



# Wabi Sabi: The Japanese Art of Impermanence

*Andrew Juniper*

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**Developed out of the aesthetic philosophy of cha-no-yu (the tea ceremony) in fifteenth-century Japan, wabi sabi is an aesthetic that finds beauty in things imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete.**

Taken from the Japanese words *wabi*, which translates to less is more, and *sabi*, which means attentive melancholy, wabi sabi refers to an awareness of the transient nature of earthly things and a corresponding pleasure in the things that bear the mark of this impermanence. As much a state of mind—an awareness of the things around us and an acceptance of our surroundings—as it is a design style, wabi sabi begs us to appreciate the simple beauty in life—a chipped vase, a quiet rainy day, the impermanence of all things. Presenting itself as an alternative to today's fast-paced, mass-produced, neon-lighted world, wabi sabi reminds us to slow down and take comfort in the simple, natural beauty around us.

In addition to presenting the philosophy of wabi-sabi, this book includes how-to design advice—so that a transformation of body, mind, and home can emerge.

Chapters include:

- History: The Development of Wabi Sabi
- Culture: Wabi Sabi and the Japanese Character
- Art: Defining Aesthetics
- Design: Creating Expressions with Wabi Sabi Materials
- Spirit: The Universal Spirit of Wabi Sabi

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