

Japanese Art (Anderson 1990, Chap.9)

I.) Anderson notes the relative unelaboration of ethno-aesthetic categories, but that may be an inheritance from the Shinto tradition of "art being everywhere", like a band or tribal society & animism

II.) Shinto=Japanese animism, represented by the Ise Shrine, the oldest continuously rebuilt wooden building on earth, surrounded by its sources of water for purity (gardens, ponds, rivulets, fountains, etc.)

A.) Musubi="Change", i.e., Birth/Death

B.) Kami=God or Spirit, as in the view of paper as sacred (even today prayers are written on paper & hung from trees outside shrines), hence cannot cut it, but can fold it=the origin of origami.

C.) probably influenced by the Ainu ("Hairy Ainu"=paleo-Caucasoids), the indigenous people of Japan, conquered by the Japanese, who invaded as Koreans, and pushed north to Sakhalin & placed on reservations

III.) Chronology

A.) 650-1150 A.D.=The "Imperial Era"

1.) Buddhism introduced (Soga Clan)=élite tradition

2.) 794, capital moved from Nara=>Kyoto, inaugurating the 400 yr. "Heian" Period

a.) Shingon/Tendai Sects=Esoteric Buddhism

b.) The Mandala is the avenue to enlightenment

c.) unity/diversity