

Dressed to Kill: PRE-VISIT



21st-century Japan carries many traits from its rich cultural history. From the 16th to the 19th century, Japan's ruling power was rooted in the military, which included the Samurai, with varying levels of power.

There is an air of mystery surrounding the Samurai; they were a complex, educated and creative warrior class. Samurai received an education, which involved trainings in formal etiquette, protocol and combat conditioning. Samurai were required to have self-discipline and to demonstrate fairness, compassion, loyalty, and honor.

Due to the Samurai's high-ranking social status, they were expected to wear symbolic decorations and strive toward spiritual enlightenment through meditation. Samurai also practiced their artistic talents through poetic writings and artistic endeavors. The artworks and artifacts on display at the Cincinnati Art Museum highlight the historical and cultural influence of Japan's Samurai.

Fun Facts about Japan

Japan's Citizens & Language

Japan has the tenth largest population in the world.

Japanese is the country's official language. When translated, Japan means, "Land of the Rising Sun."

Geography

Japan is an island nation, consisting of over 6,000 islands, and belongs to the continent of Asia.
Tokyo is Japan's capital city.

Arts & Culture

Haiku poetry was invented in Japan and is the world's shortest form of poetry.

Japan has two favored sports, Sumo and Baseball.

Elements of Art

Color: Visible light spectrum; includes intensity; warm and cool hues.

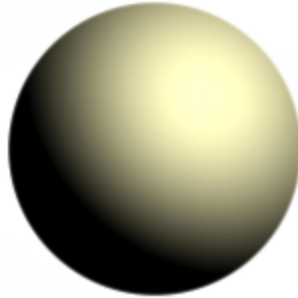
Color Theory: Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, Complementary, Analogous, Neutrals, etc.



ASK: *What colors do you see? Are they warm, cool, or neutral?*

Form: A dimensional object that has mass and volume.

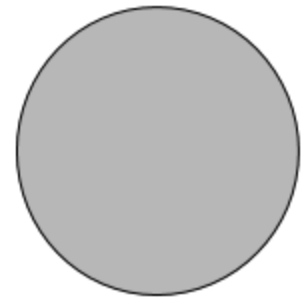
Examples: Sphere (ball) and cube.



ASK: *What forms do you see? How many different forms can you identify?*

Shape: A flat area, with no mass or volume. Shape can be geometric or organic.

Examples: Circle and square.



ASK: *Where do you see shapes? What types of shapes do you see?*

Principles of Design

Emphasis: Part of a design that catches the viewer's attention (focal point).

ASK: *What part of the artwork draws your eye? What causes this area to draw your attention?*

Composition

Symbols: Imagery that holds special meaning or represents an idea or emotion.

Landscape: An artwork depicting natural scenery.

Armor: A protective covering worn over the body.