

Splendid Impressions

Japanese Secular Painting 1400-1900, in the Museum of East Asian Art Cologne

Coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the Museum of East Asian Art Cologne, this unprecedented publication focuses on a collection of old Japanese secular painting, a large part of which was acquired by the museum's founders Adolf and Frieda Fischer before 1913. Six internationally renowned specialists of Japanese art present new insights and approaches to pre-modern Japanese visual culture in this exquisitely illustrated catalogue. The publication is divided into two parts: the first section discusses the reception of Japanese art and the dawn of East Asian art history in Germany, as well as shedding new light on the role of the monk painter as mediator between Chinese and Japanese concepts of secular art. The main body of the publication is the catalogue section. Here, 94 works (divided into seven subject categories) are presented: hand scrolls, fans, hanging scrolls and folding screens. All works are reproduced in full colour, many scrolls being shown in their entirety. Each chapter is preceded by an introduction, elucidating the historiographical, aesthetic and methodological questions that are central to current research in the visual culture of pre-modern Japan. The illuminating entries are followed by a comprehensive appendices section, including photographs of the paintings' signatures, seals and transcriptions of the inscriptions in the paintings. Splendid Impressions will serve as a reference source not only for curators, scholars and students of Japanese art and culture, but also for anyone who has a personal interest in Japanese painting.

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134,50 €
125,70 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9789004206113
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-90-04-20611-3
Verlag: Brill
Erscheinungstermin: 11.11.2011
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: 1. Auflage 2011
Produktform: Gebunden
Gewicht: 2302 g
Seiten: 360
Format (B x H): 255 x 312 mm

