

## Creative Work as a Spiritual Voyage in the Japanese Spontaneous Ink Painting Tradition

### Summary

The article deals with the problem of creative process and its perception in the tradition of Japanese spontaneous ink painting. A painter, as well as calligrapher and poet, works with the categories of time, space and movement. So the concept of the Way, represented by the character *michi* (道), was very important in Japanese creative tradition and can already be seen in early works of literature. In the case of spontaneous ink painting schools,

the authors were not merely travellers in a physical sense, but also perceived their creative work as a part of spiritual voyage. For a cultured person, the cultivation of soul and self-improvement was the key to a deep understanding of arts and enervating their artworks with vital energy. In this case, such works as *bunjinga* and *zenga* paintings can be considered as traces of spiritual development and inner voyage of the artist's soul.

**Keywords:** Japanese art, spontaneous ink painting, the way of arts, spiritual voyage, *michi*, authenticity, *zenga*, vital energy, freedom from attachment.

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