniques used to create patterns on textiles: *shibori,* paste-resist, and wax-resist. Visit to Daiwa *yūzen* workshop.

*Kirihata Ken, "Yūzen Dyeing: A New Pictorialism" in *When Art Became Fashion.* (115-131)

*Nakano. *Japanese Stencil Dyeing: Paste-Resist Techniques.* (3-19)

*Brandon. *Country Textiles of Japan: The Art of Tsutsugaki.* (3-20)

*Wada. *Shibori: The Inventive Art of Japanese Shaped Resist Dyeing:* (7-52)

Feb 24 Weaving: texture and pattern. Types of weaves and their uses. Visit the Nishijin weaving district with stops at the Sasaki Noh Costume Worshop and Kitamura Takeshi's workshop. Reinventing lost techniques for new creations.

*Hareven Tamara. "A World within a World" in *The Silk Weavers of Kyoto; Family and Work in a Changing Traditional Industry.* (25-50)

*Bethe and Yamakawa. "Textile Terminology" in *Transmitting Robes, Linking Minds* (204-215)

**Traditional Fabric Design and Technique Given Life by an Artist: Takeshi Kitamura* (1-8)

March 2 Gold, silver and lacquer adhesive: metal, wood, lacquer, textiles, and paper. Visit to Noguchi gold-leaf artist.

Reading to be decided. Student project proposal reports.

March 9 Spring Break no class

March 16 The carpenter's world. An inside view of renovating a machiya town house.

Kyomachiya Council. *Kyoto Machiya Revitalization Project.* 2011.

March 23 Architectural structure and interior of farm houses, town houses, temples, and shrines.

Reading to be decided.

March 30 KCJS field trip, no class

April 6 Kyoto Ceramics from elegant *Ninsei* to rustic *raku*. History and techniques.

Richard Wilson, *Inside Japanese Ceramics.* (15-34)

Leach, Bernard and Yanagi Soetsu. *The Unknown Craftsman: A Japanese Insight into Beauty.* (pages to be decided)

April 13 The Tea Ceremony and Kyoto cereamics. Visit to the *raku* museum

Pitelka, Morgan. *Handmade Culture: Raku Potters, Patrons, and Tea Practitioners in Japan.*

Fujioka Ryoichi. Louise Cort, tr. *Tea Ceremony Utensils.* Weatherhill/ Shibundo, 1973

April 20 Student presentations

Selected bibliography:

General background:

Fujioka Ryoichi. Louise Cort, tr. *Tea Ceremony Utensils.* Weatherhill/ Shibundo, 1973

Mason, Penelope. *History of Japanese Art.* Harry N. Abrams, Inc. 1993.

Mizoguchi Saburo. Louise Cort, tr. *Design Motifs.* Weatherhill/ Shinbundo, 1973

Nishi, Kazuo & Kazuo Hozumi. *What is Japanese Architecture? A survey of Traditional Japanese Architecture.* Shokokusha pub., 1983

Paine, Robert and Alexander Soper. *The Art and Architecture of Japan.* Penguin Books. 1955,1981.

Prints

Muneshige Narazaki. Richard Gage tr. *Masterworks of Ukiyo-e.* Kodansha International. 1968, 1972.

Salter, Rebecca. *Japanese Woodblock Printing.* A&C Black, London, 2001.

Takahashi Seichiro. *Traditional Woodblock Prints of Japan. Heibonsha Survey of Japanese Art 22.* Weatherhill, 1928.

Colors

Bethe, Monica. "Color: Dyes and Pigments" in *Kosode: 16th to 19th Century Textiles from the Nomura Collection.* Japan Society and Kodansha International. 1984

Bethe, Monica. "Reflections on *Beni*: Red as a Key to Edo-Period Fashion" in *When Art Became Fashion.* Los Angeles County Museum, 1992

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Tabuchi Toshio and Masaaki Miyasako. "Distinctive Aspects of Japanese Painting: Materials and Techniques" in *Zaigai Nihon no Bijutsu.*

Chuokoron-sha, 1995

Textiles

Kyoto Shoin's Art Library of Japanese Textiles –20 volumes

Benjamin, Betsey Sterling. *The World of Rōzome: Wax-Resist Textiles of Japan.* Kodansha International. 1996.

Bethe and Yamakawa. *Transmitting Robes, Linking Minds: the World of Buddhist Kasaya.* Kyoto National Museum. 2010

Brandon, Riko Mochinaga. *Country Textiles of Japan: The Art of Tsutsugaki.* Weatherhill, 1986.

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Murashima, Kumiko. *Katazome, Japanese Paste-Resist Dyeing for Contemporary Use.* Lark Books, 1993

Nakano Eisha with Barabara Stephan. *Japanese Stencil Dyeing: Paste-Resist Techniques.* Weatherhill, 1982.

Stinchecum, Amanda. *Kosode: 16th to 19th Century Textiles from the Nomura Collection.* Japan Society and Kodansha International. 1984

Takeda, Sharon, et al. *When Art Became Fashion.* Los Angeles County Museum, 1992

Traditional Fabric Design and Technique Given Life by an Artist: Takeshi Kitamura. 2005. (1-8)

Noma Seiroku. Armins Nikovskis tr. *Japanese Costume and Textile Arts. Weatherhill.* The Heibonsha Survey of Japanese Art. Weatherhill, 1974.

Wada Yoshiko, et al. *Shibori: The inventive Art of Japanese shaped Resist dyeing: Tradition, Techniques, Innovation.* Kodansha International. 1983.

Carpentry and architecture

Heinrich Engel. *The Japanese House, a Tradition for Contemporary Architecture.* Tuttle, 1964

Kyomachiya Council. *Kyoto Machiya Revitalization Project.* 2011.

Ludvik, Catherine, Michiru Kanade, et al. *Chūgūji Imperial Convent,* Yashiro Asano pub. 2009

Nishi Kazuo and Kazuo Hozumi. *What is Japanese Architecture? A survey of Traditional Japanese Architecture.* Shokokusha pub., 1983

Seike Kiyosi. *The Art of Japanese Joinery,* Weatherhill, 1977, 81.

Ceramics

Cort, Louise Allison. *Shigaraki Potter's Valley.* Kodansha International, 1979

Cort, Louise Allison, et al. *Isamu Noguchi and Modern Japanese Ceramics: a Close Embrace of the Earth.* Smithsonian Institute, Washington, 2003

Fujioka Ryoichi. Louise Cort, tr. *Tea Ceremony Utensils.* Weatherhill/ Shibundo, 1973

Honolulu Academy of Arts, *Yakimono: 40000 Years of Japanese Ceramics.* 2005

Kawahara Masahiko. *The Ceramic Art of Ogata Kenzan.* Japan Arts Library. Kodansha International, 1985

Leach, Bernard and Yanagi Soetsu. *The Unknown Craftsman: A Japanese Insight into Beauty.* Kodansha Amer. 1990

Pitelka, Morgan. *Handmade Culture: Raku Potters, Patrons, And Tea Practitioners In Japan.* University of Hawaii, 2005.

Wilson, Richard. *Inside Japanese Ceramics.* Weatherhill, 1995,1999