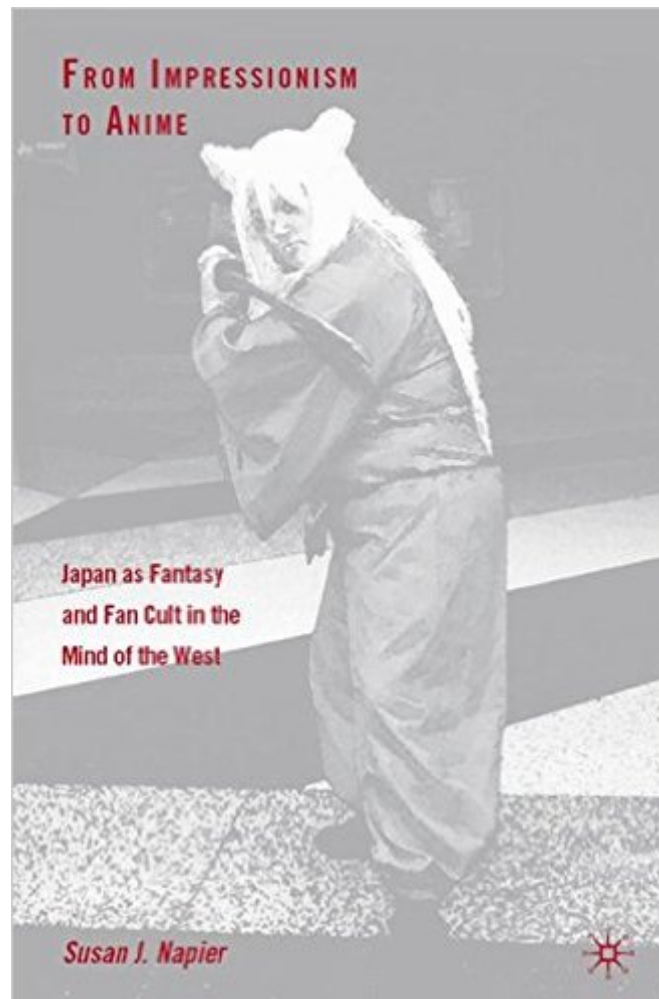


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From Impressionism To Anime: Japan As Fantasy And Fan Cult In The Mind Of The West



Synopsis

What is it about anime that is so appealing to a transnational fan base? This book takes a look at anime fans and the place they occupy, both in terms of subculture in Japan and America, and in relation to Western perceptions of Japan since the late 1800s.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (2 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Review of Susan J. Napier's "From Impressionism to Anime: Japan as Fantasy and Fan Cult in the Mind of the West". Professor Napier has disproved Kipling's aphorism - "The east is east, and the west is west, and never the twain shall meet". In her latest book, Professor Napier establishes the long and impressive history where the east meets the west - specifically, how the images and fantasy of Japonism were reflected in the Western intellectuals' minds. When the bamboo curtain was forcefully drawn open by Commodore Perry in 1853, Japan didn't lose its mystery; in fact, the glimpses of Japan magnified its exotic allure to the Western intellectuals. This book is not only a tour de force, it is a tour d'horizon - introducing us to those whose works were influenced profoundly by their ideas (fantasies) of Japan - from the Impressionists (e.g., Monet and Van Gogh), to playwrights (e.g., Gilbert and Sullivan), to architects (e.g., Frank Lloyd Wright), to contemporary writers and film-makers (Quentin Tarantino). This cultural influence is what Prof. Napier refers to as "soft power" of Japonism. Contemporary popular Japanese culture vernacularized by anime has brought Japonism to millions to youths in the West. I give this book four stars rather than five, because I feel forced to take away a star due to the unfortunate editing. First of all, the cover is ghastly. The photo itself is ridiculous, and its washed-out color makes it look like it went through the

washing machine. Second, the quality of the photo illustrations are so pathetic - mostly black and white when the color may be the most important aspect of the Japonism to be illustrated, and even the colored illustrations are too small to appreciate.

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