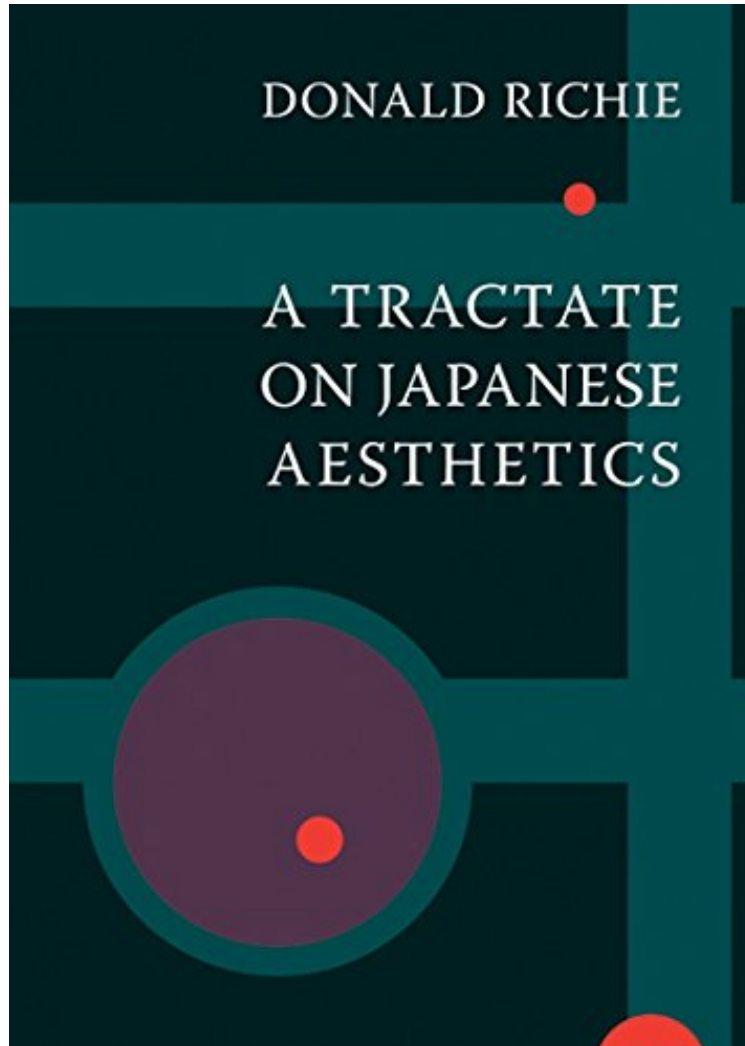


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## A Tractate on Japanese Aesthetics

*Donald Richie*

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**Donald Richie : A Tractate on Japanese Aesthetics** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Tractate on Japanese Aesthetics:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Decent Introduction By Michelle HI'm not sure I got as much out of it as I anticipated from previous reviews. It does condense and make coherent a lot of the other sources one would be looking at as alternatives. That is a big plus. The writing is definitely geared toward a rational personality type and makes a good introduction that will hopefully encourage a much deeper look into the "Ways" connected to Japanese aesthetics. That style certainly appealed to me, but might seem to miss the nuances of other authors for some readers. The bibliography is great for what to read next. Overall a recommended starter. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A great and important work on Japanese Aesthetics By Mr. Peter Rowe This book sums up admirably

the differences in Western and Eastern aesthetics, and gives valuable insight into the Japanese mind. If you have ever wondered how Japanese artists think, this is the book for you. In addition it is quite easy to read, and makes difficult concepts entirely accessible to the novice. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended! By CustomerAs someone just learning about traditional Japanese culture, this book served as a great intro to the terms and how they are generally used. It made for fascinating reading and was particularly helpful in understanding the place that aesthetics held at one point in time in Japan. While I was saddened to understand that many of these concepts have become "fossilized" as the author says, it also fired my imagination to read about the unique viewpoint the Japanese had about art.

This provocative book is a tractate a treatise on beauty in Japanese art, written in the manner of a *zuihitsu*, a free-ranging assortment of ideas that follow the brush wherever it leads. Donald Richie looks at how perceptual values in Japan were drawn from raw nature and then modified by elegant expressions of class and taste. He explains aesthetic concepts like *wabi*, *sabi*, *aware*, and *yugen*, and ponders their relevance in art and cinema today. Donald Richie is the foremost explorer of Japanese culture in English, and this work is the culmination of sixty years of observing and writing from his home in Tokyo.

About the Author Donald Richie has been writing about Japan for over 50 years from his base in Tokyo and is the author of over 40 books and hundreds of essays and reviews. He is widely admired for his incisive film studies on Ozu and Kurosawa, and for his stylish and incisive observations on Japanese culture.