

The background features a traditional Chinese ink wash painting of a landscape with a building and pine trees. A white outline of the Asian continent is overlaid on the painting. A large, irregular shape in the center is filled with a textured, golden-brown paper effect, resembling a torn piece of paper or a map. To the right, there are vertical calligraphic inscriptions in black ink and two red square seals. The overall aesthetic is traditional and artistic.

Asian Studies

A certificate program

KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE
A four-year college of art and design

“THE KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE
RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE
OF CREATING STUDENTS WHO ARE
COMPETENT GLOBAL CITIZENS
CAPABLE OF WORKING EFFECTIVELY
ACROSS CULTURAL AND
LINGUISTIC BOUNDARIES.”

— KATHLEEN COLLINS, PRESIDENT OF KCAI

Guanyin of the Southern Sea,
Liao (907-1125) or
Jin Dynasty (1115-1234)
Chinese
IMAGE COURTESY OF THE
NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART

COVER:
The River Bridge at Uji,
Momoyama Period (1568-1615), Japanese
IMAGE COURTESY OF THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART

Asian Studies at KCAI

Students participating in **KCAI's Asian Studies certificate program** study the language, art, aesthetics and creative activities of China and Japan. They pursue an intensive study of East Asia through designated courses in language, art history, literature, history and philosophy, along with a studio component. **A total of 15 credit hours are required to attain the certificate.** In addition, students completing the program write a 1,000-word reflection paper and give a short presentation in which they discuss their experiences and communicate ideas that indicate a more comprehensive understanding of the nature of Asian studies.



The Asian Studies faculty



FACULTY



JAN KENNEDY, PH.D., ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Jan Kennedy is a graduate of the University of Kansas, where she earned a bachelor's degree in the history of art and English literature and a master's degree in the history of art. Her Ph.D. degree, also from KU, focused on 17th Century Dutch and Flemish paintings and prints, while one of her minor areas of study for the doctorate was Japanese art of the Edo period. Dr. Kennedy's current research often explores the connections between Asian and Western art.

At KCAI, she has taught a wide range of classes, including Survey of Asian Art, Survey of Japanese Art, Survey of Chinese Art, Japanese Prints, Contemporary Japanese Art and Art of Zen, as well as courses that consider both Asian and Western art, such as Spiritual Landscapes in Art.

Dr. Kennedy received the Friends of the Mauritshuis Fellowship associated with the Royal Picture Gallery Mauritshuis in The Hague, which allowed her to conduct research in the Netherlands. In 1997, she contributed writings for "Dutch Art: An Encyclopedia," edited by Sheila D. Muller. More recently, she was a keynote speaker at a graduate symposium at the University of Missouri-Columbia, presenting her research on the Christian art of Japan. She is a member of the College Art Association, Historians of Netherlandish Art, the Association for Asian Studies and the Japan Art History Forum.



FACULTY



HAL WERT, PH.D., PROFESSOR

Hal Wert holds a bachelor's degree in Asian Studies with a certificate in Chinese Studies from the University of Iowa and a master's degree in American diplomatic history from the University of Kansas, where he minored in Japanese history. He earned a Ph.D. from KU in American diplomatic history, and two of his five field exams for the degree were in Japanese history and Japanese literature.

At KCAI he has taught Traditional Japanese History, Modern Japanese History and the Modern Japanese Novel, as well as courses on The Tale of Genji and Classical Chinese Philosophy. While serving in the U.S. Army, he was stationed on Okinawa for two years. He has lectured at the University of Hong Kong and led student trips to Vietnam and Cambodia to teach the history of the Vietnam War in the field.

Wert has authored many scholarly articles and several books, including "Hope: A Collection of Obama Posters and Prints" and "Hoover from the Fishing President: Portrait of the Private Man and His Life Outdoors." In 1999, Professor Wert was awarded the KCAI Excellence in Teaching Award, and in December 2000 he received the Missouri Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



FACULTY



VALDA HSU, LECTURER

Valda Hsu is a native Chinese born in Taiwan. She earned her B.F.A. degree in illustration design and fine arts through Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif. She currently teaches Chinese brush painting for adults at the Kansas City Art Institute, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the Confucius Institute at the University of Kansas, as well as Adult Continuing Education for Persons with Developmental Disabilities through the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Longview Community College. She also teaches Chinese language at St. Paul's Episcopal Day School. Each year, she is invited to do a Chinese brush-painting demonstration in the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art's Chinese gallery during the museum's annual Chinese New Year's celebration.

Her frequent visits to China and Taiwan have inspired her to teach Chinese to visual artists in order to promote the understanding of its culture and its timeless, authentic art form through the language.



