



## งานช่างศิลปกรรมและสุนทรียภาพไทย - ญี่ปุ่น

Artisanship and Aesthetic of Japan and Thailand

日本とタイ—ふたつの国の巧と美



14<sup>th</sup> January - 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2011  
Issaravinitchai Hall, National Museum, Bangkok

From 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.  
(except Monday and Tuesday)

Indelible elements of the unique cultural heritages of both peoples: Thailand and Japan, notwithstanding their similarities and their differences, have shaped the people of these two realms. The expression and the reflection of life-ideals, societal demands, and nature and beauty, through the past to the present find their voices in these everyday works each from its unique culture.

The one hundred and twenty-one artifacts displayed in this exhibition, itself a cooperation project between the Office of the National Museums, Fine Arts Department, Ministry of Culture, Thailand, and the Kyushu National Museum, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan, symbolize the significant cultural heritage existing between our two countries as well as the individual expression of each nation's civilization, splendor and the trend towards modern contemporary partnership in the study of history.

These prehistoric and early historic artifacts from Thailand and Japan, not only represent evolution of human settlement from the Stone Age into the various agricultural societies which generated the system of communities and states, they also express each country's national realizations and the high level craftsmanship required to sophisticatedly inject cultural elements into everyday domestic objects.

In an historical environment of similar cultural influences from China and India, continental religion was also to become influenced and to be re-characterized to play a vital cultural role in this historic period in Thailand and Japan. Sacred figures and symbols, whether from Hinduism or Buddhism, reflect an aesthetic founded on belief and how cultural norms became influenced through aggregate of individual domestic preferences and taste.



**Tripod pottery**

Bankao, Kanchanaburi  
Prov., Thailand  
Ca. 2,000 - 1,600 B.C.



**Bronze bell**

Wat Phosrinai, Udon Thani  
Prov., Thailand  
Ca. 300 B.C. - A.D. 200



**Terracotta figurines**

Ban Na Di, Udonthani Prov., Thailand  
Ca. 1,400 - 1,000 B.C.





**Haniwa Horse, terracotta**  
Kofun Period, Ca. 6<sup>th</sup> century  
Kyushu National Museum, Japan



**Vairocana, bronze**  
Kosumphisai,  
Mahasarakham Prov.  
Ca. 9<sup>th</sup> century  
National Museum  
Bangkok, Thailand



**Palanquin support  
depicting Vajrasattva**  
Ca. late 12<sup>th</sup> early 13<sup>th</sup>  
century  
National Museum  
Bangkok, Thailand



**Flame type pottery**  
Jomon culture, Ca. 20<sup>th</sup>  
century B.C.  
Tsunan Town, Niigata Pref.,  
Japan



**Bronze bell**  
Late Yayoi Period,  
Ca. 2<sup>nd</sup> century  
Kyushu National Museum,  
Japan



**Bhaishajyaguru, bronze**  
Ca. 8<sup>th</sup> century  
Nara National Museum,  
Japan



**Pagoda-shaped  
reliquary with flaming  
jewel, gilt bronze and  
crystal**  
Ca. 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century  
Tokyo National Museum,  
Japan



**Large VOC marked  
porcelain plate with  
polychrome enamels**  
Ca. 17<sup>th</sup> century  
Kobe City Museum, Japan



**Sangkhalok covered  
box**  
Ko Kradat Shipwreck,  
Trat Prov., Thailand  
Ca. 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> century



**Flower vase with  
polychrome enamels**  
by Human National Treasure,  
SAKAIDA Kakiemon, Japan  
A.D. 2005



**Covered jar polychrome  
enamels design of female  
musicians**  
by Suntree Prasong, the Office  
of Traditional Arts, Thailand  
A.D. 1999

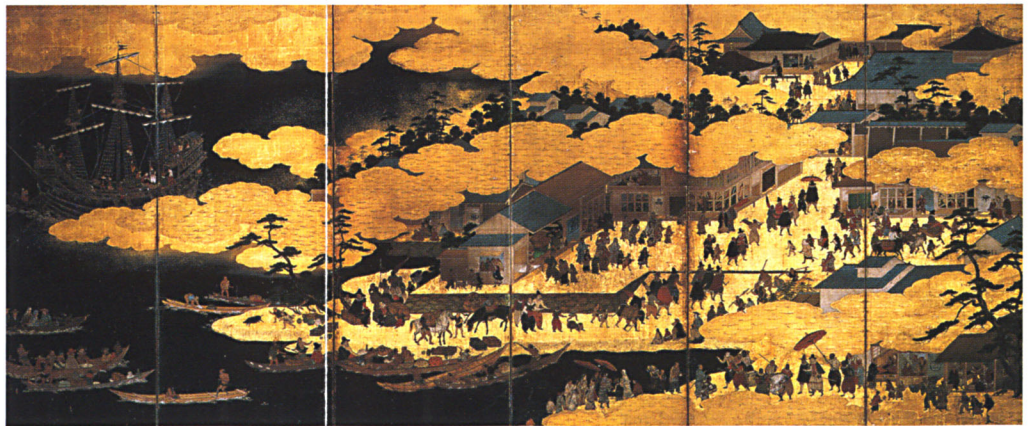
**Illustrated manuscript  
of Traibhumi depicting  
Chinese and European  
ships**  
Ca. 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> century  
National Library,  
Thailand



**Kimono of Kurume Kasuri  
Indigo-dyed cotton**  
by Sayoko MATSUEDA,  
Private Collection, Japan  
A.D. 2010



**Armor of Gusoku-type  
with Helmet, heirloom of  
Ogo Family**  
Ca. 18<sup>th</sup> century  
Kyushu National  
Museum, Japan



**Paper screen depicting Chinese and Namban (western) ships**  
Momoyama Period, Ca. 17<sup>th</sup> century  
Kyushu National Museum, Japan



Trade between the two countries began in the late fourteenth century. The merchandise and items of commerce served not only as a medium of exchange of objects used in daily life as well as ceremonial life, but were also to inspire imitation and in many cases the creation of whole new artisanal technologies.

During the seventeenth to eighteenth centuries, both realms lived through periods of changing policy regarding trade with European countries and China. These changes achieved their most enduring expression through the artisans of the period, as the artisans and the feelings expressed in their work subtly were to alter the people, society and eventually, attitudes toward foreigners.

From the nineteenth century on, the artisans and artists of the two countries have utilized traditional knowledge and techniques along with cutting-edge technological contributions from the West. In doing so they been able to generate and to support a whole new range of talented artisans; complementary and in many cases even compatible to the ancient masters.

At present, cultural organizations of Thailand and Japan, as they encourage and support their artisans and artists and strive to preserve the very aesthetics and the uniqueness of their individual national expression.



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