

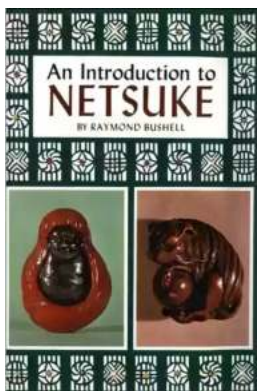
Netsuke: The Intricately Carved Art of Raymond Bushell

In the world of art and sculpture, there exists a unique form that combines exquisite craftsmanship with intricate designs - Netsuke. These small, intricate carvings have captured the hearts of art enthusiasts and collectors alike for centuries. One master of this timeless art is none other than Raymond Bushell, whose dedication and talent have made him a revered figure in the world of Netsuke carving.

The Origins of Netsuke

Netsuke originated in 17th century Japan and served a practical purpose within the society. In those times, traditional Japanese garments, such as kimono, lacked pockets. To secure personal belongings like purses, tobacco pouches, and other small objects, individuals used Netsuke. These carvings acted as toggles, fastening the cords that held various personal items in place.

What started as a purely functional object gradually evolved into a form of artistic expression. Netsuke carvers began to incorporate intricate detailing, showcasing their skill and creativity. Inspired by folklore, mythology, and everyday life, these miniature sculptures became highly sought after by collectors and connoisseurs.



Introduction to Netsuke by Raymond Bushell(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1694 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 78 pages



Enter Raymond Bushell - The Master Carver

Raymond Bushell, born in 1910, was an American diplomat who developed a deep fascination for Netsuke during his time in Japan. His interest in art led him to study under eminent Netsuke masters, and he soon began carving his own masterpieces. Bushell's dedication and talent allowed him to become one of the most renowned Netsuke artists of his time.

Unraveling the Beauty of Bushell's Netsuke Collection

Bushell's Netsuke collection showcases his meticulous artistry and uncanny ability to capture the essence of various subjects. From animals and mythical creatures to humorous depictions of everyday life, Bushell's carvings breathe life into ivory, wood, and other materials.

One exceptional piece from his collection is the "Three Monkeys." This Netsuke portrays the famous visual maxim of "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" in an incredibly detailed and whimsical manner. Each monkey is expertly carved, showcasing their unique expressions and poses. The fine detailing and Bushell's ability to convey emotions through his carvings make this piece a true masterpiece.

Another gem from Bushell's collection is the "Dragon." This Netsuke encapsulates the mythical creature's power and grace. The fine etchings and delicate scales bring the dragon to life, while its elongated body twists and turns, creating a sense of movement that is awe-inspiring.

Bushell's versatility as a Netsuke artist is evident in his depiction of everyday life. One Netsuke titled "The Sick Rat" humorously captures a common domestic scene. The perfectly carved rat, lying on a leaf, looks convincingly sick, while the playful smile on its face adds a touch of whimsy. This level of detail and storytelling is what sets Bushell's work apart.

The Legacy and Impact of Raymond Bushell

Beyond his artistic talent, Raymond Bushell also left a lasting impact on the world of Netsuke. His extensive collection of over 800 Netsuke pieces, which encompassed various eras and genres, became a valuable resource for researchers and collectors worldwide.

Bushell's passion for sharing his knowledge also led to the publication of influential books such as "The Art of Netsuke Carving" and "The Netsuke Handbook." These books not only shed light on the art form but also provided invaluable guidance for aspiring carvers and art enthusiasts.

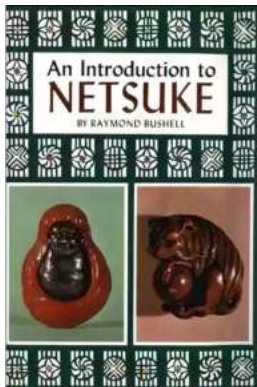
Raymond Bushell's legacy lives on through his works donated to renowned institutions such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. His contributions have solidified the importance of Netsuke as a significant art form.

Appreciating the Craftsmanship

Netsuke, with its intricate detailing and storytelling, continues to captivate art enthusiasts and collectors around the globe. The masterpieces created by Raymond Bushell serve as a testament to the skill and dedication required to excel in this art form.

These miniature carvings transport us to a world where myths come alive, animals take on human emotions, and everyday objects become whimsical. They remind us of the power art holds in immortalizing stories and capturing the beauty in the minutiae of life.

So, the next time you stumble upon a Netsuke, take a moment to appreciate the craftsmanship and the rich history it represents. Raymond Bushell's legacy ensures that this art form will continue to inspire and enchant generations to come.



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With dozens of photos and illustrations, A to Netsuke is a readable and thorough guide to Japanese miniature art.

Among the many Japanese fine arts, few have aroused greater admiration than the netsuke. This miniature piece of Japanese sculpture, approximately 1 1/2 inches in size, was designed (in the absence of pockets on kimonos) as an aid in suspending articles such as tobacco pouches from the sash of a kimono. It developed in ancient times as a utilitarian object, but became in the 16th century an artistic one as well, and flourished as such until 1926. No longer commonly

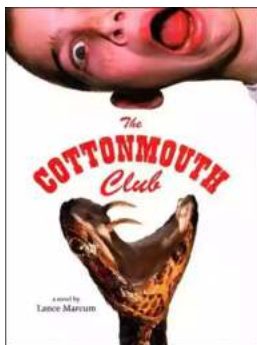
worn, the netsuke is now a collectors' item, avidly sought throughout the world by those sensitive to its fine qualities.

This book opens the miniature world of netsuke to those who have hitherto been unaware of its existence. In a delightfully lucid manner, the basics of the netsuke are presented-definition, origin, development, materials, statistics, and photographs. This book admirably fulfills its task of introducing the netsuke to the layman, irresistibly drawing him to new pleasures in aestheticism and culture.



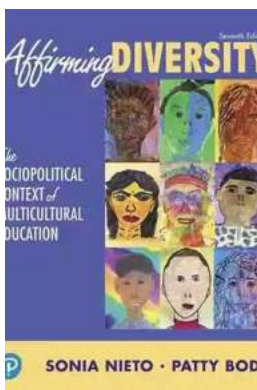
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