FACULTY



TRACIE WHITING KIPPER, LECTURER

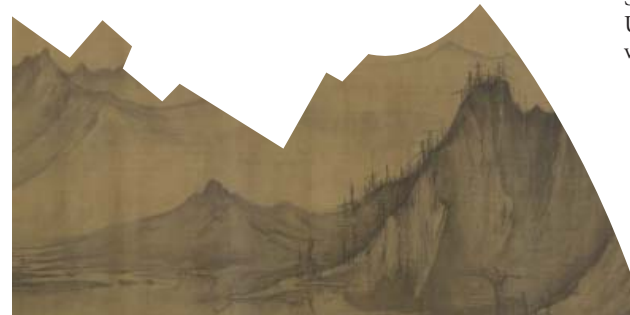
An alumna and former coordinator of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, Tracie Whiting Kipper formerly served as an economic analyst with the Consulate General of Japan in Kansas City. In her duties with JET, she was assigned as the English manager of the Nagano Olympic News Agency for the organizing committee for the 1998 Olympic Winter Games.

She has taught Japanese through the Community program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She has lived in Japan, where she was both a high school and college exchange student; offers Japanese-English translation services; and provides her students with insights into Japanese customs and culture as well as instruction in Japanese spoken and written language. She provides Japanese language consulting services for clients including H&R Block, has developed an online school for homeschoolers and other students and is writing a Japanese language textbook.

She is a 1994 graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University and attended Kwansei Gakuin University in Nishinomiya, Japan.

Fishermen's Evening Song
Xu Daoning, 970-1052, ca. 1049
Chinese

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART





↓ Courses

Japanese Language and Culture I and II
 Chinese Language and Culture I
 Survey of Asian Art
 Survey of Chinese Art
 Survey of Japanese Art

LIBERAL ARTS ELECTIVES:

Survey of Asian Ceramics
 Japanese Prints
 The Art of Zen
 Meeting Points of Asian and
 Euro-American Art
 Modern Japanese Film
 History of China I and II
 History of Japan I and II
 Contemporary Chinese Fiction
 The Japanese Novel
 Eastern Philosophy and Religion

STUDIO ELECTIVES:

PRINTMAKING:

Investigating traditional Japanese
 printmaking using wood

FIBER:

Asian textiles, including resist dyeing
 techniques of Shibori

SCULPTURE:

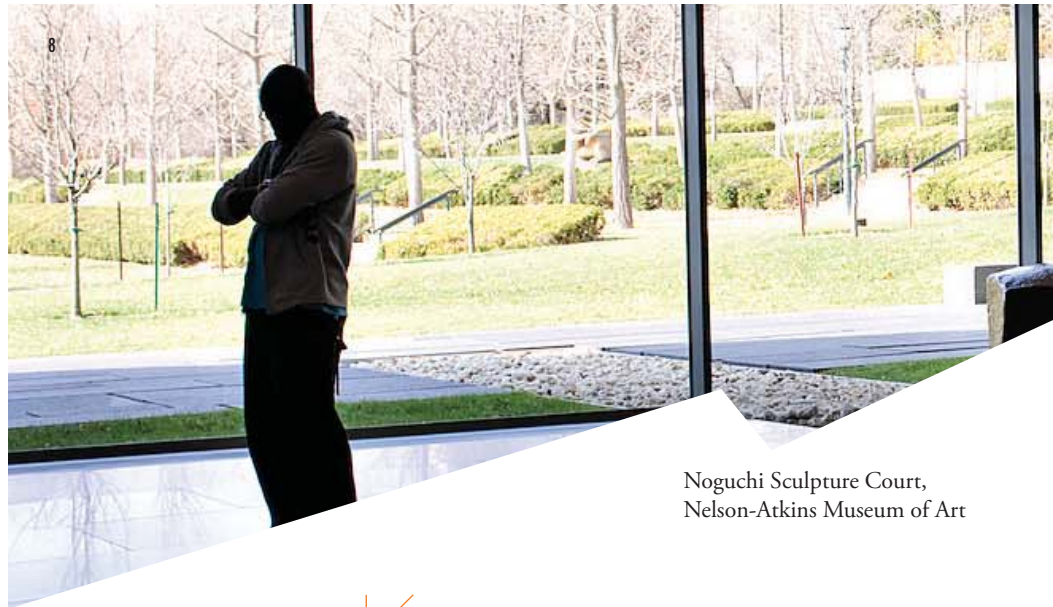
Asian focus

ANIMATION:

Components of Asian animation



Flower Vase with Dragon Motif,
 Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), Chinese
 IMAGE COURTESY OF THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART



Noguchi Sculpture Court,
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

Resources

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

www.nelson-atkins.org

Located just east of the KCAI campus is the world-renowned Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, which began collecting Asian art even before the museum opened in 1933. Recognized internationally as one of the finest general art museums in the United States, the Nelson-Atkins currently maintains collections of more than 33,500 works of art. The museum is a frequent destination for KCAI students and faculty.

As early as 1930, the focus of the museum was to build a collection that would represent China's highest artistic achievements in every medium and from every historical period. As a result, the Chinese collection is one of the finest in the world. With more than 7,500 works of high quality, the Chinese collection comprises

masterpieces from every historical stage and in every medium of China's artistic activity – from Neolithic times to the 20th century.

