

## THE HISTORY OF JAPANESE ART

### Study Sheet 1.

The ways of humans and gods: prehistoric art, dwellings, and Shinto shrines

Mason Ch. 1: pp. 12-31; Ch. 2: pp. 33-38.

**Periods: Jōmon (10,500BCE-300BCE)**

(Incipient Jōmon [10,500BCE-8000BCE] and Initial Jōmon [8000BCE-5000BCE])

**Early Jōmon** (5000-2500BCE),

**Middle Jōmon** (2500-1500BCE)

**Late Jōmon** (1500-1000BCE)

**Final Jomon** (1000BCE-300BCE)

**Yayoi period (300BCE-300CE)**

**Kofun (300-710CE)**

### Useful Terms and Concepts

*NOTE: Here and elsewhere you should recognize the Japanese terms in parentheses and know their meanings (i.e., passive recognition) but you need not memorize them*

Functions of Jomon ceramics: practical (food storage, burial, etc.), ceremonial or ritual

Honshū, Kyūshū, Hokkaidō, Shikoku, southern island chain

*read right to left*

pit-dwellings (or pit-houses)

thatched roof

nomadic

cord markings

incense burners (or oil lamps)

stone rod

mixed gender symbolism

cromlech (stone circle)

raised storehouses

bronze mirror

dōtaku

Takehara tomb

haniwa

Shinto

Main hall of shrine (honden, shoden)

gates (torii), ridge pole, porch, bay

central hearth

post and beam construction

hunting and gathering

pots (vessels)

storage vessel

phallic symbol

dogū

monolith

Yoshinogari

chokkomon design motif, spiral design

kofun burial mound

Emperor Nintoku tomb

gable, gabled roof

Ise Shrine, Shinmei style (zukuri)

kami

billet (katsuogi), piles, lintel, post

**Useful descriptive terms:** design, motif, zones, form, construction, modeling, contour, 2-dimensional (2-D), 3-D, relief, balance, symmetry, asymmetry, symbolism, iconography, composition, aesthetic concern, emotional tenor, formal qualities.

centimeter = .39 inches (2.564 cm = 1 inch).

**Illustrations** *number to left* is a B & W illustration unless a color plate ("CP") is noted:

**map**, p. 12

3. Early Jōmon pit house. 1/2 meter deep, 4 X 4 m. square, thatched roof over posts.

4. Early Jōmon vessel. Clay. H. 35 cm. Cord markings and bamboo incisions.

5. Early Jōmon figurine. Stone. H. 14.8 cm.

6. Middle Jōmon vessel ("flame style"). Clay. H. 31 cm. Niigata region.

9. Middle Jōmon dogū. Clay. H. 25 cm. Eastern Honshū (or Kantō region).

10. Late Jōmon cromlech. Stone. D. 2.5 m. Northern Honshū (Akita).

12. Final Jōmon drinking cup. Clay and lacquer. H. 12 cm. Northern Honshū (Aomori).

14. Final Jōmon dogū. Clay. H. 38 cm. Northern Honshū (Aomori).
16. Yayoi raised storehouses. Similar to Yoshinogari egs. Gable roof, wood, thatch.
19. Yayoi (late) dōtaku. Bronze. H. 43 cm. Motifs of people working, animals, birds.
21. Yayoi (middle) vessel. Clay. H. 70 cm.
- 22-23. Kofun, late 4th - early 5th c. Kofun of Emperor Nintoku. Moat, earth, stone.
26. Kofun, 6th c. Haniwa shield. Clay. H. 149 cm.
27. Kofun. Haniwa figure of a warrior. Clay. H. 125 cm.
31. Kofun, 5th c. Haniwa house. Clay. H. 55 cm.
32. Kofun, 4th c. Mirror with house motif on back side. Bronze. D. 23 cm.
- 35 and color plate 2.** Takehara Tomb. 6th c. Kyūshū.
39. Plan of Naikū area, Ise Shrine. Modern plan. Shrine origins 5th -6th c.
41. Main hall, Ise Shrine. Modern, based on ancient style. Wood, gilt bronze, thatch.