

The Style and Aesthetics of the Founding Avant-garde Japanese Fashion

Designers

Sarah E. Braddock Clarke

Glossary

Abstraction: an art term concerning visual work that uses forms, colors, and textures and does not set out to literally depict subject matter.

A-line: a form (in fashion) that increases in width towards its base/garment hem, therefore creating the shape of the letter 'A'.

Basara (Japanese): extravagance, an excess, exuberance, and flamboyance.

Cheongsam: a traditional garment of ancient Chinese origin (also known as *qipao*), long and loose covering the body from neck to toes – the style was adapted and popularized in Shanghai during the 1920s/1930s.

Column (in fashion): a straight-cut, slim-fitting design, also known as a “sheath” when referring to a dress.

Deconstruction: an art term related to critical art theory and the (1960s) writings of Jacques Derrida where meaning and expression are questioned and understood to be in flux.

Ease (in fashion): an allowance of fabric – extra room built into the design of a garment.

Epaulette (French): a shoulder-piece on a coat, jacket, shirt, dress that can be ornamental or plain. This feature is often used on military garments to denote rank or other insignia.

Existentialist: a person who questions existence, celebrating freedom, choice and independence, while defining an individual meaning of life.

Hifu (Japanese): anti-style or anti-fashion, literally translated as 'skin'.

Karasu-zoku (Japanese): crow-gang, -tribe, or -group.

Kimono (Japanese): traditional Japanese robe, a long, loose-fitting garment with wide sleeves; wrapping around the body, it is tied with a sash (*obi*).

Lamé (French): metallic textile, creating a decorative woven fabric, typically gold or silver colored, made with yarn where thin, flexible metal is wound around silk, cotton, rayon etc.

Ma (Japanese): an in-between state, the interstitial place existing between things.

Mandarin (clothing): referencing certain characteristics of ancient Chinese dress – a mandarin collar has a stand-up, unfolded shape with a straight or rounded top edge, fitting closely to the neck.

Minimalism: an art term that continues abstraction thinking, pared down to its essence, where the material and the form of the work are the focus.

Modernism: an art term that centers on invention and experimentation of materials and processes to create new expressions and ideals, purposefully not looking back at history and traditional values.

Mu (Japanese): emptiness, a void, nothing, central to Zen Buddhism where neither affirmation or negation is presented or felt – a space of meaning.

Peplum: over-skirted form, where a short piece of fabric (flared, ruffled or flounced) is inserted at the waist to extend over the hips.

Postmodernism: an art term that went against certain aspects of modernism, adopting philosophical, and often ironic concepts, while attempting to convey universal truths and global views.

Raschel: a complex knit with structured patterns, a warp-knitted textile creates an interlacing of threads to produce a type of open structure, mesh or lace that typically contrasts a thicker yarn with a finer yarn.

Wabi-sabi (Japanese): acceptance of impermanence and imperfection, where the fleeting and incomplete are understood and celebrated – connected to Zen Buddhist thinking.