

Zen Landscapes
April 14–August 7, 2016

The spread of Zen Buddhism brought profound changes to Japanese aesthetics. From painting and calligraphy to architecture, garden design and even the tea ceremony, Zen played a fundamental role in shaping the arts. In particular, new styles of landscape painting were first introduced from the continent through Zen, and became one of the primary modes of artistic expression not only for monks, but for the educated class in general and even the ruling elite. Today, Zen is internationally known as one of the most distinct embodiments of Japanese culture, and its influence extends to artists around the world as a source of inspiration.

Zen Landscapes includes Japanese and Chinese paintings, sculptures and ceramics from the 10th through the 18th centuries, as well as works by contemporary international artists from the museum's permanent collection.

—Shawn Eichman, Curator of Asian Art

Suggested Image

Attributed to Tenshō Shūbun (fl. 1414–1463)

River Landscape

Japan, Muromachi period, 15th century

Hanging scroll; ink on paper

Purchased with Funds from the Robert F. Lange Foundation, 1992
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