The museum's Japanese collection contains more than 2,000 works of art, ranging from the 10th century B.C.E. to the early 20th century. The strength of the collection lies in the number and quality of its folding paper screens, an art form that is a unique contribution of Japan. Paramount among the screens is the sublime pair "Pine and Plum by Moonlight," by Kaihō Yūshō of the Momoyama period. An impressive array of ceramics is dominated by the spectacular 16th-century Echizen "Water Jar," whose monumentality is complemented by the boldness of its glazes. The pieces of Japanese sculpture in the collection feature Buddhist images in wood primarily from the 9th and 10th centuries. In addition, a portfolio of more than 500 color woodblock prints of the Edo period contains examples of all the famous masters of the ukiyo-e school. Finally, there are an assortment of armor and blade weapons, a sampling of textiles and several superlative pieces of lacquerware.

Heart of America Japan-America Society

www.kcjas.org

Serving the states of Missouri and Kansas, the Heart of America Japan-America Society furthers understanding between the peoples of Japan and Greater Kansas City by promoting social, cultural and educational exchanges. Monthly meetings are held at the Loose Park Garden Center and feature presentations that range from lectures to hands-on activities and potluck suppers. Since 1974 the organization has engaged in a "sister city" program with Kurashiki, Japan and has hosted Japanese high school and college students during summer visits to Kansas City. In addition, the organization has helped to sponsor area high school and first-year college students in summer home-stay visits in Kurashiki as student ambassadors. The society participates in two major cultural festivals each year: the city-wide Ethnic Festival in late summer and the Japan Festival in the fall. In addition, the society traditionally hosts a year-end or New Year dinner dance called the "Shinnenkai."

Confucius Institute

www.confucius.ku.edu

The Confucius Institute at the University of Kansas is a cooperative project of the University of Kansas; the Office of Chinese Language



Council International of the Chinese Ministry of Education; and Huazhong Normal University. Established in 2006, the organization is part of an international network of Confucius Institutes dedicated to "enhancing the understanding of the Chinese language and culture" around the world. Drawing on the extensive resources for the study of China at KU, the Confucius Institute serves the bi-state area with high-quality public programming, including film festivals, lectures, workshops in topics such as Chinese calligraphy and an annual celebration of the Chinese New Year. Events are held on the KU campus in Lawrence or at the Edwards Campus in Overland Park, Kan., a suburb of Kansas City, Mo.

Osaka Exchange Partnership

KCAI has a long-standing relationship with Osaka University of the Arts in Japan. This exchange partnership allows for KCAI students to attend Osaka University for up to one academic year in their major field of study. Osaka offers courses in oil painting, Japanese painting, printmaking, sculpture, metalworks, ceramics, glass crafts, photography, expression on film and video, creative writing and textiles (dyeing and weaving). Japanese language proficiency is a requirement of the exchange, as is proficiency in English for program participants coming to the U.S. from Japan.



*Nô mask of a youthful attendant
(Kashiki), Early 19th century
Japanese*

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART

Travel opportunities

Winter “intersession” travel opportunities vary from year to year, providing students with options for foreign travel between the fall semester, which typically ends in mid-December, and the start of the spring semester, which typically begins the fourth week in January. Often these opportunities include KCAI-sponsored trips to Asia, including expeditions to Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand) led by history professor Hal Wert, Ph.D., who teaches several of the courses offered within the Asian Studies certificate program.



*Sides and foot slab of a sarcophagus
Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534 C.E.)
ca. 525 C.E., Chinese*

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART

Student profile



ZACH RENSBERGER

One of two “inaugural” graduates of the Asian Studies certificate program, Zach Rensberger earned a B.F.A. degree in digital filmmaking from KCAI in 2010. Originally from Moline, Ill., he is pursuing a career in cinematography while traveling in Korea, Japan and Southeast Asia. Recently he shared his thoughts about the Asian Studies program at KCAI:

“TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GREAT PROFESSORS LIKE JAN KENNEDY AND TRACIE WHITING-KIPPER BECAUSE THEY ARE SO PASSIONATE AND ENTHUSIASTIC AND KNOWLEDGEABLE.”

“THE CLASSES I TOOK HELPED ME TREMENDOUSLY BECAUSE MY FILMMAKING WORK IS VERY EAST-ASIAN INSPIRED, AND LEARNING ABOUT THE CULTURE AND PEOPLE HELPED ME BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR VOICE IN THEIR ARTWORK (SPECIFICALLY FILM). I AM DEFINITELY GOING TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATING THE INFLUENCE OF THEIR FILMMAKING IN WHAT I TRY TO COMMUNICATE WITH MY WORK.”

“I AM GLAD TO HAVE THE CERTIFICATE BECAUSE SOMEDAY I WOULD LOVE TO TEACH ABOUT ASIAN ART OR ASIAN FILMMAKING, AND HAVING THE CERTIFICATE COULD HELP ME DO THAT.”

風俗三段娘 下段圖

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TO SCHEDULE A CAMPUS
VISIT, REQUEST A CATALOG,
INQUIRE ABOUT FINANCIAL
AID OR **APPLY**, VISIT:
WWW.KCAI.EDU

Two Women of the Lower Class Gehin-no-Zu
Kitagawa Utamaro, 1753-1806, ca. 1800, Japanese
IMAGE COURTESY OF THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART