

Transformations of Aesthetical Relationship with Reality in Medieval Japan: Spread of Zen principles in *Raku*, *Shino* and *Oribe* Ceramics

Summary

The article explores the original pan-aesthetic *zen* worldview, which has strongly influenced development of aesthetic ideas and art in the medieval Japan; *zen* philosophy originates from the aesthetic ideals of *Chan Buddhism* that had developed in China. As the aesthetic ideals of the aristocratic Heian period lost their significance, they were replaced by the strict samurai aesthetics that embraced asceticism, inner spirit and strengthening of willpower advocated by *Zen Buddhism*. Shortly the aesthetic ideals of *Zen* blended with the Shinto worldview existing in Japan up to then, distinguished by the exceptionally respectful attitude to the beauty of the surrounding nature. In fact, admiration of the constantly changing beauty of nature took stronger roots in Japanese aesthetics and art rather than Chinese. Aestheticians of *Zen Buddhism* have created an original world of situational

and contextual aesthetical categories *yūgen*, *wabi*, *sabi* and *sahibu*, which has greatly affected the subsequent Japanese fields of art and encouraged experiencing beauty at the particular moment of existence. This is the underlying principle of disengagement, moderation and intimacy of *Zen Buddhism* that has permeated various aesthetical aspects of world perception and creativity. The abovementioned principles of *Zen* aesthetics have found expression in the refined tea ceremony; the tea bowl has become one of its most important components. The second part of the article presents the analysis of various aspects of the tea bowl, which is a receptive symbol of the *Zen* principles of aesthetics as well as manifestation of the basic aesthetical categories therefore it allows us to better perceive the originality of aesthetics of the traditional Japanese ceramics.

Keywords: Japanese traditional aesthetic, chan aesthetic, zen aesthetic, *yūgen*, *wabi*, *sabi*, *shibui*, traditional japanese ceramics, *raku*, *shino*, *oribe*, the way of tea, teabowl.

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