**Program for Teaching East Asia Center for Asian Studies** 

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# **Learning to Read Japanese Paintings** by Carla Stansifer **University of Colorado Boulder**

## 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 Englightenment. 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, <a href="http://tinyurl.com/ojlzlld">http://tinyurl.com/ojlzlld</a>

Metropolitan Museum of Art, <a href="https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hi/te\_index.asp?i=10">https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hi/te\_index.asp?i=10</a>

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

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

Tokyo National Museum, National Treasure Gallery "Landscapes of Autumn and Winter by Sesshu Toyo" <a href="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</a>