

KCP eZasshi 雜誌 December 2009

December 2009

Greetings, Japan-lover! Here's how December looks, from KCP International Japanese Language School.

In This Issue

What is wabi sabi?

Learn Japanese through proverbs

Scholarships for study abroad

T shirt design being chosen

Photos from Ben Pachter

Event Name

What is wabi sabi?

Wabi sabi (侘 寂) represents a comprehensive Japanese world view or aesthetic centered on the acceptance of transience. It is sometimes described as authentic beauty that is "imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete."

Andrew Juniper claims, "If an object or expression can bring about, within us, a sense of **serene melancholy** and a **spiritual longing**, then that object could be said to be wabi-sabi."

Wabi connotes rustic simplicity, freshness, or quietness. It can also refer to quirks and anomalies arising from the process of construction, which add uniqueness and elegance to the object. **Sabi** is beauty or serenity that comes with age--the life of impermanence of the object are evidenced in its patina and wear, or in any visible repairs.



Wabi sabi is a kind of training. The student of wabi sabi learns to find the most simple objects--say, fading autumn leaves--interesting, fascinating, and beautiful. Wabi sabi can change our perception of our world: a chip or crack in a vase makes it more interesting, giving the object greater meditative value.

Similarly, materials that age such as bare wood, paper, and fabric become more interesting as they **change over time**.

For more, see the [Wikipedia entry on wabi sabi](#). It's a profound consolation in this world of instant fashion, random communications, and planned obsolescence.

Learn Japanese through proverbs

兎を追う者は 兎をも得ず

Romaji--Ni usagi wo ou mono wa ichi usagi wo mo ezu.

Literally--One who chases after two hares won't catch even one.

Meaning--Trying to do two things at once will make you fail at both.

Scholarships for study abroad

You may qualify for study abroad scholarships on the basis of personal

attributes (ethnic/religious background, parents' employment, children of veterans, descendants of immigrants), or on academic focus, major, or career path. The challenge for you is to find appropriate, relevant funding. Be sure to ask in your school's study abroad office as well.



Here is a starting list to help you.

[Bridging Scholarships for Study in Japan](#)

Sponsored by the Assn. of Teachers of Japanese, these scholarships provide assistance of up to \$4,000 to qualified students for study at an eligible program in Japan.

[Freeman Awards for Study in Asia](#)

From the Institute of Int'l Education (IEE), these awards provide funds for study abroad in East and Southeast Asia, \$3,000-\$7,000, depending on program length.

[Gilman International Scholarship Program](#)

Offered through the U.S. Dept. of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by IEE, these study abroad awards are for U.S. citizen and national students who receive federal need-based aid under Title IV: Pell Grants, Federal Work-Study, Stafford Loans, Perkins, Loans, and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants. Awards are up to \$5,000, depending on length of program.

Millennium Scholars Program

Offered through the Millennium Society, these awards are for students ages 17-25 in an accredited, undergraduate, degree-granting college or university that offers a cross-cultural environment who have verifiable need for financial assistance.

Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships

These are awarded for study or training in another country where Rotary Clubs are located. Available awards: Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship, Academic-Year Ambassadorial Scholarship, and Multi-Year Scholarship.

Good luck in your scholarship hunt. For more information on KCP costs, budgeting, and financial aid, [click here](#).

T shirt design being chosen

The deadline has passed, and we're currently evaluating submissions. Thanks to all of you who entered! The KCP T shirt will make its appearance soon.

Photos from Ben Pachter

Ben, a KCP alum and accomplished photographer, has chronicled quite a bit of "life in Japan."



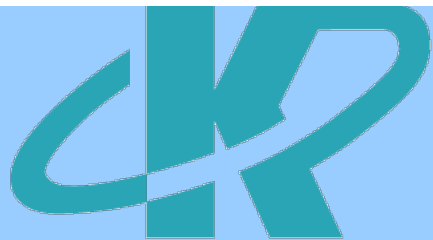
This set shows the Sanno Matsuri, Ueno Park, and more. To see more of his photos (on our KCP facebook page), [click here](#).

Thanks, Ben!

KCP International USA
PO Box 28028
Bellingham, Washington 98228-0028

Spring deadline closing in fast

It's right on us! If you want to apply to the Spring 2010 KCP program, the deadline is December 5! Don't delay any longer--check out those scholarship sites, and please plan to join us. **You don't want to miss the cherry blossoms . . .**



[Applying to KCP](#)

Happy holidays,
Mike and the KCP International team

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full immersion for the motivated student.***

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