



University of Colorado **Boulder**

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**Learning to Read Japanese Paintings: A Social Studies Perspective  
By Mary Hammond Bernson, University of Washington**

**For the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) at the  
Program for Teaching East Asia, University of Colorado Boulder**

**Terms used in this Class App:**

Ashikaga Shogunate  
Ashikaga Yoshimasu  
Kyoto  
Ming Dynasty (China)  
Muromachi Period (Japan)  
National Treasures  
Onin War  
Sesshu Toyo  
Silver Pavilion (Ginkaku-ji; officially called Jisho-ji)  
Song Dynasty (China)  
Zen Buddhism

**Links to question strategies and sources cited in this Class App:**

- Visual Thinking Strategies: <http://www.vtshome.org>
- See Think Wonder: <http://www.vtshome.org>
- Feldman 4-Step Method: many educators have adapted this method; here is one source among many: <http://www.dl.ket.org/humanities/resources/art/critproc.htm>
- Library of Congress: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/>
- *Winter Landscape*, image of painting in the Tokyo National Museum: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SesshuShuutouTou.jpg>
- Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, Metropolitan Museum of Art: <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/>
- National Treasure of Japan, excerpt from Wikipedia chart: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Treasure\\_\(Japan\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Treasure_(Japan))
- Google Art Project (14 Sesshu Toyo paintings): <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/project/art-project>

**A few key books about Japanese art, Sesshu Toyo, and this time period:**

Addiss, Stephen and Audrey Yoshiko Seo. *How to Look at Japanese Art*. New York: Abrams, 1996.

Huffman, James. *Japan in World History*. Oxford: Oxford Press, 2010.

Keene, Donald. *Yoshimasa and the Silver Pavilion*. New York: Columbia Press, 2003.

Lippit, Yukio. "Of Modes and Manners in Japanese Ink Painting: Sesshu's Splashed Ink Landscape of 1495." *The Art Bulletin*, 94:1, 50-77.

Mason, Penelope. *History of Japanese Art*. Revised Edition. New York: Pearson, 2005.

Murase, Miyeko. *Bridge of Dreams: The Mary Griggs Burke Collection of Japanese Art*. New York: Metropolitan Museum, 2000.

Tazawa, Yutaka. *Biographical Dictionary of Japanese Art*. Tokyo: International Society for Educational Information, 1981.